

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Members, Alumni and Friends,

We are coming to the end of one of Chicago Society's most successful years to date. Dozens of speakers and many hundreds of students have participated in events covering everything from comedy to foreign policy to geophysics. Approaching only its sixth birthday, Chicago Society has attained a level of visibility and impact on campus equaled by few other student organizations, and has continued to exceed already high expectations.

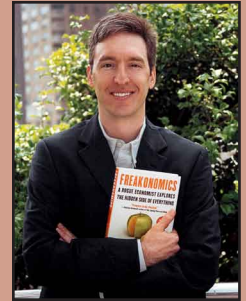
It is a privilege to take over the presidency of Chicago Society at a moment when our greatest challenges are those that come with great success, and I would like to extend special thanks to outgoing president Dan Michaeli, who has ably led CS for the past two years. We will continue to focus on recruiting the most active and talented students at the University, and make sure that all members have the resources to create the best events possible.

In the next year, we hope to continue to build on this success. Planning is in progress for a number of fascinating events to be held in the first quarter of next year, including a lecture by *Freakonomics* author and University of Chicago Professor Steven Levitt, and a debate between writers and editors of *The Nation* and *National Review*. These and similar events will raise the profile of Chicago Society outside of Hyde Park, and allow us to continue to connect students with the most interesting ideas from both inside and outside the University of Chicago community.

Sincerely,
Isaac Freilich Jones

On October 11th, 2007, Chicago Society will host a lecture by University of Chicago Economics Professor Steven Levitt. Equally well known among academics and laypeople, Levitt was

the recipient of the 2003 John Bates Clark medal recognizing the most influential American economist under 40, and co-author of the best-seller *Freakonomics*, which has spent more than 100 weeks on the New York Times



bestseller list. In 2005 he was named one of Time Magazine's "100 People Who Shape Our World." Levitt is currently the Alvin H. Baum Professor of Economics, and Director of the Becker Center on Chicago Price Theory. On October 18th, Chicago Society will present a rare debate between *The Nation*, the flagship publication of the American left, and the *National Review*, one of the most important and influential conservative journals in the country. The two magazines will address some of the most important issues facing the United States as the presidential primaries approach.



UPCOMING EVENTS

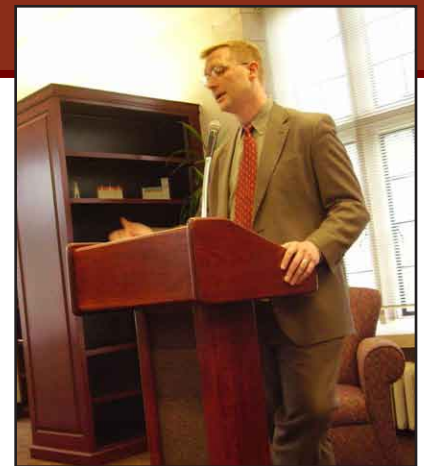
IRAN: A GRAND BARGAIN



April 18, 2007—Dr. Chris Preble, Director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute (a libertarian think tank based in Washington, D.C.), joined Chicago Society, Americans for Informed Democracy, and the University of Chicago campus community for a lively discussion on America's best policy options apropos Iran.

In his speech, Preble introduced the current tension between Washington and Tehran by giving a brief history of America's perception of the Iranian nuclear threat, and proceeded to go through the policy options Washington has, including economic sanctions and preventive strikes. He detailed the shortcomings of many of them, and instead advocated a diplomatic "grand bargain." In exchange for the halting of Iran's nuclear program, the United States would promise not to attack Iran, institute full diplomatic recognition, and fully normalize economic relations. The key to his advocacy of a "grand bargain" is the assumption that Iran is a rational actor.

In a Q&A session following his speech, Preble addressed the historical background of American-Iranian relations and the impact of policy decisions on the greater Middle East, especially on Israel. What the U.S. will do remains to be seen, but as a result of Dr. Preble's visit, we have a better understanding of the ramifications of any decision that Washington decides to make in response to Tehran.



Dr. Chris Preble, Director of Foreign Policy Studies at the Cato Institute, during his lecture on Iran

- Vivian Tien



PETROLEUM: POLITICS AND PROSPECTS



“Petroleum: Prospects and Politics,” an internationally-recognized conference held on May 18-19, drew 15 experts from a diverse set of fields together for two days of presentations and debate over the economic, political, and social effects of oil.

Headlining the conference were Bernardo Alvarez Herrera, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United States, and Alan S. Hegburg, United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Energy Policy.

Other speakers included professors, consultants, former government leaders, physical scientists, and an executive from ExxonMobil.

The conference hosted hundreds of students, faculty, industry experts, and community members over its two-day span. The high quality of the speakers was a testament to the engagement of the university in policy formation and discourse.



His Excellency Bernardo Alvarez Herrera

Dr. Roger B. Myerson, Mr. David L. Goldwyn, and Mr. Scott A. Nauman, during the “Securing the International Oil Supply” panel



Audio and video recordings of the conference, as well as transcripts of the proceedings, will be available online at <http://petroleum.uchicago.edu>.

AWARDS



Chicago Society is honored to have received more awards than any other RSO for the 2006-2007 academic year. By the end of the RSO awards assembly on May 15th, Chicago Society had been recognized for both the “Best Event” of the year, “LOL 101: Comedy as Commentary,” and as the organization with the “Best Publicity Strategy” on campus. This is the second successive year that CS received the award for best event run by a student organization, and both awards are a testament to the creativity, hard work, and talent of Chicago Society’s membership.



Andy Borowitz, Lizz Winstead, and Mike Reiss

LOL 101: COMEDY AS COMMENTARY



The University of Chicago has longstanding ties to the world of comedy. It was University of Chicago undergraduates who inspired and helped found the world-renowned improvisational comedy troupe, “The Second City.” This connection isn’t incidental to a socially engaged campus: humor plays a pivotal role in communicating new and sometimes controversial ideas to society as large. The extent and nature of this role was the topic of Chicago Society’s recent panel discussion, “LOL 101: Comedy as Commentary.”

The discussion featured four comedians at the top of their respective fields: Andy Borowitz, a political satirist and co-creator of the hit TV sitcom *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*; Jordan Carlos, a stand-up comedian and “Stephen Colbert’s black friend, Allan” on *The Colbert Report*; Mike Reiss, a four-time Emmy award-winning producer for *The Simpsons*; and Lizz Winstead, the co-creator of *The Daily Show*. The panel was moderated by University of Chicago Professor in Philosophy Ted Cohen.

Professor Cohen focused questions on the political impact of comedy, particularly in light of the current situation in Iraq, and then opened the floor to students. Over two hundred and fifty were present, and their questions shifted the discussion to one of individual experience. Throughout the evening, panelists provoked both thought and laughter, demonstrating the power of comedy to foster discourse and to make that discourse a more enjoyable experience. Students were given the opportunity to approach the panelists after the event, an opportunity that many took advantage of to discuss their own opinions of comedy’s role in society as well as participate in a book signing by Andy Borowitz.

-Cheyenne Chun