

# The Chicago Shady Dealer

## 6 Dead in UChicago Student Elections



*Heavy fighting breaks out behind the Renyolds Club*

*By Sam Spiegel*

Tragedy struck a fledgling democracy yesterday afternoon as political demonstrations for the Student Government elections turned violent.

"It was just awful. I didn't think I would make it out of there alive," said eyewitness Ricardo Juarez.

The precise reason for what sparked the violence is still being investigated, but various accounts seem to point to supporters of Matthew Summers, a Class of 2013 representative hopeful, trying to break up a rally of supporters of Alice Chen, a rival candidate.

The clash occurred in Hutch Courtyard at approximately 4:30 PM. Six people were reported dead, with another 8 in critical condition.

The violence comes during a heated political campaigning season in which candidates relied heavily on blatant, and in some cases violent, propaganda.

For example, one candidate, Richard Chin, who is running for Board of Governors liaison, based his campaign almost entirely on the promise of literally purging the Board of Governors of all of its current members and replacing them with current students.

Electoral violence has been a common theme in University of Chicago Student Government for the past several years, ever since the sudden fall of the dictatorship of Muhammad Al-Sharani.

"Once he transferred to Wash U, the shit hit the fan," former Commissioner of Elections Adrian Reid said. "Sure, his policies were abusive and he came to power through a military coup, but at least we had some semblance of stability

*See Violence, p3*

## Hybrid Cars Shunned by Gas, Electric Companies

*By Chris Graf*

A recent study by a Columbia University social research group suggests that the growing population of hybrid, plug-in, and otherwise mixed American vehicles is having an increasingly diffi-

cult time finding acceptance among the established gas and electric populations. Only the latest addition to a mounting body of evidence, the study highlighted the complexities of modern electro-gas relations and the plight of the power-assisted vehicles stuck in the middle.

"The gas-powered vehicles have been in the clear majority for so long that they're reluctant to share their roads with anyone who isn't 'pure' or at least 'unleaded,'" said Dr. Loraine Bohr, one of the study's authors and a professor at Columbia's Vehicular Relations School. She also commented that "electrics still cite the archaic 'one drop of gas' rule as the

*See Cars, p7*

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## It Happened One Night . . . Wait, WHAT Happened?

### *The Chicago Shady Dealer*

Crescat Rumor, Vitia  
Excolantur

#### **Worshipful Master**

Aaron Horton

#### **Senior Warden**

Katharine Bierce

#### **Almoner**

Aash Viswanathan

#### **Tylers**

Tommy Cook

Josh Nalven

#### **Ritualist**

Alison Howard

#### **Grand Pursuivant**

DJ LoBraico

#### **Deacons**

Carl Wheeler

Mae Rice

Made Up Person

#### **Meetings**

Sundays, 7PM @Harper 145

#### **Website:**

<http://shadydealer.uchicago.edu>

#### **Submissions:**

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### **Disclaimer**

If you are offended, shocked, or otherwise provoked to hunt us down like a delusional maniac, please take a deep breath—that's right, don't be shy—and count to ten. Maybe think about some animals or something. Puppies always work for us.

### **Meta-Disclaimer**

We're real sorry about that last disclaimer. It came off as a little snarky, plus we called you a maniac. Who does that? It was in poor taste, and we're sorry.

### **Meta-Meta-Disclaimer**

Though don't get us wrong. That last disclaimer was just an apology for the tone of the first, not a retraction. Please understand: We don't give a fuck.

## Is America Ready for a Fourth Female Supreme Court Justice?



By Eliza Brown

Americans understood Ronald Reagan's appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor, due primarily to the fact that Reagan really loves women. Ruth Bader Ginsburg made sense according to the same logic – few have questioned Bill Clinton's love of women. Sonia Sotomayor brought in a new “first” as the Latina/Hispanic lady/woman of Hispanic heritage that she is. But a fourth Supreme Court Justice that is a woman? Is America ready for this historic change?

