

NEWS

ACLU

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shortly after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to promote national security by enhancing communication between law enforcement agencies and increasing the amount of information available.

On Oct. 12, 2001, Wisconsin Republican Congressman James Sensenbrenner, Jr. began discussion of the bill under its full title, "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism," or "PATRIOT."

Congress enacted the Patriot Act by overwhelming bipartisan margins, arming law enforcement with new tools to detect and prevent terrorism, according to a statement on the U.S. Department of Justice Web site.

The Senate and House of Representatives passed the legislation 98 to 1 and 357 to 66, with support from members of the entire political spectrum, according to the Web site.

"From a legal perspective, I think that many parts of the Patriot Act are unconstitutional," said Mark Gibney, political science professor. "The Fourth Amendment talks about what the government can, but cannot, do. The Patriot Act allows the government to do things that the Constitution does not."

Supporters of the bill only achieved success by making "many critical provisions" temporary. The provisional period, and much of the Patriot Act's effect, will end in 2005 unless Congress and the Bush administration successfully complete plans to lift the time limit, according to the *New York Times*.

President Bush said repeatedly that the Patriot Act grants law enforcement tools necessary for defense against further terrorist attacks. He plans to make parts of the act permanent law during his second term.

In the controversial documentary "Fahrenheit 911," filmmaker Michael Moore accused members of Congress of passing the act clandestinely after hours and accused many more congressional members of never having read its many convoluted pages.

"Limiting governmental, police and employer intrusion into, and abuse of, individual rights is inherently anti-establishment, and that position tends to piss people off, particularly those comfortable with, and/or benefiting from, that very establishment," said Rowland. "The definition of abuse is somewhat murky, however, and I certainly do not agree with all the causes which the ACLU champion."

"Even though I may not agree with some of their stances, I certainly see a need for their existence."

The forum's second speaker, Frank Goldsmith, detailed American violations of the Geneva Convention, an international treaty defining and banning war crimes.

He contrasted relatively humane treatment of prisoners of war by Germany in World War II, a country that signed the Geneva Convention, to the relatively brutal treatment of prisoners of war by Japan in World War II, a country that didn't.

Treatment of U.S.-held prisoners of the war on terror includes the capture, detention and torture of prisoners that does not follow the specific regulations of the international treaty, according to Goldsmith, a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The United States violated many other rules of the Geneva Convention in the ways it declared war and fought in Iraq and in the ways it handled the reconstruction of Iraq.

"We consider these educational forums," said Martha Shepard, Western North Carolina ACLU treasurer. "These are educational vehicles for national law and war crimes."

Report analyzes effects of college experience

by Angele Mainhart
Staff Reporter

Those who attend college have a lower rate of smoking and are more likely to take an interest in volunteering, giving blood and voing, according to a report the College Board released in October.

Yet many seem to disagree.

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Buncombe-Technical Community College. "Every college campus I've been on has been loaded with smokers. I see no correlation between college students and smokers."

Despite the statistics, students do not believe that a lower smoking rate exists among college students.

They judge by the number of fellow students who smoke.

"Not as far as I can tell, if the ashtrays on campus are any indication," said Jeremy Duncan, a two-year student from Central Piedmont Community College.

They also feel that stress and lack of parental supervision adds to the number of student smokers.

Freedom and peer pressure can outweigh the negatives of smoking.

"College students are just as stressed out, or whatever, as people in the working world that are their own age," said Benjamin Betsalel, a recent UNCA graduate. "I would like to think that education leads to people not smoking cigarettes, drinking and all those kinds of things, but I think that a lot of people who come to this environment are excited that they

can drink and smoke and not have their parents see them.

"I think people are going to do that regardless that it's a pretty stupid thing to do. We all know that it's bad for you, but at the same time there's a lot of peer pressure."

As far as voting and volunteering, some people said they do not exactly agree with the report.

Different experiences that do not come from a college experience led to their ideas of volunteering.

