

# POLITICS AS YOU(SUAL)?

A Newsletter by the Political Science Department at the University of Michigan-Flint

## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: SOUTH AFRICA AND BEYOND

New democracies and societies emerging from long periods of conflict and division often face several challenges: the need for knowledge about those who were abused or lost their lives, the need for justice and the creation of a system of courts that can administer justice impartially, and the need to create a community. These goals can come with contradictions, however. Bringing criminal prosecutions against those who violate human rights might undermine the goal of rebuilding a sense of community. On the other hand, granting an amnesty to abusers in exchange for a full disclosure of the history of violence may actually deny justice to victims and other survivors.

These were some of the issues addressed by Dr. Alex Boraine, Deputy Chair of the South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) from 1995-98, at a panel discussion at UM-Flint in September. The panel included political science faculty Peggy Kahn and Derwin Munroe, and Matthew Hilton-Watson the Director of the International and Global Studies program. CAS Dean D. J. Trela served as moderator of the discussion. The panel was part of a larger series of events in Flint titled 'Truth in Translation', sponsored by the C.S. Mott Foundation, and the Flint Cultural Center Corporation, and UM-Flint.

South African President Nelson Mandela formed the TRC as part of the effort to create a viable democracy and justice system after decades of racial segregation, systematic oppression and state violence in South Africa. Dr. Boraine worked with the director of the TRC, Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Boraine is an ordained minister in the Methodist church, was a member of parliament in the late 1970s, and was the founding member of a number of human rights organizations in South Africa during and after the apartheid era. Since 2001, Dr. Boraine has been affiliated with the International Center for Transitional Justice in New York, and with the New York University Law School.

Dr. Boraine listed the central goals of the South African TRC as to provide a sense of closure for victims and survivors of the systematic abuses of human rights, and to provide information on victims who had been 'disappeared' and on the actions of perpetrators. The long term goals were pragmatic: to create a spirit of reconciliation and social repair, to deter future violations of basic rights, and to form a basis for resolving conflict at the community level.

Conflict resolution and rebuilding social order at the community level are topics of great urgency in many societies. Since the 1980s, commissions similar to the South African TRC have been established in 15 other countries, including Guatemala, Peru, Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, and Sierra Leone. Dr. Boraine argued that some of these efforts have been very successful in exposing human rights abuses committed during civil wars and dictatorships.



DR. ALEX BORAINÉ, SPEAKING AT UM-FLINT IN SEPTEMBER 2007

TRC-style efforts have been less effective in preventing later abuses, or in undermining a 'culture of impunity' among police and military officials who abuse citizen's rights. Boraine argued that in spite of this an important positive outcome was to present a lasting challenge to those who would wish to silence or distort the experiences of those who had been victims, and to those who would excuse the policies that lead to human rights abuses and to torture, dictatorship, and genocide.

Is the TRC applicable to the US, where the history of racial conflict and community division are conditions where this kind of conflict resolution approach may bear fruit. As an example, Dr. Boraine cited North Carolina's Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission, formed in 2005 to collect testimonials of the 1979 murder of five protesters by members of the Klan and American Nazi party. Dr. Boraine pointed out that TRC-style efforts were not an alternative to criminal prosecutions in domestic or international courts: 'hard law' enforcement is still an appropriate remedy for violators of basic human rights. He admitted, however, that the TRC placed a stronger value on disclosure and reconciliation, rather than justice and retribution. Justice and punishment, and truth and reconciliation are complementary rather than opposing sets of principles.

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## IN FOCUS: Interview with Stephanie Willingham

A RECENT POL GRADUATE, STEPHANIE WILLINGHAM WAS INTERVIEWED BY PROF. PEGGY KAHN IN SEPTEMBER 2007

*Q: You graduated in August of 2007 with a major in Political Science. What have you been doing since graduation?*

During the past summer I took my last class; I pushed my foreign language requirement off until the last possible moment so I was studying Spanish all summer long! (I wouldn't recommend it...) Knowing that I was going to graduate in August, I started talking to contacts about possible job openings and opportunities; I got my resume ready and worked on my interview skills. I also decided to pursue graduate studies and applied for the MPA program here at the University of Michigan-Flint. I am working part time and taking two classes.