If Obama appoints another woman to the Supreme Court, he will be appointing two women in a row. Many men say that this move “seems unfair” and “totally biased.” According to Joe the Electrician, “I think that things should just be fair, ya know? Two women in a row seems very excessive to me.”

Others point to the fact that another woman on the court would make one third of the justices female. After hearing this math, Joe burst out with, “Three out of nine? I mean, seriously, is this America or what? I'll tell you, it's not my America.”

The three current women on the short list are U.S. Solicitor General Elena Kagan, Pamela Karlan and Diane Wood.

All three of the women happen to be highly educated. Kagan was the Dean of Harvard Law School, Karlan is a liberal scholar and Wood lectured at the University of Chicago in the 1980s. This bit of information led many to remember that today there are more women graduating from college than men.

Some think that appointing another woman to the Supreme Court would discourage boys in school today, sending them the message that no matter what they do, it won't be enough. Bobby Stewart explains, “Everyone knows that acceptance rates are getting lower. They never say why – girls. I would be going to University of Chicago if not for all of those girls learning and writing and what not.”

When asked if America was ready for a fourth female Justice Obama responded with a chuckle (!). After collecting himself, he said, “If I appoint another woman that makes four total, right? Aren't you supposed to stop counting these things after three? I am the third Black Senator since Reconstruction and the first Black President, by the way.”

Some say that Obama is out of touch with this great nation that he claims to love. Obviously America's readiness for a fourth female Supreme Court justice is a very important question.

As Justice Stevens retires at the end of this session, a historic appointment will probably ensue. Perhaps Ginsburg will become the second woman on the Supreme Court to retire this year or next year. That will not only be an incredible moment in history, but will also open up the floor for the fifth woman to be appointed to the Supreme Court – a truly important feat indeed.

123,343, 123,344, . . . butterfly . . . Crap! 1 . . .

## My Spring Epiphany: I Really Don't Have Legs



By Mitchell Brian

Spring is a time when people start to see things in a new light. Some change majors, jobs, styles, find love or just find a reason to live. For me, I realized as the birds started chirping and the sunlight came pouring down, that you guys really were not lying, I don't have legs anymore.

So it may come as a shock to you that someone could not realize they don't have legs. I was completely convinced that I still had four limbs. I didn't think it suspicious at all that you guys told me that every cardio machine at the gym was broken, every single time we were there.

Or that your response was "fuck no, fuck no you can't drive us", I just thought you guys thought I was too drunk.

Well maybe I was a little hammered. You guys kept on saying "Fuck no, fuck no you can't.". Maybe I am starting to come around to the whole idea. However the fact that you guys allowed me to buy a 400 dollar foot massager is a little bit of a dick move.

Speaking of which, does my dick really move? Oh yea. It does. That is a relief.

Now that I really do accept the fact that I don't have legs, specifically after failing to win a modeling gig, the world is a quite different place. You know that they don't make pants for legless people? I will have to wear only snuggies, but even then I do not feel completely comfortable (metaphorically only, physically I am having fuzz induced orgasms). If you doubted that statement, may I remind you that my other leg is still functioning properly. I think.

Regardless, I think it is only fair that I get rewarded for handling this stunning realization so well. A lot of people would just be like "holy fuck I don't have legs?" I would be more like "holy fuck! I

don't have legs!", emphasis on the exclamation. That means I am excited by the prospect.

And before you jump on your pity train, I don't want any prosthetics. I have made it this far right? I see prosthetics like cheating. You wouldn't allow handicapped people to play in olympics with wheelchairs right? Right. I didn't think so. That is simple injustice.

Furthermore I feel like I will get used to it. I mean I already got used to, but now I will get used to getting used to it. Plus I feel I can get like a ton of movie deals. I can just imagine now co-starring with Megan Fox in the next "Transformers", as the broken down human-transformer she will have to caress back to health via sweet sweet lovin.