"I grew up poor, from a poor neighborhood, and the reason I'm probably

where I am is because people volunteered to help me out, especially the Catholic nuns where I grew up," said John Gant, associate professor of Spanish at UNCA. "I saw how it helped, and this is a way of me giving back. Also, it's a way of helping out my fellow man. It's a duty. I enjoy it. I learn as much from them as probably they get out of me."

One person took a different outlook on what actually constitutes volunteer work. The idea of not receiving monetary rewards for the work comes second to the notion of giving back to the community.

"I think it's more of giving back to the community," said Duncan. "Some people give back to the community, and that's their job. Some people make money and that's their job, and so then they have to give back to the community by

volunteering. I'm a coach for little kids, and it is my job to volunteer my time and inspire those kids.

"If I were really something other than a half-wit, I would still volunteer so it would look good on my resume to help get me into grad school."

Volunteering may not feel rewarding immediately to some, but for others, giving back to the community can pay off down the road.

"The more you plan ahead, the more you're going to look at the benefits of doing those things that don't really reward you in the short term," said Duncan. "Volunteering isn't overwhelmingly the greatest feeling you've ever had, but it's what you feel like afterwards where you know the importance of it."

"It's kind of like postponing joy. It's something that builds character and makes you a better person."

Many people said they did agree that a college background increases the likelihood of people voting due to a better education on issues involved in the elections, but they also think that many people without higher educations still vote.

"I think a lot more people, even those who normally wouldn't vote, will vote because the political situation has become so important, especially with the war," said Duncan. "Everyone knows somebody

who's been affected by it. So I'm imagining there's a lot of people, even if they don't have a college education, who would have some kind of stance. There's more issues that would affect them."

The concept of civic duty arises in the issues of voting and volunteering.

Many feel that people should contribute to the community, and they can learn more about this through college.

"What's happening now will affect all of our lives," said Gant. "Even if you're young and don't think it will affect your life, it probably will in the future, if not immediately. I think it's our civic duty to vote and to volunteer."

"It makes us less selfish and expands our understanding of the communities and people around us. I think that people who don't vote are really not contributing to society as they should. They're being complacent and, quite frankly, in my opinion, selfish."

Through a higher education, people come to understand the political and social issues surrounding them.

Their minds open up to new concepts that lead to a stronger opinion and desires to express those opinions.

"I think that an educated person knows the importance and power of one vote, and I think you go to college, get an education and learn about the issues that are in the media," said Betsalel. "You kind of realize that there is such a big picture, and you start to worry, or at least think about, what's outside of what's on TV tonight. You start to read, and you start to build up an intellectual mind that thinks and wonders."

numbers between an older Republican base and the 18 to 25-year-old Democrat supporters, according to Nadolna.

"I think Bush won because we're not a dominant age group," said Nadolna. "As much as everyone has an opinion, a small percentage of those people actually go out and vote."

"I think that people shouldn't be complaining about the system not working, or that the voting was rigged, because if Kerry won, everyone would think it was an example of the system working perfectly."

Jane Nadolna
sophomore multimedia major

Election

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not what America is supposed to be about," said Watson. "You constantly hear 'It's a free country,' but when an entire group of people is excluded from rights, such as marriage

rights, you can't really say that."

This election may serve as the jolt that Democrats require to solidify as a party, find an identity and compete with Republicans in the 2008 election, according to Watson.

"I think this should be a wake-up call for (Democrats)," said Watson. "Maybe they need this pressure to get fired up, and maybe next time instead of just being anti-Bush or anti-whomever, maybe they could be pro-issues of importance."

Another student who voted for Bush, Nicole Caldwell, undeclared freshman, said she believes the moral platforms of the Bush administration are the best thing for America.

"I'm a church kind of person, and I just have to go by what the Bible says," said Caldwell. "So, that's why I had to vote for who I did. I can't

stand Kerry. I'm a Republican, and I don't like the Liberals."

Presidential runner-up John Kerry has a flawed idea of which morals should be embraced by a national leader, and should not support certain controversial issues, according to Caldwell.

"A lot of things that (Kerry) believes in, I don't believe in, like abortion and gay marriage

rights," said Caldwell. When asked what she believes the next four years will be like, Caldwell said we would witness "a safer America."