*Q: You were hired as a part-time policy analyst at the Center for Civil Justice, a public interest law firm that engages in legislative and executive advocacy as well as providing client services to low-income residents of several counties, including Genesee County. Why were you interested in this job, how did you manage to be selected and hired, and how did the political science major prepare you?*

While taking political science courses I became interested in welfare issues and had a keen interest in women and work. I really wanted to do work with civil rights issues and the community. I felt that researching and analyzing welfare policy would be a wonderful start for me. I applied for the position and had a lengthy first interview. Within a week I was informed that CCJ wanted me to take a written exam and have another interview. I was given twenty four hours to look over some policy information and I had two hours at the Center for Civil Justice's office to complete the exam. About two weeks later, I was offered the job. I believe all the hours researching and writing for various political science courses helped me to prepare for the writing portion of my interview. I was also able to rely on information I gained from the women and work course and the research and writing seminar I took at UM-Flint.

*Q: What in general will you be doing? What do you think you will learn on the job, and how do you think it may be valuable to you in the future as you think about other community-based, political, or public policy work?*

First, I will learn TANF (temporary assistance to needy families) policy and Michigan's current welfare policy; I will be researching to see if this particular policy is working as intended and helping Michigan's most vulnerable. I will analyze statistics and reports to write briefs summarizing the research that can be understood by the public and to educate and inform law makers and those community organizations that care about the changing welfare program. I am definitely going to learn what the consequences are when policy is enacted and whether the end results are

positive or negative and how that affects certain individuals. I also hope learn how the federal and state economies and political parties affect policy. As we all know, public policy affects all of us in one way or another and by understanding how the system works will be valuable in any job especially one that is community based or political; both of these are of interest to me.

*Q: Looking back on your major, what did you find most interesting and most valuable, in terms of ideas, skill development, and community connections and relationships?*

First and what I believe to be the most valuable, I found my political science major prepared me for real life issues. I feel I understand the world better; how different political ideologies shape what is happening in the world today and how greatly important every aspect of politics is to our everyday life. I believe the open communication in certain classes and speaking with my peers about different views and ideologies offered insight and important avenues of communicating while being respectful and professional. The internship I did in Senator Carl Levin's office introduced me to community organizations and professional connections. Additionally, the professors in the political science department have offered me invaluable information and advice while providing wonderful insights to community and governmental relations.

*Q: What do you think is the value of a liberal arts degree, in general terms and in preparation for lifelong work?*

When I changed my major from Biology to Political Science, I heard a lot of things like, "what can you do with that?", "you'll never make any money", or "oh, you must be one of those (referring to a liberal, I suppose)". And just recently I have come across this particular issue while interviewing for a job at a private training school in the area. I was told during that interview numerous times how lucky I would be to be able to find a job with a liberal arts degree, particularly my political science degree because it was not a degree in which was advertised in job postings or highly sought after. After three interviews, their organizational attitude and treatment of me as a woman prompted me to decline another interview. My liberal arts degree gave me the confidence to stand up for my rights and be true to what I believe. The value of my degree is immeasurable; I learned about international relations, American government and political processes, women and work and a lot about democratic theory and community; all this prepared me for lifelong work. Because of my liberal arts degree, I feel I am adaptable and I know I can work within the non-profit community, the business world and in political spheres.



# Health Care as a Human Right?

PEGGY KAHN

At the roundtable candidate discussion sponsored jointly by YouTube and the DNC, John Edwards told the story of encountering a 51 year old man in the U.S. South who had suffered from a severe harelip/cleft palate that had severely impeded his speech his entire life. Finally, at age 51, he had located resources to have corrective surgery, and for the first time would be able to talk, to communicate through speech with his family, friends and community. What sort of society is this asked Edwards, where wealth abounds and medical technology works wonders, yet some people are condemned to spend their lives without the ability to speak?