Well, maybe that won't happen, but there are real benefits to leglessness. Ever heard of extra-leg room on planes? Yea mother fucker! I will have that every time I fly, for free! Plus, I am basically a shoe in for the next Avatar. Well, not a shoe in.... You get the point. This new spring life will not be that bad. In fact I think I have gained something from the whole realization experience: spring is really valuable in Chicago.

### Violence, *from pi*

under his rule."

Current student government president Adam Parks has barely been able to maintain control, which is not helped by the fact that he lacks the people's support; it is widely believed that Parks is merely a puppet for Psi Upsilon.

The constant political upheaval has had detrimental effects on the U of C economy. Over the past 5 years, GDP has fallen by more than 30%, and the current Flex inflation rate is estimated at 600%.

Perhaps the effects of the political turmoil on the people are best summed up in the view of one black market media streamer. "I don't like doing what I do, but I have a wife and kids to look after. I would take a legitimate job in a heartbeat if there were any around, but the fact is there aren't. In times like these, you do what you have to do to survive."

## Census Loses Count, Starts Over

By Df LoBraico

The Census Bureau revealed at a press conference yesterday that the department had lost track of the number of Americans taking part in its decennial count this month.

As Scott Blayton, press secretary of the agency, explained to reporters: there were just "too damn many" of them [Americans] and "not enough hands" in the department to complete the count within a reasonable degree of accuracy.

"We started out with each finger representing 10 people, but then we realized that wouldn't be enough" stated Blayton. "When we tried to move it up to 100 people, several of our representatives in

the more rural areas of the country lost count on the long car trips from town to town."

"I mean, it's a hard job, keeping focused, but I can assure you the Census Bureau is highly diligent in its mission," added Blayton, ducking down to retrieve approximately 10 cents in change and a really shiny paper clip.

When asked what the Bureau planned to do to reconcile the issue during the presumably pending recount, Mr. Blayton announced that members of the Navy Corps of Engineers have suggested possibly using "those little clicker things that umpires use to count pitches, you know, like at an amusement park or movie theater."



## But . . . But They're Just Kids . . .

### Dozens of Children Eagerly Await Fat Man's Jump Into Pool

By Carl Wheeler

Nearly 30 local children are waiting with bated breath as a large man prepares to jump from the diving board into the deep end of the Little Springs pool.

"I bet he makes the hugest splash ever!" said eight year old Jimmie Deakins. "It's gonna be like, 'kaPOOSH!' and everyone is going to get totally soaked!"

Many children added to a chorus of excitement agreeing with Deakins. "I bet that guy weighs, like, 5 million zillion pounds.

At least. Maybe more. I dunno," said Bobby Womack, age seven. Womack claims that he once saw this same fat man "jump into the pool so hard, he splashed ALL the water out of the pool. All of it, and they had to close the pool and spend

all year refilling it with water, and the guy got arrested for breaking the pool, and even all the older kids who weren't even swimming got wet."

The children, who will be allowed in the pool once the 15-minute "adult-only swim" period is over, are left with no possible way to get wet in the meantime. The fat man, they say, represents their best possible chance to maintain contact with the dihydrogen monoxide in the quarter hour drought. Alternate theories, including going to the shower room, the water fountain, and "spittin' a lot" have been discussed and all were found inferior to what some are calling "plan fatso."



*Expected casualties are in the low teens for this jump*

The excitement is only mildly tempered by worries that "some dumb baby" might poop all over the pool, rendering it a toxic waste zone and contaminating the entire city for decades.

At press time, rumors were rampant that the man was preparing for a "cannonball" style jump, leading to near-ecstatic levels of excitement among the children.

### Kimbark Beverage Shoppe Begins Accepting Flex

By Pierce Ekstrom

In an effort to increase dining options for students, Aramark Campus Dining Services signed a contract with Kimbark Beverage Shoppe (formerly Kimbark Liquors). The liquor store has agreed to accept flex dollars in exchange for its merchandise.

