

## O'Reilly not a bigot this time around

OUTSPOKEN FOX NEWS ANCHOR BILL O'REILLY has once again come under fire for something he's said, to the gleeful joy of democrats everywhere. When describing a meal in famed Harlem restaurant Sylvia's, O'Reilly was quoted as saying "there was no difference between Sylvia's restaurant and any other restaurant in New York City. I mean, it was exactly the same, even though it's run by blacks, primarily black patronship [...]. There wasn't one person in Sylvia's who was screaming, 'Mother-effer, I want more iced tea.'"

O'Reilly's never been known for his careful choice of words—google his name and a number of hate sites immediately spring up—but everyone's overlooking the fact that he was praising the restaurant and its people. Most of the outrage lies in his implication that most black people fit into a certain mold, with the people in Sylvia's being a notable exception.

For a father of two and a former high school teacher, these are particularly closed-minded thoughts to hold, but the only real problem is that his statement makes it seem like he's only now noticing what's been commonly accepted (and enforced by law) for decades: that black people are the same as white people after all.

Perhaps it was the blunt wording that made O'Reilly seem completely redneck—and maybe even a little Ku Klux—but racism still exists in the backwaters of America, and conveniently, that's where a lot of his loyal fanbase comes from. The KKK are even still active in the South—granted, with less emphasis on black hate and more on the less-lethal white pride. To a crowd like this, O'Reilly's statement will actually come off as progressive—and, given his influence, could genuinely sway some extreme opinions about race.

After all, his show *The O'Reilly Factor* is the top-rated program on the three main cable news channels (CNN, MSNBC, and FOX News), a fact he wasn't hesitant to point out when he accused CNN of trying to start up a smear campaign against him to boost their weaker ratings. Then again, O'Reilly did get his Broadcasting degree alongside shock-jock Howard Stern, so maybe they both just share a knack for getting into trouble. Despite their opposing ideologies, both hosts seem to get into similar quagmires that only seem to heighten their popularity and influence.

Maybe if O'Reilly focused his defence less on how many more listeners he has and more on what effects his words might have on that large of a group, this wouldn't be such an issue. Just because he used racial lingo doesn't mean that his intent was racist—O'Reilly just speaks like your drunken uncle on New Year's.

After all, O'Reilly didn't offend Juan Williams, the black journalist he was talking to at the time, and he's used his show to speak out about racism itself. Unfortunately, he chooses big, blunt words that get under listener's skin because of their associations. But for all their shock value, his statements weren't any more racist than a typical Chris Rock stand-up appearance: outspoken and brash, but ultimately harmless.