In Prince George's County, Maryland, in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area, close to the center of government and some of the most advanced medical facilities in the United States, Deamonte Driver had a toothache. He was 12 years old. His mother worked at low-paying jobs, and he had no dental or health insurance. He did not have a primary care physician whom his mother could consult. His mother couldn't find a dentist or dental surgeon who would accept Medicaid's low reimbursements, and she couldn't afford \$80 for a tooth extraction. When the pain became unbearable, Deamonte got some minimal attention from an emergency room and was then sent home. His condition worsened, and he died. Deamonte was one of 9 million children in the U.S. without health insurance.

Neither of these stories is thinkable in other wealthy democracies, which regard access to basic health care for adults and children as a basic human right. Human rights are the rights a person has simply because he or she is human. Human rights are those basic standards and conditions without which people cannot live in dignity in community. To violate someone's human rights is to treat that person as though he or she were not a human being. Nearly all countries regard access to health care as a human right, and many international declarations, including Article 25 of the 1948 Universal Declaration on Human Rights and International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirm the importance of health care as a right. It is not only political parties of the Left, Social Democrats, in Europe that have recognized the importance of access to health care, but also conservative parties that have recognized the need for "solidarity" and community in these matters. Those who oppose the idea of health care as a human right say that it cannot be a right because it is difficult to define and imposes duties on others. Yet the spirit of human rights is that commitment to principle underpins policy, is understood in the context of available resources, and inevitably involves other human beings with whom we live in community.

Treating health care as a basic human right is decidedly different from treating it as a market commodity, something that you get if you command the private resources to buy it and something you go without if you do not have the private resources to purchase it, something controlled by corporate calculations of profit and loss. Aneurin Bevan, the Minister of Health who helped to design and introduce the British National Health Service and a former Welsh coalminer, says in his collected essays, *In Place of Fear* (1952): "The field in which the claims of individual commercialism come into most conflict with reputable notions of social

values is that of health. . . The collective principle asserts that the resources of medical skill and the apparatus of healing shall be placed at the disposal of the patient, without charge, when he or she needs them; that medical treatment and care should be a communal responsibility; that they should be made available to rich and poor alike in accordance with medical need and by no other criteria. It claims that financial anxiety in time of sickness is a serious hindrance to recovery, apart from its unnecessary cruelty. It insists that no society can legitimately call itself civilized if a sick person is denied medical aid because of lack of means".

It is only in the U.S. of the rich democracies that health care is not regarded as a social right of citizenship and basic human right and where millions of people are uninsured or under-insured. We ration access and services through the market and profitability principles. Maintaining this status quo is dependent upon two interdependent myths: the myth that the U.S. system is superior and the myth that there are no reasonable alternatives. These myths take many specific forms: other people wait but we don't; we all get excellent, cutting edge care, but other systems practice substandard medicine; other people are taxed to death for health care, but we don't pay that much; other systems can't keep doctors because of low pay and overbearing control, and all physicians would prefer to practice in the U.S. system; the U.S. allows free choice of primary care physicians and specialists, but other systems don't allow any choice; in other systems remote and stifling centralized governmental bureaucracy dictates health care options and limits to care, while we have individual and market freedom to make the best choices.

However, the U.S. system is not obviously superior, nor are universal systems disastrous or mediocre. Every health system has problems and weaknesses as well as strengths and must allocate resources in some way. The U.S. ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in health care system performance in the 2000 World Health Organization study, and it comes last overall in a new 2007 Commonwealth Fund Study.

Broad-brush comparisons of the U.S. and other systems in wealthy democracies suggest the U.S. has the worst access and equity of any of these systems. No other system excludes 45-47 million people, including large numbers of children, and access to no other system is as financially and class based as in the U.S. No other system allows 18,000 avoidable deaths (Institute of Medicine) due to lack of access to insurance, which in turn is clearly related to income and employment status. Despite having the most costly health system in the world, the U.S. system consistently underperforms on most dimensions relative to other countries. Many rigorous comparative reports have come to the same conclusion: the U.S. is poor in terms not only of access, but also of equity, efficiency, safety. Health outcomes are not good, with high infant mortality, modest life expectancy, and a high rate of avoidable illness and death.