Dean of Students Susan Art explained the decision: "We had recognized a disparity in what we were offering students. It seemed like all of our dining halls were placing an undue emphasis on food. We thought it was high time for Campus Dining to pay equitable attention to students' beverage needs."

The staff at Kimbark seems equally enthusiastic. Proprietor Jonathan Walker told Dealer staff, "We couldn't be more excited! We've been hoping to take a more active role in the University community for years now, but it's been hard to get people in the door. It seems like for every ten people that come to the store, only one or two actually come in and buy anything. And it's a shame, because those [students] are just about our best customers! We're hoping that our acceptance of Flex dollars will convert their more hesitant friends to being loyal customers."

The response from students has been largely positive. "It's just so much more convenient!" exclaimed first year James Daniels, "It used to be I'd have to, well... you know, find my ID and everything. Which can be a complicated, stressful process, you know? And talk about expensive! Now all I need to do is keep track of my Chicago ID, go in, swipe, go out. Kim-mart is awesome!"

### Graduating 4th Year Still Trying to Finish SOSOC Reading

By Alison Howard

Local sources have confirmed that 4th year Adam Spotts is in the process of finishing the 4 books, 18 PDF files, and 3 Communist Manifestos left on his Sosc syllabus. The student, who took the Power, Identity and Resistance sequence as a first year, has, as of press time, failed to complete all of the assigned readings.

"I honestly feel like a total schlub," said Spotts. "I just got caught up in other things - you know, friends, intramurals, eating, sleeping, showering. Brushing my

teeth, man. I just let myself go. I really dropped the ball with these readings!"

Spotts, who blames his academic shortcomings on social interaction and personal hygiene, has since resolved to finally get out the syllabus he has allegedly not looked at since third week of fall quarter 2006.

"Dude. 2006," Spotts is reported as saying with a far-off look in his eyes. "That was when *The Prestige* came out. That was a good movie."

Adam released a personal statement. See SOSOC, p6

**“Can’t Believe It?” No. Actually, I Can’t.**

# UChicago Student Suspects Prospie is T-Pain

By Charna Albert

First year Dennis Jones had been looking forward to hosting a prospective student ever since his own host showed him a really awesome first time at the University of Chicago, introducing him to the wonders of sticky frat parties, C-Shop dollar shake day, and staying up past 1:00 am.

But Dennis was in for a surprise. As he greeted his prospie at the front desk of South Campus Residence Hall, he couldn't help but notice that his prospective student wasn't quite as wide-eyed and dimpled as he had expected. In fact, he seemed rather, well old to be a prospie.

“First of all, he was incredibly tall. He was a really big guy. He had dreadlocks and a goatee-mustache combo, and a lot more bling than I thought he would. He wouldn't take off his sunglasses, even inside. And I thought the top hat was a little excessive.”

Fashion judgments aside, with further probing Dennis admitted what bothered

him to his core about his prospie: he was clearly inherently and infinitely more badass than Dennis himself.

There also seemed to be a definite lack of communication between the two. When Dennis greeted his prospie and asked him if he liked Chicago so far, the student answered “DJ, let the

fraught with one-sided displays of unprecedented wit and lyricism from the prospie, as Dennis frantically tried and failed to one-up him with incredibly chill and uncontrived words of wisdom. By the end of his stay, Dennis had learned that the prospie was “in love with a stripper,” and that “every rap that sounded whack he ripped it”. Dennis responded, cleverly, by asking him if he wanted to attend the

prospie RSO fair, to which the prospie said sorry, but he had “to go holla at this girl real quick, man.” Dennis received the deepest blow to his pride, however, when the prospie offered to “buy him a drank.”