PAUL BLINOV  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

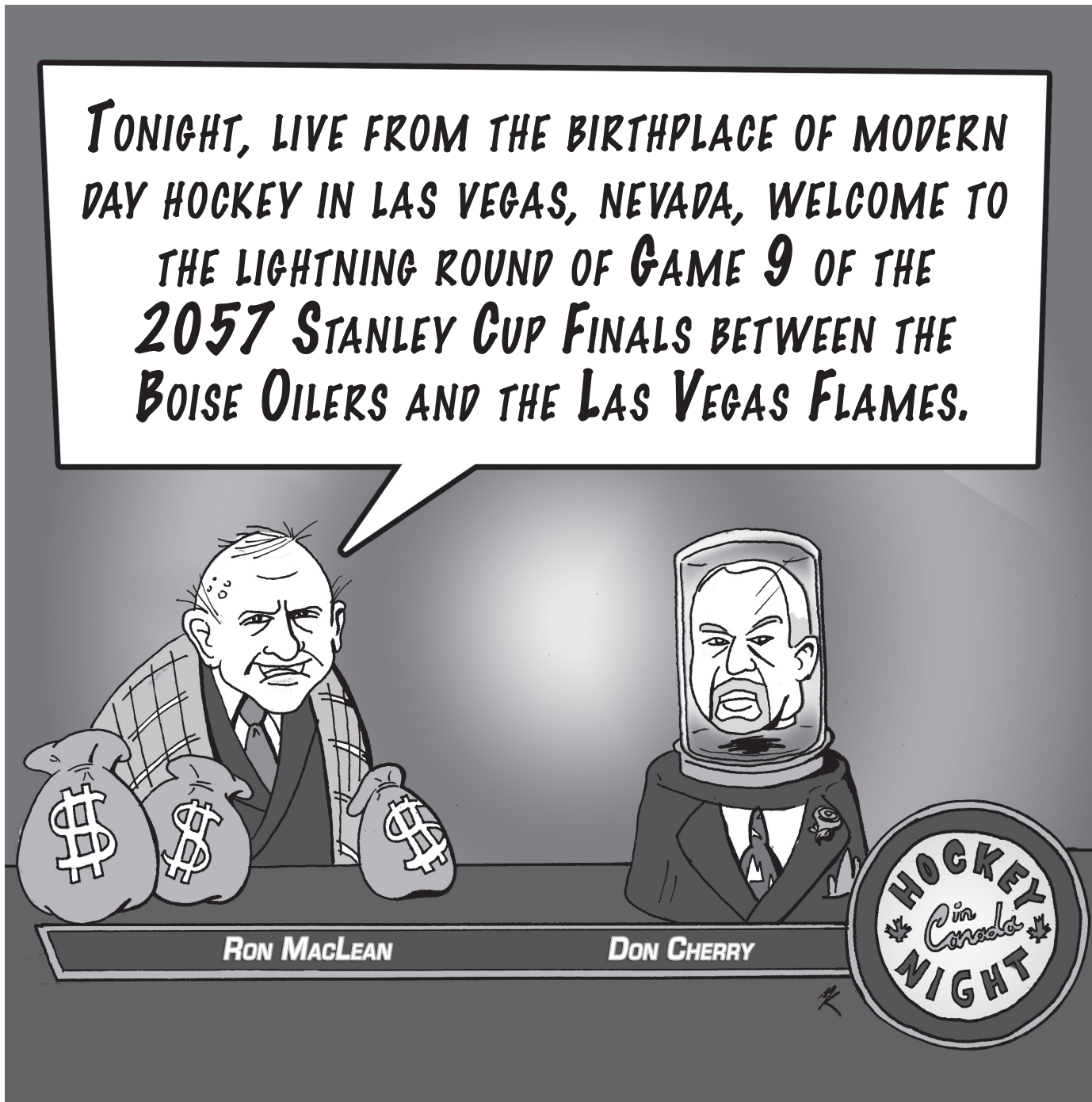
## South meets North

GREAT STRIDES WERE MADE YESTERDAY WHEN South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun walked symbolically through the militarized border dividing his nation and that of dictator Kim Jong-il.

According to North Korean news sources, the clouds opened up, the sun shone down, and General Kim Jong-il strode on a beautiful white stallion to greet his weak and inferior counterpart. There were sundry white doves all around to celebrate this joyous occasion, which was marked by great feats by the Glorious Leader, including the building of 16 bridges, hosting a feast for 300 maidens, and simultaneously wrestling two fierce lions with his bare hands.

As of press time, the issues of North Korea's shoddy human rights record and economic isolationism had not been addressed at this summit.

ADAM GAUMONT  
Editor-in-Chief



## LETTERS

### Things getting healthier for Lister residents

One thing student movements do a darn good job of is bitching and complaining. One thing that we need to work on is giving praise where praise is due. From March 2006, when the Aramark petition brought the food issue from the cafeteria to campus, things have dramatically improved.

Cynics may say that Aramark is merely trying to position themselves for a contract renewal in 2010, but from the hard work of Jeff Marcellus (Aramark GM) and Lorraine Erikson (U of A Ancillary Services), I can honestly say that the U of A and Aramark have shown an outstanding commitment to improving the food service on campus for the residents of Lister Hall.

There is considerably more transparency and accountability surrounding the Lister Meal Plan and the infamous Aramark contract. The menu selection has dramatically improved, and it's now remotely possible to consider a vegetarian diet. Many students have told me that they feel they're getting more bang for their buck, and some have even expressed *liking* Aramark food—a remark that would have been as ludicrous as someone saying they hate dodgeball!

The second thank-you owed is to the investigative journalists at the *Gateway*, who broke the story and pursued it with a vengeful lust for justice. You are students

like us, and your work to keep the University and mischievous SU Presidents, accountable (the latter unnecessary I assure you) is a great service to campus. If it was not for your coverage, the Aramark issue would have never received traction on campus.

I urge the students of Lister Hall to join the foods committee and to continue to keep demanding bang for their buck. Things are not perfect yet, but they are exponentially better than they were two years ago. I never dreamed I would say this, but thank you Aramark and thank you *Gateway* journalists—I'm going to go check if hell has frozen over.

MICHAEL JANZ  
SU President  
Lister Hall President Emeritus

### Hunted animals don't flourish, they stay dead

The Alberta Government advertised its inaugural Provincial Hunting Day (22 September) under the banner "Improving Albertans' quality of life" (re: "Hunting day needs to be shot down," 18 September). Aren't bears and moose Albertans?

I gave Provincial Hunting Day a miss this year—I was too busy pulling the wings off flies. Wing-pulling is a time-honoured tradition in my family; at least, it will be if I can teach my grandchildren how to do it. It'll instill in them a greater appreciation for nature and a new respect for wildlife. I call it an act of mercy—most of the flies would not live through the winter anyway.

Ted Morton, the Minister of Sustainable Resource Development, prefers to "build greater respect for wildlife" at the point of a gun, but each to his own. This is Alberta, after all.

Apparently, "hunting also helps with reducing vehicle collisions." Well, the number of flies smearing car windshields has dropped significantly since I started taking their wings away. We mustn't have nasty pests soiling our precious cars, after all.

"Big game hunting contributes more than \$100 million annually to the provincial economy." My phone is already ringing off the hook. American sportsmen are just itching to come up here and catch flies. Call it a growth industry.

Morton also claims that "hunting and hunters play an important role in wildlife management and conservation." Who can argue? Buffalo once roamed the Western Plains, numbering in the millions, and passenger pigeons darkened the skies. Hats off to hunters for reducing their numbers to something more manageable.

"Hunters and hunting organizations work very hard to preserve natural areas and important wildlife habitat." Just think of all the lead shot water fowl ingest, and what a world of good it does them. Look at all the trash our noble sportsmen leave behind. If you could unsnarl all the fishing line that's out there and stretch it out end to end, we could reach the stars. If there are any extra-terrestrial creatures in the great beyond, watch out! Mr Morton has set his sights on you too.

Just one question, Ted. If every Albertan goes out this weekend and bags a moose, how many does that leave?

If there are too many deer, perhaps it's because we killed off their predators. If the government wants to address chronic wasting disease, put an end to game farming. If it wants to protect wildlife, stop destroying their habitats.

Trophy hunting, in particular, is fundamentally contrary to nature. It weakens the species. Disease and predators take the sick and the weak. Trophy hunters take the biggest and strongest.

Human beings are now presiding over the greatest extinction in Earth's history. The hunting lobby, now front and centre in the Legislature, would have us believe that wildlife cannot flourish without their aid.

Are we stewards of the earth or mere tyrants?

GEOFFREY POUNDER  
Via Email

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