Viewing health care as a basic human right, as opposed to a market commodity, does not give rise to any one policy or health

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## What We Are Reading

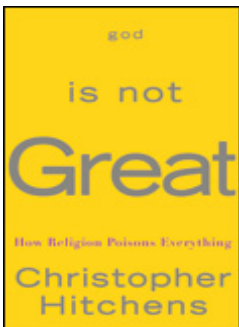
### ALBERT PRICE

Once again my reading material since the last newsletter has been eclectic. As part of the preparation for teaching 'Sex Drugs and Politics', I read Gay Marriage: For Better or for Worse? What We've Learned from the Evidence by William Eskridge, Jr. and Darren Spedale. This 2006 work is the result of several years of research on gay marriage and parallel commitment ceremonies in Scandinavian countries. The book describes the changes in law that permitted gay unions in these countries for the past couple of decades. The authors also rely upon extensive interviews with gay couples who have utilized the gay marriage options available there. These interviews personalize the powerful impact that providing full civil rights to gay couples can have. I reread the 1993 study done by the Rand Corporation entitled "Sexual Orientation and U.S. Military Personnel Policy: Options and Assessment" which was published by the National Defense Research Institute. Normally the Rand Corporation is not considered a liberal organization but the research was solid and concluded that there was no reason to exclude homosexuals from military service. Sadly, nearly 15 years later with lots of international experience as described by Eskridge and Spedale, the United States still fails to protect sexual orientation as a civil liberty.

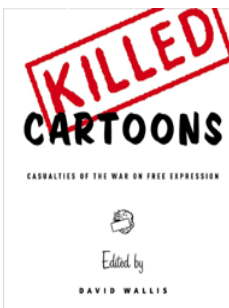
In a somewhat related connection to Sex Drugs and Politics I read for the first time a book published in 1998, Caffeine Blues: Wake up to the hidden dangers of America's #1 drug by Stephen Cherniske. Cherniske is a nutritionist who carefully examined the peer reviewed medical literature on the effects of caffeine (trimethylxanthine) on humans. The scientific evidence is unequivocal that caffeine is strongly addictive and has deleterious effects at dosages much lower than those consumed every day by tens of millions of people worldwide, including children. The problem appears to be that trimethylxanthine is a stress-inducing chemical that taxes the adrenal system (among others) causing increased levels of glucocorticoids. In turn, these compounds damage organ systems leading to premature death and disability. On a positive note, Cherniske's book offers a process for overcoming caffeine addiction.

Concerning religious issues, God is not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything, (2007) by Christopher Hitchens continues on the list of best selling books that take spiritual claims seriously. Hitchens is relentless in his presentation of the damage that organized religion has wrought on society for all of recorded time. He recounts the bloody history of European religious warfare that over centuries killed millions of fellow humans who believed in a

different interpretation of some sacred text. The book caused me to reread his previous vitriolic 1995 work, The Missionary Position: Mother Teresa in Theory and Practice. An unflattering portrait is painted of Mother Teresa who in the popular media is portrayed as the best example of religious devotion and brotherly love. Her association with the murderous Duvalier regimes in Haiti as well as Savings and Loan crooks is well documented in Missionary Position. Her phi-



losophy is captured by a quotation of Mother Teresa "I think it is very beautiful for the poor to accept their lot, to share it with the passion of Christ. I think the world is being much helped by the suffering of the poor."(p.11) Hitchens gives no credence to the putative benefits of religion in either of these books.



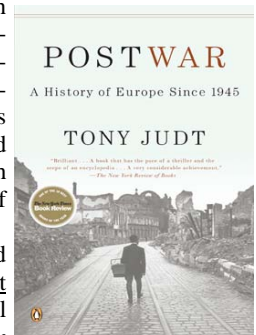
Finally, Killed Cartoons: Casualties from the War on Free Expression, (2007) edited by David Wallis helped me find humor in the face of the unrelenting grimness of reality. This book provides hundreds of editorial cartoons that were killed by major newspapers and magazines across the country including some left of center publications such as Mother Jones and The Nation. The arbiters of what constitutes politically offensive material that cannot be published in

polite company are the editors of these publications. The cartoons included in this volume are sometimes painful to see because they do not shield the reader from being offended or embracing the internal contradictions that plague us all. Killed Cartoons reminds me of my favorite periodical Funny Times. This monthly includes some of the best political cartoonists of the era such as Matt Wuerker, Tom Tomorrow, Jen Sorensen, Lloyd Dangle and Allison Bechdel.

