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"Barack the vote" 3/20/07 swight c.

"This election season Barack Obama has put up a Myspace page as part of his election campaign. I think that's an awesome idea!"

**Barack Obama**

View My: Pica | Videos

Contacting Barack Obama

Send Message Form

"Now people from all over the world can show their support and voice their opinions on all of the important issues..."

Barack Obama's Friends Comments

Displaying 50 of 1182 comments (View All | Add Com

Lonely ReflectionX Mar 20 2007 12:13A  
Thanks for the add! <3

JONH-O-THON Mar 20 2007 12:07A  
LOL wats up???

:Legion Of Simeai. Mar 20 2007 11:59P  
Thx for the add  
Check out my band http://mysp

Mama's 4 Obama. Mar 20 2007 11:41P

OPINION

# Captain America's death is a subtle message

By OMER AHMED  
News editor



Occasionally, something in the world of comic book superheroes catches the eye of the mainstream media. In 1993, it was the death of Superman, last year it was the homosexuality of the newest incarnation of Batwoman and this year the death of Captain America seems to be the latest crossover between nerd and pop culture.

In case you don't read comic books (who does anymore?), didn't see the obituary in the New York Times, didn't see the coverage on CNN or the discussion on FoxNews, the paragon of American ideals, Captain America, was killed by four sniper shots through the back. At first glance this doesn't seem like

a big deal. After all, comic book characters die all the time. So a little bit more backstory is necessary to understand why the Captain's death actually caught the attention of the New York Times.

The death followed a short "civil war" in the Marvel universe over the passage of the Superhuman Registration Act which required

all superhumans to reveal their secret identities to the government, register officially, undergo "proper" training and carry a superhuman identification card. The Act was previously a low priority piece of legislation in the Marvel Comics version of the U.S. - that is, until a group of young superheroes, the New Warriors, killed 600 bystanders, most of whom were children, during a disastrously botched fight with a group of supervillians. With the passage of the act, the superhero community became divided, drama ensued, war broke out in the Marvel universe and Captain America was the head of the resistance to the act.

Now here is why people have even noticed this small, fictional war: Captain America was killed

resisting a piece of legislation that is more than a slight allegory to the Patriot Act. To add to the unease this causes some people, Captain America fights the government and seems to die a martyr all while the real-world America is at war. On FoxNews, one commentator said that publishing Captain America's death "sends the wrong" message to the soldiers, the American public and terrorists.

However, it's not just the conservative commentators that are pissed. More than a few of my friends who are comic aficionados, a.k.a. nerds, have told me that politics and social commentary don't belong in superhero comics. The [adult swim] block of cartoons on Cartoon Network said in a series of text screens that mature themes should be kept out

of superhero comics and left to alternative genre comics like *V for Vendetta* or works of Neil Gaiman. This is an unfortunate attitude, because superhero comics desperately need a dose of the political and the literary. Captain America's death, which is his fourth, is actually interesting for reasons other than superheroes beating the heck out of supervillians. That is its strength. Other than some rare exceptions such as the recent events in the Marvel universe, comics have been outgrown by their audience.

Despite having grown up reading the uncanny *X-Men* religiously, watching the old Batman cartoon, trading comic cards and buying the action figures, I have not actually bought a single issue of a superhero

Continued on Page 3

# Ninjas & pirates = the past/robotz = the future

By MATTHEW SO  
Opinion editor

I'm so tired of ninja and pirates and other pop-culture terms for people who don't want to be themselves because their lives are so depressingly empty and boring. If it's worse to be yourself then...

I dunno, kill yourself. Do us all a favor. There is a reason why ninja and pirates all died out in the last century; go figure. The ninjas wouldn't stop jumping off of buildings. Pirates kept stealing booty up until the women's rights movement. Likewise, present-day ninjas are nihilistic geeks with death wishes aspiring to become silent deadly

urban base jumpers from sheer boredom with their everyday lives. Pirates are typically nerds looking for some undeserved booty, often involved with rebound relationships spanning decades into their bleak futures and freed-up weekends. They tend to pick up the phone on the first ring and possess a disproportionate number of piercings in places they then try to display to

unsuspecting passerby. One must be honest with oneself and acknowledge that pop-culture terms and identities will always exist. But while we're all inhibiting maturation, let's at least live in the present, and look to the future. And while we're on topic... Let's all just face the simple truth: the future is all about robotz. They feel nothing, can do any-

thing and typically do. They're wicked sexy. And robotz cannot be held morally accountable for their actions. The ultimate justification for any misdeed: "I'm a robot." Robotz skool ninja and pirates to a degree that is just saddening. So could we all just move on already? Robotz rule, pirates 'n ninjas drool.



## CAMPUS COMMENT >>

# What is your ultimate Spring Break fantasy?



**MATT LUTY**  
Marketing

"All-expense paid trip to Mexico."



**DAVID URRUTIA**  
Business

"Go to Amsterdam."



**DANNY BRITAIN**  
Music

"I just don't want to go to school or work."



**ADAN ORTEGA**  
Film

"OD on heroin."



**MATT CASTAGNOLO**  
Business

"I would rent a villa in Jamaica and go Jamaican."