Students who voted for Kerry should be careful when complaining about the election results, according to Jane Nadolna, sophomore multimedia major. Students who believe the election was somehow unfair should take care not to sound hypocritical, according to Nadolna.

"I think that people shouldn't be complaining about the system not working, or that the voting was rigged, because if Kerry would have won, everyone would think it was an

example of the system working perfectly," said Nadolna. "Because he lost, and the majority of students here are for Kerry, they think that the system was rigged, and I don't think that's right."

Even in light of the large voter turnout, an important factor in determining the outcome of the election was the discrepancy in likely voter

numbers between an older Republican base and the 18 to 25-year-old Democrat supporters, according to Nadolna.

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WAC

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are in constant contact with WAC chapters across the country to find out which topics the members are interested in and which programs they'd like to do.

"Once they gather all of that information, they choose eight topics and send those out to the WAC offices. They (national offices) even help organize the programs."

The Great Decision series is set up to have the speaker for each topic speak at several communities within Western North Carolina including Asheville, Black Mountain, Brevard, Tryon and Hendersonville, according to the WAC Web site.

The WAC promotes global awareness and global understanding among the people of Western North Carolina, according to the WAC Web site.

The council is committed to providing a fall and spring lecture series in the community.

"All meetings are open to the public, but there is an admission charge for anyone who is not a member of the WAC because it takes some resources to be able to bring in these great speakers," said Cornett. "We have to be able to help with their airfare, house them, and feed them while they're here. Students are always free. We want to promote WAC events on campus because they are able to bring in speakers that we frankly can't afford to."

"Sometimes speakers are academic and sometimes they are people who have diplomatic experience. For example, when we are talking about issues associated with globalization, we may have someone from the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund speak."

The WAC Board of Directors is comprised of professionals interested in foreign affairs, retired diplomats, people who've worked in foreign service, academics, ex-military officers, and even one student from UNCA, according to Cornett.

"The board would very much like a younger population of council members to help us stay in touch with what people are concerned about and would like to hear about," said Campbell. "The WAC has a history with UNCA, but it's not officially a campus organization. It's a community organization."

The WAC covered many topics in its recent history, including Republican and Democratic positions on foreign policy, history of independence in the Congo, why the Western world ascended to power, Taiwanese and Chinese relations and economic unification in Europe, according to Campbell.

"Recently we tried something new by having a luncheon following the discussion on Israeli and Palestinian relations at The Jerusalem Garden Café," said Cornett. "We were able to talk intimately with a small group of people. We also hosted a beer tasting of international beers. It was something informal to provide a social setting for people who are interested in international affairs."

A new campus club emerged as a result of this organization and it's attempt to draw in more students, according to Cornett.

The club formed after noticing several students always showed up to the WAC events. "My main reason for starting the World Affairs Club at UNCA was that I noticed the things that tend to get reported in the news are a select few stories on very big issues," said Sara Mine, founder and president of the UNC World Affairs Club. "What I wanted to do was to provide motivation for people in the club to look further into international issues, because there are plenty of stories out there that do not get the coverage they deserve."

"I think the WAC discussions are really fun to go to. They're really informative, especially because they tend to have a question and answer session at the end. It's a really nice way to get the community involved in international affairs. I think more students should go to them."

The World Affairs Club currently has around seven members, according to Mine. The club meets every other Tuesday at 4 p.m. in the Blue Ridge Board Room in the Highsmith University Union.

They will hold their next meeting Nov. 9. "During National Education Week in November, the World Affairs Council and Club will host an international potluck," said Cornett. "This is a way for everyone to bring together their favorite international foods and people with a common interest in a social setting."

The organizations will host a potluck in the Glasshouse attached to Ramsey Library at 6-8 p.m. Nov. 17.

Election Facts:

1.) Voter turnout was the highest it's been since 1968, with an estimated 120 million people casting their votes.

2.) Compared to Bush's predecessor, Bill Clinton's '96 election campaign drew only 96.3 million voters.

3.) At least six states, including Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, and Washington D.C set record voter turnouts this election.

SOURCE: CNN.COM