### PEGGY KAHN

This summer I finally read Tony Judt's Postwar: A History of Europe Since 1945, an exceptional interpretive 850-page history. I also read Yehuda Baer's Rethinking the Holocaust, an accessible and thoughtful synthesis of scholarship on key issues in Holocaust history, from the role of Jewish councils to the relationship of the Holocaust to establishment of the state of Israel. Still interested in the problem of Islam in Europe, I read Ayaan Hirsi Ali's Infidel, her account of her childhood and youth, as well as of her becoming a Dutch politician fighting Islam's oppression of women.

John Parker's and Richard Rathbone's African History: A Very Short Introduction in the Oxford series is well conceived and written, focusing on key themes. A theoretically sophisticated, ethnographically rich, extremely enlightening book is Ching Kwan Lee's Against the Law: Labor Protests in China's Rustbelt and Sunbelt. It goes below the surface of China's "economic miracle" to examine the protests and resistance of groups of workers in the regions of old state industries and in new high market growth regions; it looks at the "unmaking



# What We Are Reading

DERWIN MUNROE

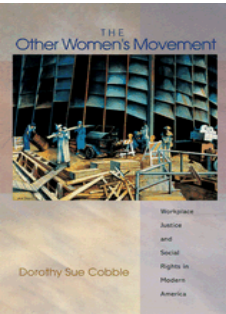
of the Maoist working class” and the creation of a new working class as the economy restructures.

Dorothy Sue Cobble’s The Other Women’s Movement: Workplace Justice and Social Rights in Modern America is a meticulous general history of women unionists and their changing struggles around a variety of work issues. Contrary to recent claims that elite women are at the cutting edge of work-family balance issues, Cobble shows that working class women already in the 1940s and 1950s were pioneers not only of individual everyday work-life strategies, but also of movements for public policies that would help working women reconcile work and family. Of course low income and minority women had been practicing work together with

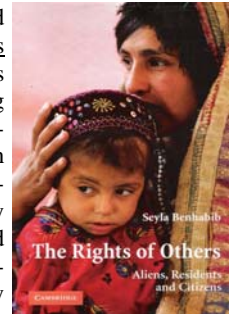
family for decades, and today’s intensive mothering did not so much plague working class women, whose idea of mothering included earning to support children.

Pamela Stone’s Opting Out? is a quick read, a rejoinder to lots of popular media stories that women are “opting out” of the workforce and returning to traditional gender roles. Stone actually interviews high-flying women who have been forced out of work, by employer rigidity she finds, and who far from embracing traditional gender roles of exclusive, intensive mothering actually wanted to combine careers, in which they were deeply invested, with nurturing children. She finds that the men with whom they had children did not help much with the dilemma, seeing it as a mother’s not a father’s problem. Another counter-argument to the opting out thesis, by the way, is Arlie Hochschild’s, Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Homes Becomes Work (1997), which actually claims that women are escaping home to spend more time at work, which they find less stressful and more rewarding; the argument seems problematic to me, but it is an interesting counterblast.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Purple Hibiscus is by now a classic novel of Nigeria, and her new book, Half of A Yellow Sun is set during the painful period of the Biafran War in the 1960s and told from the perspectives of a 13-year old village houseboy, different twin sisters of a wealthy Igbo chief, and an English expatriate. Hosseini’s A Thousand Splendid Suns does not quite match The Kite Runner as a work of fiction but is nevertheless powerful as a story of the fate of women of different classes through several recent periods of Afghani history. Adichie, Hosseini and Ali address violence against women, a persistent, pervasive, brutal reality in the U.S. and around the globe.

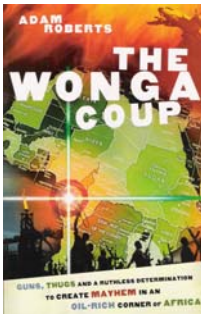


Since the Spring, I was impressed by Seyla Benhabib’s The Rights of Others (2004), a theoretical exploration of the rights of citizens and non-citizens in a globalizing world. She discusses refugees and immigrants and questions their regular exclusion from full participation in many modern democracies. Benhabib also considers the way that state sovereignty has been transformed by globalization and new definitions of citizenship, perhaps opening the door to a truly cosmopolitan definition of political identity.

