

EDITORIALS

House Democrats need new leader

A new leader for the Democrats is needed — that is a certainty. With Republicans winning 60 seats in the House of Representatives, the new minority must take it upon itself to replace its current leader, Nancy Pelosi. According to The New York Times, Pelosi stated on Friday that she would seek the position of House minority leader. This will only hurt the already injured Democratic Party, as Pelosi has become more of the face of defeat and failure rather than any figure of leadership.

Pelosi has been a hard-hitting opponent to the Republican Party and a key player in the polarization of Congress. Her passing of hundreds of bill may have been successful within her own party, but it has proven unpopular with the public. Health care reform especially set her place in Democratic ranks, but this is hardly what Democrats — or Pelosi — need.

Her taking the job of House minority speaker is not a good idea for her less-favored party. Democrats will not be the party passing the bills come January 2011 in the House. What the Democrats need is change within themselves. Pelosi has been unable to provide enough basis for American voters to support and understand the party. The midterm elections proved just that.

Both Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, who had the good fortune of running against a poorly campaigning Sharron Angle, need to change the image of the Democratic party. And while Reid will probably choose to keep his position, the Democrats have the ability of reforming just as the voters have chosen. Keeping Pelosi in Congress might not be detrimental to the party, but keeping her as their head in the House will undoubtedly cause for more voter disillusion.

No matter what her intentions were, Americans have perceived Pelosi as a sort of a socialist leader part of the party destroying the economy. Democratic policies have brought these notions on and Pelosi might have had the opportunity to change this. Nevertheless, the image of the Democrats must change and Nancy Pelosi's withdrawal from the race for House minority leader must be the first of its many reforms.

Obama correctly endorses India

India is bound sooner or later to join the United Nations Security Council and now, with the support of President Barack Obama, this will inevitably occur sooner. On his 10-day trip to Asia, Obama will visit four countries. It is no accident that in his visit to India on Monday Obama declared, "India has emerged." It will be a difficult process for India and it might take some time, but with their recent signing of an international nuclear liability pact, a bid for the U.N. Security Council was inevitable and expected.

Now we wait as India faces at least several months of proving its worth. A warning from Pakistan, India's rival and a tentative player in the United States' war in Afghanistan, criticized Obama's backing of India. They called it "power politics," which lack a moral foundation.

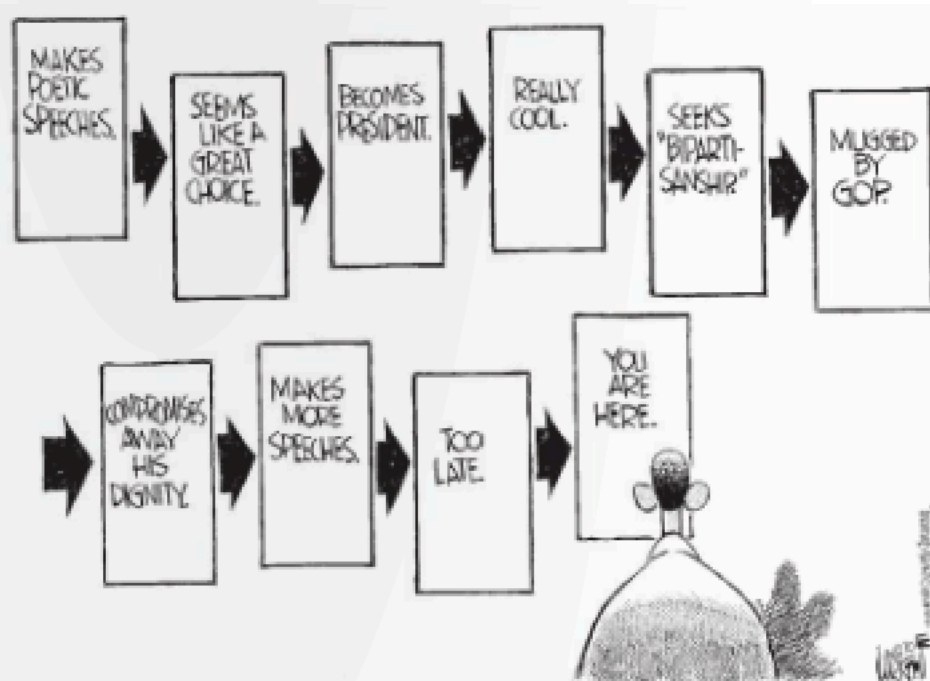
But India is a world power player now due to its nuclear abilities. It has shown cooperation with international guidelines when, at the end of October, it signed a nuclear energy accident liability pact. This move has proven to smooth over U.S.-India relations as, according to The Wall Street Journal, U.S. nuclear-energy companies raised concerns over India's nuclear law signed in August.