Shit went down when Dennis began to harbor strong suspicions that his prospie was, in fact, the rapper T-Pain. “It was just this really crazy non sequitur, like seeing Jesus at a flea market or something,” he recalled. The prospie's identity may or may not have been confirmed when he borrowed Dennis's iPhone, ostensibly to make a call, only to peruse his applications and laugh uproariously when he came across the “I am T-Pain” autotune app.



*Who is this mysterious prospie?*

people know – Teddy Pain in the house!” The rest of their time was continually

## Shady Dealer Corrections

- In the article “President Zimmer Plans World Takeover With Army of Mutant Alien Zombies,” there should have been a comma splice in the second sentence of the third paragraph.
- The article “Rush Limbaugh to Speak on Campus” incorrectly described him as a “three-headed, fire-breathing, ogre who eats kittens and puppies and drinks the tears of babies.” Mr. Limbaugh actually only has two heads.
- The article “Student Thought to Have Bubonic Plague Really Just Bad Acne” misquoted the infected student's roommate. What he really said was, “Some of his pimples are so big I think they might have ESP and are helping him to read my thoughts.”
- The article title “Caps off to CAPS” was a misprint. Even we shouldn't use such cheesy titles.
- The article “Reynolds Club Seal” incorrectly stated the number of men named Reynold who clubbed a seal to death. There were only five men, not six.



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## Meat: It's the Other Refreshing Beverage

# C-Shop to Serve Milkshakes Only 6-7 AM on Third Tuesday of Even- Numbered Months

By Sam Spiegel

Einstein Brothers Bagels, better known as C-Shop, has announced that it will limit its popular \$1 milkshake tradition to only 6-7 AM on the third Tuesday of even-numbered months.

Shana Wallace, the assistant manager, said that, "People just love how we offer dollar shakes on just Wednesdays. We thought we'd expand the tradition by offering shakes at an even more limited time. That makes them that much more special of a treat."

In addition, C-Shop has decided to decrease the types of shakes sold. Currently, customers receive a random selection of either vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, or the Halley's comet of shakes, cookies and cream. The new plan would have shakes alternating randomly between salmon-, chili-, and toothpaste-flavored milkshakes.

"This mélange of flavors is sure to appeal to the delicate and sophisticated palate of the U of C student," Wallace said.

Student Council Representative for the Class of 2013 candidate Stephanie Zhao has made reforming the C-Shop milkshake policy a centerpiece of her campaign.

"If elected to the Student Council, I promise to make sure that milkshakes are available to everyone," Zhao said to

a group of grad students studying in the Reg who seemed very irritated at the fact that Zhao had not left the Reg nor showered for the past 3 days except to draw chalk advertisements on the sidewalk because she "has a bio lab due three weeks from Thursday."

When asked what influence Student Council has at the C-Shop, Zhao said, "C-Shop? That's the one in Harper, right? I usually study in the Reg, so I'm more familiar with Ex Libris."

Third-year Economics major Brian Cooper, on the other hand, feels that "C-Shop is so fucking stupid" and "Here's an idea- why not just offer all types of shakes every day for \$1?"

## Bartlett Introduces New Garden Water; Meat Water

By Sam Spiegel

Bartlett Dining Hall, the most popular dining establishing on the South Side of Chicago, issued a press release last Tuesday announcing a new variety of



*Bartlett's latest attempt to look hip*

Garden Water containing meat.

"Garden Water is one of the more well-liked parts of our patrons' dining experience," the statement read. "In order to make that experience even more enjoyable, we decided to put out a new brand that contains not fruit, but slabs

SOSC, from p4

ment that he would spend the rest of the school year on the third floor of Crerar with the Internet browser on his laptop set to Work Offline mode and a Treasure Island bag full of his old roommate's textbooks, which he never bothered to purchase himself.

"I'm really hoping I can rework the thesis of my final Power paper," he was heard mumbling to himself as he purchased two Italian B.M.T. Subway sandwiches in Hutch to sustain him for the next 24 hours, during which time he did not plan on taking a break of any kind. "It's not a real UChicago education until you finish your Sosc readings, right?" he added, a single tear running down his cheek.