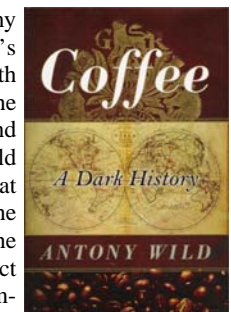


Sumantra Bose’s Contested Lands (2007), describes a series of long-standing territorial and national conflicts in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Israel-Palestine, Bosnia, and Cyprus. Bose is a world expert on Kashmir, but this book expands the lessons of that old and bitter conflict to other sites of conflict over ‘primordial’ identity, historical ‘homelands’. The book discusses how apparently ‘intractable’ conflicts are produced by a global environment that provides rewards for states participating in those conflicts. The book explores a range of solutions, although Bose gives a strong challenge to an ‘incremental’ approach to resolving this kind of conflict: a fast track rather than a long road-map is the way to bring about an end to ethnic wars over territory.

I also read a pair of excellent case studies of the impact of the oil industry in Africa. High prices and booming demand over the last 15 years have increased oil exploration and extraction. In The Wonga Coup (2006), Adam Roberts describes how oil empowers a ruthless dictatorship in one of Africa’s smallest countries, Equatorial Guinea. He takes as a starting point the failed 2004 invasion attempt by international mercenaries (contractors’ in today’s parlance). Ike Okonta and Oronto Douglas’s Where Vultures Feast (2003) considers the human and ecological cost of oil. and the power of the Shell corporation in the Nigerian delta region. Again, military regimes, global oil companies and corruption accompany an almost total disregard for the welfare of the region’s people. Okonta and Douglas do a great job at documenting the abuses, but also the resistance that has emerged to the oil giant and its local allies.



Finally, I have been stimulating my coffee obsession by reading Anthony Wild’s Coffee: A Dark History (2004), which is both a fascinating history of exploration and the way that state policies have helped to expand the demand and consumption of coffee. Wild also discusses the global trading system that have evolved to generate the vast supply, the chemical changes that have accompanied the creation of new coffee species, and the effect of global production on farmers and consumers.



## Politics as You(sual)

### 'MARX IN SOHO' COMES TO UM-FLINT

Close to 200 students, faculty, staff and members of the public attended a free performance of Howard Zinn's play 'Marx in Soho' at UM-Flint on October 24. The one-man play was staged by Bob Weick as part of a national tour. The play was organized by the Department of Political Science, with collaboration from the Theater, and Sociology/Anthropology and Criminal Justice departments, and with the support of the UM-Flint Annual Fund and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Student members of Pi Sigma Alpha, and the Anthropological Sciences Club assisted in staging the production, and engaged in a series of informal meetings before the show with Mr. Weick.



*(photo courtesy of Iron Age Theater)*

'Marx in Soho' uses a brief return by Marx's ghost to explore his impressions of contemporary society, and to make observations on economic and political crises. He also attempts to 'clear his name' in order to make the case for his ongoing relevance. The play uses Marx's biography and a series of 'creative' exchanges (with Engels and Bakunin for example) to debate key points in European history, and the strategy of the socialist movement of the nineteenth century.

Bob Weick is based in Pennsylvania, and has been performing the show for several years at venues across the country. After the show, he expressed great satisfaction with the turnout and audience response in Flint. Planning for a return engagement in Fall 2008 is already underway.

*Part of the audience at the Truth in Translation panel  
All photos of Truth in Translation by Rick Smith, Rochester, Michigan,  
courtesy of Charles Stewart Mott Foundation*

### PI SIGMA ALPHA

Pi Sigma Alpha, Alpha Alpha Tau Chapter was organized at UM-Flint in March 2003, and has been active in organizing a range of activities on campus and in the community. Current Chapter Officers: Kristi Bartholomew, president; Leah Petts, vice-president; Jacqueline Zerka, secretary; Faculty advisor: Prof. Jason Kosnoski.

