

# Time to rekindle the fire of patriotism



**Cory Price**  
CO EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

9/11/01. Five numbers, one that has changed America forever, but what happened to our patriotism?

The year following the 9/11 terrorist attacks sparked a bounding influx of patriotism in America. People stuck flags on their cars and flew them above their homes. Where has that loyalty gone? The stickers have faded, the flags that flew so proudly wadded into a ball and put into a garage. Patriotism has dwindled to a mere speck of dust in America.

Now is a time like no other to come together and support our troops. Instead, there are protests and riots against soldiers' placements in Iraq. But everyone needs to realize that those soldiers overseas are there by choice. Maybe people don't support our country because they lack the willingness to understand the definition of patriotism. Well, here it comes from the Compliments of Dictionary: "Love of and devotion to one's country."

I am sure that people love their

country, but we lack the devotion, which is defined as "ardent, often selfless affection and dedication, as to a person or principle."

How many people are truly selfless? Our soldiers overseas are the few in this country who put their own plans aside for love of country.

The standard, everyday American has no understanding of what our soldiers do for us and how much we neglect them. For example, how many people got together on Monday for a barbecue? Many, but few Americans actually took the time to realize what this national holiday really stands for.

Monday was Memorial Day. It was created after the Civil War on May 5, 1868, to honor those who died in the war. In the present time, we have barbecues to celebrate a day off. There is no honoring or remembering the fallen troops. It is just another excuse to have a beer and do nothing.

Americans, wake up and realize how easy we have it! Our lives are not guided by fear, but instead by free choice. This is a great honor and a gift we all enjoy a little too much. We take advantage of this pleasure and spat in the faces of those who died protecting our freedom.

Instead of protesting a war,



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thank a veteran. When war coverage is shown on the news, stop and realize how easy life is for us at home.

Stop and look at a flag.

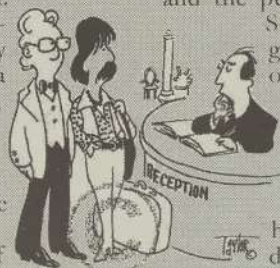
Imagine every thread on the flag is one soldier who died for our freedom. Millions of threads are intricately woven together to form a larger image.

Take each of the soldiers who have died, weave them together and we get patriotism. Instead of standing up against war, we need to stand and salute our soldiers.

## Marriage is about love: Don't sign away rights

**MaryJean Williams**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A usually reserved acquaintance rushed across the street to get me down. "Would you like to sign this?" he asked, presenting the "Defense of Marriage" petition. What could I say? I might appear to him to be a model of a "Defense of Marriage" supporter. After all, I am heterosexual, happily married and live a conservative, Christian lifestyle. However, this petition debases what makes marriage meaningful.



The "Defense of Marriage" petition defines marriage based on a sex act between a man and a woman. It implies that only heterosexuals are capable of marital love. It ignores all the higher attributes that make marriages worth having, such as partnership, commitment and a passionate bond.

Not only does the "man and woman" definition debase marriage, it also defies nature, which gives us more than just heterosexuals. According to Dr. Priya Kapoor, Assistant Professor of Intercultural Communication at Portland State University, there are actually eight genders. Among them are: hermaphrodites, bisexuals and people who are genetically one gender with the physiology of another. People of all sexual natures deserve the right to marry some-

one according to their nature, a right that heterosexuals have taken for granted.

The fact is, sexual minorities have been marrying and raising families all along. And with our civil union laws, they enjoy many of the same marital protections. Our freedom to marry is closely intertwined with the great American concepts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

So what is to be gained by quibbling over the mere use of a word? The right to legally call committed gay relationships "marriages?"

Heterosexuals have no right to define other people's relationships.

This petition amounts to name-calling. It is analogous to working women having once been called "girls" and black men having once been called "boys." It is to deny that gays and lesbians are fully mature, fully capable of marital joy.

I faced my acquaintance, a man I like and trust and said, "I can't sign this petition. I've seen the joy of gay people getting married and I can't stand in their way." My acquaintance looked at the ground and withdrew like a gentleman.

Our world needs more marital love. Please don't sign the misnamed "Defense of Marriage" petition.