India seeks to become the sixth member of the council as it attempts to join the United Kingdom, China, Russia, France and the United States. Its status currently is a two-year contemporary member state.

This move will challenge China's position as the sole Asian member country — something that is needed as China has retained a dangerous international economy. Obama's visit to Asia also — seemingly intentional — will not include China. It does, however, include four democracies. We agree with his decision to strengthen U.S. relations with India, a country with the potential to expand its role in the world economy. The U.S. should, as it has, promote India as a global power, especially at a time when China seems to be more and more influential.

"In Asia and around the world, India is not simply emerging," Obama said in his speech. "India has emerged."

According to The New York Times, the five permanent members are unlikely to veto the introduction of any new member. And as India has proven to be a nuclear player, perhaps this is the best decision. A permanent seat will bring change and influence to the council's agenda and its voting. It is a key moment for the United States and India, as well as for the needed reform to the Security Council.



MCT CAMPUS

Disallow BAKA fundraising

I had the opportunity to attend a student-fee sponsored event run by the University group BAKA: Students United for Middle Eastern Justice. The mission of the event was to fundraise for a U.S. sponsored flotilla, "The Audacity of Hope," to breach the Israeli blockade

on Gaza. The University saw the potential ramifications of using student fees to pay for an event. However, the event still took place without any regard for the students who may disagree with the extremity behind the ideology of the event. So I trekked to Busch campus to attend. Armed with a video camera and note pad, I would make sure that there was at least one counter perspective on the theme of the night. What I encountered was nauseating.

"When these people go on suicide mission, what made them do this? You have no choice either blood or blood ... this is the choice we have," said Fida Qishta as she opened up the fundraiser. Qishta, a Palestinian journalist and filmmaker, was referring to Palestinian homicide bombers who kill themselves while blowing up buses, cafés and nightclubs in an attempt to murder as many civilians as possible. While she called these people horrible, her tone and the reaction of the crowd was that suicide bombings are a completely rational retaliation against Israelis. So I would like to be the first to congratulate the University, Rutgers University Student Assembly and BAKA for allowing this hate-inspired message to be broadcast on behalf of the student body.

BAKA brought quite an event to campus. Another speaker, Adam Shapiro, fuelled the raucous crowd with even more "peaceful" rhetoric. "Transform this conflict from one between Israel and the Palestinians ... to one between the rest of the world and Israel," Shapiro said. As I sat in astonishment at the level of violence and hatred directed toward the sole Jewish state in the world, I could only wonder how these individuals planned on improving relations between Israelis and Palestinians. Through more violence and more hate? Then I realized they have no intention of improving relations — their goal is to see a Middle East free of Israel.

As the night moved along, speaker after speaker demonstrated more and more hate. Shapiro proclaimed that we are in the middle of a third intifada. At one point Nada Khader said outright that the Palestinian Authority does not represent the Palestinian people and their

Marcus
My Words



AARON MARCUS

supporters in the United States. She explained every reason why there is discontent with the current PA administration, but stopped just short of proclaiming her allegiance to Hamas. It wasn't until after Khader compared Zionism to white suprema-

cy that the night took a strange course. Almost immediately after the speaker's ignorant accusation, two members of BAKA approached me and told me I had to stop recording the speeches.

Dumbfounded, I asked, "Why?" To which the BAKA members blatantly lied and said there was a "no recording policy" mentioned in the flier. I shut off my camera since I had no intention of causing conflict but found it ironic that the moment Zionists were called white supremacists, I became the victim of religious discrimination. Had no one else in the room full of 200 or so supporters hoisted a camera, I would have found this request acceptable. Yet it was shrieked at me with vengeful eyes while the room was filled with recording devices. It also wasn't the first instance of peculiar treatment. Earlier in

the night while sitting at a table with another Jewish colleagues, we were both asked to show our wristbands, while the other eight patrons at our table — all Muslim — were asked no such question.

I'm not complaining about the treatment, although I will produce a video shortly with some of the "greatest" moments of the student-sponsored hate event. What is most disap-

pointing for me is the message that members of BAKA and supporters of flotilla ships don't understand. It's that in the middle of conflict the best method for creating enduring peace is to lead by example and establish peace. Nothing is more tragic than the loss of human life and property right violations on both the Israeli and Palestinian sides of the conflict. There are amazing Israelis and Palestinians, and I know amazing Jews and Muslims. I can tell you that the difference between these amazing people and those who created the flotilla fundraiser is the measly desire to have peace between Israel and Palestine at all costs instead of only a Palestine at all costs.

While I will fight until the end of my life for the right for all to freely assemble, I am completely disgusted at the University for allowing an event like this to occur. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion even if that message is anti-peace or anti-Semitic, but why must I pay for it? It is an infringement on my right to free