#### Chapter Goals:

- Academic Excellence
- Promote Political Action
- Participate in community service activities



#### Want to become a PSA Member?

PSA membership is open to juniors, seniors, or graduate students who meet the following qualifications:

- Completion of 3 semesters in the POL major
- Completion of 10 credit hours of political science courses (including at least one course not open to students in the first year of collegiate work)
- Ranking in the upper third of the class in general scholarship
- Minimum GPA of 3.0 in POL courses

There is a formal application and one-time fee. If you would you like to join or to participate in PSA activities, stop by the Political Science Department for more information on membership or getting involved. Next induction will occur during winter semester: Get your applications in!



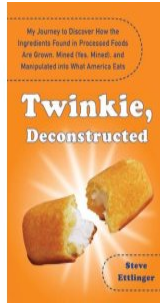
# Politics as You(sual)

## WHAT WE ARE READING, CONTINUED

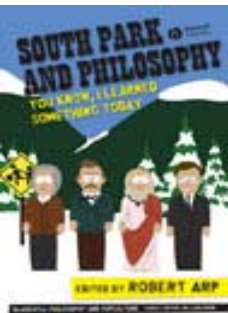
### BILL LAVERTY

I have been reading, once again, a wide-ranging selection of books, some of which are only tangentially related to political science. If you are interested in public policy, the market place, and the foods we consume, Steve Ettlinger's book on Twinkies may grab your attention. It certainly has grabbed mine. The complete title is Twinkie, Deconstructed: My Journey to Discover How the Ingredients Found in Processed Foods Are Grown, Mined (Yes, Mined) and Manipulated into What America Eats.

The reader is exposed to a vast array of information. For example, for all of you ice cream fans out there, mono and diglycerides are often paired with other products such as sodium stearoyl lactylate to act as emulsifiers, which enhance fats present in the product so that additional fat is not required to make the product "smoother." Yum.

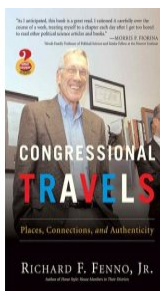


Check out Cold Stone or Edy's Rich & Creamy Vanilla (180). On a lighter (?) note, you might want to check out South Park and Philosophy: You Know, I Learned Something Today, which is an edited volume of essays that covers a range of characters, issues, and important concepts in political science. For example, those of you interested in law as a career might be interested in White's essay titled, "Respect My Authority! Is Cartman 'the Law' and Even If He Is, Why Should We Obey Him?" You might be surprised to see both H.L.A. Hart and John Rawls brought to bear on the issues faced in South Park.



For those of you who are interested, there are also edited volumes on The Daily Show, 24, and Family Guy in the series. And who says learning can't be fun?

The last book that I have been reading is a traditional political science book by Richard Fenno titled, Congressional Travels (Pearson Longman, 2007). Fenno is well-recognized as one of, if not the foremost, proponent of qualitative research in American politics. He has spent an extraordinary amount of time with individual members of Congress and their families in their districts and states and he provides the reader with fascinating details of the ways that members of Congress relate to their constituents. Fenno explains how his approach has developed over time and he provides excellent examples of the importance of a member's "authenticity" when working in their district or state



## HEALTH CARE, CONTINUED

(Health Care as Human Right Continued from page 3)

care system. Generally, however, some form of universal coverage involving public or non-profit payers is used in countries which have this commitment. France, Germany, Sweden, and Canada all use different systems which nevertheless create universal access to high-quality health care services. France, ranked first in the world in terms of health system performance by the World Health Organization in 2007, covers nearly everyone through national health insurance funds, with additional private insurance that covers the difference between public reimbursements and charges as well as procedures and products not covered by national health insurance. There is a strong, free maternal and infant protection service. Patients chose their doctors. Sweden uses a combination of public health centers and private physician practices, free maternity clinics, and public hospitals, with primary responsibility for provision lying at the level of the county. Germany requires most of the population to join a sickness fund, a non profit, regulated and self regulating insurance fund. Provision is private and public, with choice of physicians and hospitals. Funding is progressive and access is egalitarian. Canada uses a single payer system, with supplementary non-duplicative private insurance. Patients have choice of provider.