When invited to a party this coming Saturday, Spotts shooed away the reporter. "Naw, naw. Just let me finish this one page first."

of meat."

For example, one type will feature rib-eye steaks in water; another will have BBQ chicken wings.

There have been some negative responses from the vegetarian and vegan communities.

"This is just another of many examples of Bartlett not caring for our needs," said Amber Wilson, who has been vegan for 3 weeks. "I love the Garden Water, but now I'm afraid I might accidentally get Meat Water. It's pretty easy to mistake a cantaloupe for a pork chop."

In response, Bartlett has plans to make the Garden Water one of its so-called "Action Stations" whereby students would see a butcher chop up slabs of meat and put them in water. They could even request what sort of meat they would like to see used, and how well they would like it cooked.

Bartlett also had plans to also use "Mystery Meat Water," but had to stop that after the first such occasion. One investigative reporter for The Maroon, after a long and in-depth exploration, was found dying from bullet wounds in the kitchens of Bartlett. His last words were reported to be: "Mystery Meat Water is people! We've got to stop them somehow!"

## Freaky in a Tasteful Way

### Man Comes Out of Closet With Bags of Fabulous Clothes

By Eliza Brown

Reports this week indicate that a 27-year-old man, Ricky Sebastian, walked into what appeared to be a regular closet but found true wonders inside. According to unnamed sources, when Sebastian came out of the closet, he had not one fabulous outfit but a dozen.

Says one eyewitness: "Sebastian referred to the wardrobe as "magical" and "sparkly" and then proceeded to model the different items he found." Sebastian explains, "When I came out of the closet my arms hurt because I had found so many treasures."

When this reporter asked why he went in the closet in the first place, Sebastian responded, "It just seemed really comfortable and safe at the time. But I was wrong. These clothes need to be seen, by my family and friends alike!"

The eternal question of "Do clothes matter more for the man than wears them or for the people that see them on the man?" has an answer: the clothes matter when they come out of the closet. Sebastian's new friend Starr explains, "Clothing is like pearls. When they rub against the skin they gain their natural glow."

Witnesses to the scene have been asking, "Will Sebastian ever be returning to the closet?" He replied: "Definitely not. I have enough clothes to be a well-dressed free man for the rest of my days," Sebastian has celebrated coming out of the closet with a very proud and colorful parade. He has also been listening to Lady Gaga on replay.

Additionally, he says he really identifies with Macaulay Culkin and Eliza Doolittle. The next step for Sebastian? "Shoes. I need shoes that match my clothing and make me strut like the diva I am."

### Female Student Thought To Be a SuperFreak

By Alison Howard

The entire campus is freaking out over the possibility that 3rd year Linda Roseman may in fact be a SuperFreak. General consensus appears to support that, not only is that girl special from her head down to her toenails, but is also very kinky.

"I certainly wouldn't take her home to meet my mother!" said 1st year Lucas Trap, who then admitted that he probably didn't have a shot with Roseman in any case.

Roseman, who could not be contacted as she was roaming the streets, was last sighted in Chinatown. A witness reported that she was planning on meeting with an unidentified male backstage with her girlfriends, possibly in a limousine.

Andrew Miller, frontman of the local techno band "Plato's Rave," admitted that Roseman "likes the boys in the

band." He confided, with a satisfied grin, "She says I'm her all-time favorite!"

One 4th year male, who requested to remain anonymous, disclosed that "When I make my move to her room, it's the right time. And she's never hard to please. Which is surprising, considering...um, well." At this point, the source

trailed off, smiled somewhat nervously, and excused himself.

Another 4th year, Richard James, made that statement regarding Roseman "That girl's all right with me. Yeah, she's a SuperFreak. Super-Freaky."