*MaryJean Williams is a student at CCC.*

## 'Terrorism' not as clear as it seems

*\*This article contains racial slurs with the intent to inform, not to insult.*

**Joe Clement**  
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At some point in our education, usually high school history, we are given some kind of lesson on the nature of propaganda. In high school, this is most often taught to be a tool, used in times of war, to dehumanize the enemy as to gain support for the cause.

In the Vietnam War, it was reducing any semi-East Asian persona to "chink" or "gook." Possibly the most memorable is the propagandist Red Memorabilia of the 1950s, with the "godless communists." Now in the on-going struggle in the near East, anyone of noticeable Arab descent is a "sand-nigger."

In all occurrences of such dehumanizing slurs and prejudices, the motive is making the enemy into something easier to hate; and makes it easier to forget they are just as you or I.

It is in this new age of war that a new and subtler form of this dehumanizing propaganda is surging through the American vernacular: "terrorism"—properly in the hypothetical realm of the quotation mark. Because you see, America has degenerated the war that portions of the Islamic world have been waging with the Western world into nothing more than a school-yard bully syndrome which we call "terrorism." In doing so, it has created a fictitious scheme in which to justify further U.S. involvement in the Middle East, and the "War on Terror."

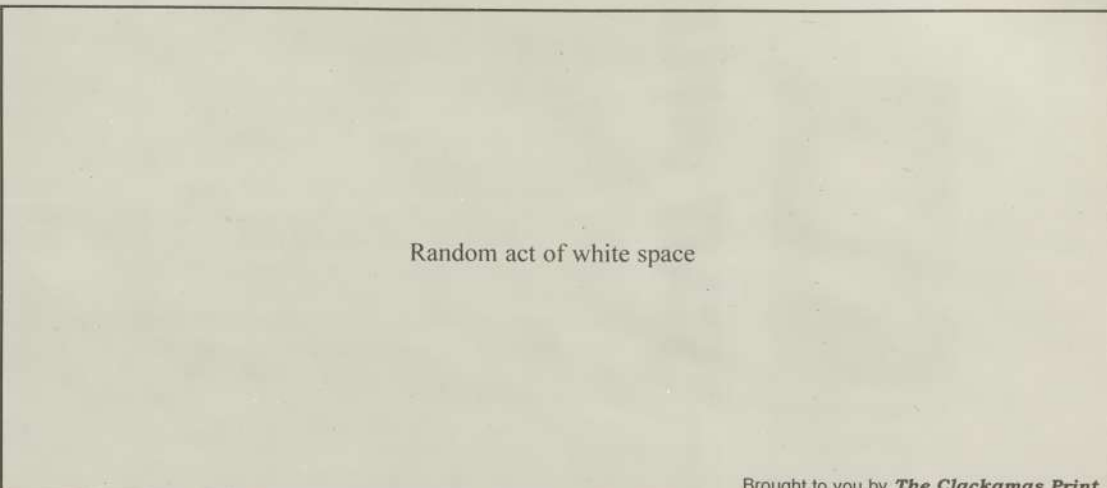
For the past millennia, hundreds of thousands (millions even) have been sacrificed for the purpose of Holy War—the divine oxymoron. In all of the bloodshed, all atrocities have been committed with one sole purpose, to take human life. Nowhere in the thousand-some odd years of Middle Eastern conflict has there been a movement we could properly call terrorism—one perpetrated purely to cause psycho-

logical trauma.

The word "terrorism" itself is misleading and even insulting to anyone of mediocre intellect. If we consider the connotations that pop culture puts behind "war on terror" and "terrorism," we have a method of psychological warfare with the explicit aim of not necessarily taking life, but causing strife. Even the most radical of Jihadists should like to think themselves as honorable, that they are taking lives and not just scaring people in the name of Allah. If we look at the attacks since 9/11, where do we find acts of "terrorism?" They weren't playing around, they weren't out to terrorize a nation; they wanted to take lives.

If I must make my statement explicit, it is simply to remember that this is war, not some school-yard scare; employing such base terms as "terrorism" is juvenile, and insults not only the enemy, but us as well.

*Joe Clement is a student at CCC.*



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