Health care is a human right, a requirement without which human beings cannot thrive, cannot raise families, work, go to school, or participate in democratic political life. There are many ways of insuring health care as a human right and not treating it as a market commodity. Those countries that already do so are outperforming the United States in terms of effectiveness of health care systems and health outcomes, while remaining economically strong. Can a society call itself civilized if it denies people necessary medical care in time of need because they lack private means to pay?

*This is version of comments made by Professor Kahn at a Town-hall Meeting on "Health Care as A Human Right: Universal Health Insurance", organized by the Progressive Democrats of Genesee County and held in the University of Michigan-Flint KIVA August 23, 2007.*

## Winter 2008 Courses

### Political Science/ Public Administration

**POL 120 American National Government & Politics**

20599 01 T R 12:30 p.m.- 1:45 p.m. Laverty  
20666 02 T R 4:00 p.m.-5:15 p.m. Kosnoski

**POL 190 Intro to Comparative Politics**

22353 01 T R 9:30 a.m.- 10:45 a.m. Kahn  
22354 02 M W 12:30 p.m.- 1:45 p.m. Munroe  
22870 W1 Online Kahn

**POL/PUB 301 Research Seminar in Politics & Policy**

22097 M1 M 5:30 p.m.-8:15p.m. Munroe  
(mixed-mode format. On campus meetings are  
scheduled for first and third Mondays of month)

**POL/AFA 304 Black Soc and POL Movements**

23532 W1 Online Mpondi

**POL 311 American State & Local Government**

23277 01 T R 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. Laverty

**POL/PUB 316 Intro to Public Administration**

22871 01 T 7:00 p.m. - 9:45 p.m. Hughes

**POL 329/529 Civil Liberties & the Constitution**

22868 M1 W 5:30 p.m.-8:15 p.m. Price  
(mixed-mode format. On campus meetings are  
scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month)

**POL 343 Conflict & Development in Southern Africa**

22728 W1 Conflict & Dev in S Africa Online Mpondi

**POL 344/544 Latin American Politics**

22357/22615 01 M W 02:00PM-03:15PM Munroe

**POL 345/545 European Politics**

22875/23276 01 TR 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Kahn

**POL 365 Marxist Political Thought**

23278 01 TR 2:00 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Kosnoski

**POL 375 Politics and American Labor**

22875 01 T R 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Kosnoski

**POL 390 Internship in Public Agencies**

20637 99 Morolla

**POL 391 Directed Reading in Political Science**

20643 99 Munroe

**POL/PUB 420/520 Law & Administrative Processes**

22864 M1 R 7:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Price  
(mixed-mode format. On campus meetings are  
scheduled for the second Thursday of each month)

### Master in Public Administration

**PUB 423/523 Acct Government & Non-Prof Org**

21966/21697 01 T 07:00PM-09:45PM O'Donnell

**PUB 426/526 Staffing Public Sector Orgs**

22363 /22364 01 W 07:00PM-09:45PM Morolla

**PUB 477/577 Financial Management in HCR**

20656 01 R 07:00PM-09:45PM STAFF

**PUB 480/580 Quantitative Methods for Admin**

22368 01 T R 5:30PM-06:45PM Douglas

**PUB 487/587 Legal Issues in Health Care**

20661 01 W 07:00PM-09:45PM Dedenbach

**PUB 501 Administrative Org & Behavior**

20543 01 T 07:00PM-09:45PM Schellenberg

**PUB 502 Mgt. in Public & Non-Profit Organizations**

20706 R 07:00PM-09:45PM Laverty

**PUB 503 Personnel Issues**

20707 01 M 07:00PM-09:45PM Morolla

**PUB 506 Research Methods**

21964 01 M 07:00PM-09:45PM Brock

**PUB 519 Law & Administrative Processes**

22867 M1 R 7:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m. Price  
(mixed-mode format. On campus meetings are  
scheduled for the second Thursday of each month)

**PUB 525 Legal & Reg Issues Nonprofit Admin**

23280 01 M W 5:30 p.m.-6:45 p.m. Hoort

**PUB 589 Independent Study in Pub**

22266 99 Price

**PUB 590 Internship**

20714 99 Morolla

**PUB 595 Practicum in Applied Research**

20673 99 Price