James' companion, known only as 'Danny,' chimed in with an energetic "Yow!"

When asked to comment on the situation, President Zimmer refused, enigmatically citing "Can't touch this!," thus raising suspicions about his own relationship with the purported SuperFreak, as well as his taste in music.



*Suspected SuperFreak Linda Roseman*

### Cars, from p1

requirement to be a 'true' electric automotive"

"It wasn't easy growing up in the city like that [owning a hybrid]," said Craig Minder, one of the drivers interviewed for the study. "My mom came from a big gas family, so when she married my dad, my grandparents almost disowned her just because he's electric."

"It's sad we isolate ourselves when we have so much in common," said Minder, "like how we all hate those lazy hydrogen fuel-cell bitches." plug-in, and otherwise mixed American vehicles is having an increasingly difficult time finding acceptance among the established gas and electric populations. Only the latest addition to a mounting body of evidence, the study highlighted the complexities of modern electro-gas relations and the plight of the power-assisted vehicles stuck in the middle.



*One of several engine-component crossed tragedies*

## Point-Counterpoint



### I CAN OFFER YOU AN EXCELLENT FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

By Moses Odiaka, Nigerian Prince

Dear Sir,

My Name is Moses Odiaka, and I am the heir to Nigerian Throne and Fortune. I have chosen you, Sir, to assist me in a private financial trouble, because I sense from your e-mail address that you are trustworthy and honest individual. In exchange for help, I can offer you excellent Financial Opportunity.

My father's love-child recently died, leaving behind large bank account that can only be claimed by her next of kin. She is, according to public record, orphan with no family except a long-lost brother, whose name is not on record. As a well-known Nigerian, I cannot step forward to claim the account without bringing political repercussions upon my father. You, however, could claim the account in my stead.

I would be willing to split the account evenly with you in return for your cooperation. Your share will come to approximately one trillion U.S. dollars, give or take ten dollars. I do not wish to inconvenience you by asking that you fly to Nigeria, as I know you are a busy person. If you would simply include in your reply to this e-mail your birthdate, social security number, bank and bank account number that will be sufficient identification for the Nigerian authorities.

Thank you for your assistance. I am sure you will put the trillion dollars to good use in your country of residence.

Best Wishes and Good Health to You,

Moses Odiaka

Nigerian Prince



### We Don't Need Your Help, So Stop Asking!

By Barack Obama, President of the United States

Dear Prince Odiaka,

Let me begin by first thanking you for your support. It is individuals like you that help to keep this movement alive—the movement toward change and a better world within which our children may live.

With that, I have to say I appreciate the good intentions of your correspondence. But the fact that you have sent me several electronic mail letters and faxes of this same message, while clearly emphasizing the urgency of your request, has done nothing to convince me that the American people need your help. We are out of the darkness and are truly on the road to recovery.

I wasn't aware that my Inaugural Address was broadcast in Nigeria, but I am pleased to inform you that much has changed since then. While our economy was then weakened by the greed of some and the unwillingness to make difficult decisions of others, the tide has turned. You may not have heard this news yet, but the Dow Jones Industrial Average broke 11,000 points last week. That, my friend, is the result of months of toil by decent, hardworking Americans across these great states. The good times are once again upon us.

The Ship of State has been steadied: the helmsman has set a course for Change, while the navigator has calibrated his sextant for Prosperity. The lookout will soon call down from the crow's-nest that Greatness is once again within sight for this nation.

Democrats and Republicans have reached across the aisle to bring this nation back onto its feet. Together they can move mountains, as seen in the recent passage of the new health care bill. The American system of government can do quite well on its own. American democracy needs no assistance from the venerable autocratic tradition of Nigeria.

In closing, as gracious as your offer of one trillion dollars (give or take ten dollars) is, the United States is going to be all right. Perhaps you would do well to send your message to Greece; my advisers tell me they're in a spot of trouble.

Sincerely,

Barack Obama