NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Democracy looms larger than Rudy, even



Linda Stasi

ONE day when I was a kid, my father fell down on our front lawn and never got up again.

He had two loves in his life — his family and his job as Sanitation supervisor. My dad *was* the department, and then he dropped dead.

Much to my shock, the next day the garbage was picked up. In fact, they didn't lose an hour, a minute, or even a trash bag. They'd lost only their boss.

I learned right then that our system doesn't stop for any one person.

It's never stopped for wars, assassinations, natural disasters, or even my father.

See, the very essence of democracy is that somebody's always behind the next guy to pick up the slack, the reins and, yes, even the garbage. No man, no woman, no *nobody*, not even the mayor, is an island.

Mayor Giuliani has seemed more like the whole island of Manhattan than just any old island during this nightmare. And as solid as the bedrock we're built on.

But if you change the law so he can stay on after his term is up, you threaten not only the peaceful transfer of power, but the election process itself — our real bedrock.

Term limits? No, it's not just something cooked up by Ron Lauder. Well, OK, it *is* something cooked up by Ron Lauder, but it's also something we voters passed not once, but *twice*.

And, if the law is changed, do the 35 council members and three borough presidents who were term-limited out of office get a second shot as well?

Ironically, it's the very fact that Rudy kept the city moving — without changing the process or missing a beat — that made us feel so safe in the *first* place.

He's the guy who keeps telling us to return to normalcy as soon as possible.

Changing the election laws wouldn't be a return to normalcy — it would be a terrible reaction to terrorism. If we change the democratic process because of *them* — who wins that hand, pal?

Yeah, Rudy should help rebuild this city, while a new mayor goes about the business of running the joint — you know, schools, roads, bridges, municipal unions, the things we used to fight about.

You want a good gig for Rudy? How about heading an international terrorist task force? Giuliani vs. bin Laden. How long do you think it would take Rudy to smoke the bastard out, and toast him on two sides?

American way

HERE'S my attempt to get back to normalcy:

You'll be happy to know that while the United States was struggling to come to grips, super (big) model Anna Nicole Smith, a true American heroine, singlehandedly fought to keep the wheels of justice moving — and plenty greased.

Looking like the centerfold for everything that was wrong with our country's values before the attack — trailer trash and plastic boobs, to name three — Smith went back to court last week.

There, a federal bankruptcy judge ruled that the Widow Smith should keep her hard-earned inheritance from her late hubby, 90-year-old fool J. Howard Marshall.

In case you forgot, the newlywed oldster sadly bought the farm just months into the marriage, leaving his 26-year-old former topless dancer and Playmate bride bereft — but not broke.

In the end, though, $475 million can't buy you love — but it *can* buy you a topless dancer who can give you a helluva sendoff to paradise.

Tax-free fun

HOW much do you love NY? Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney is now officially in lust with the place.

Best idea of the month — she's sponsoring the I Love NY Tax Deduction. A thousand-buck tax deduction for money spent in hotels, restaurants and theaters in the city.

It's even better than lying on your expense account!

Tonight she's sponsoring a town-hall meeting at Hunter College to honor rescue workers.

Do your part and show up, and cheer.

Justice for all

THE U.S. anti-terror campaign got a new and PC name last week, in order not to offend Muslims: Operation Enduring Freedom.

What? They're making the deadliest battle of our time into a cheesy pop-culture slogan.

Now *that's* terrifying. I mean, could we have won World War II if they'd wussed it up and called it say, Operation Everybody's the Same? Or, It's A Small World After All?

And you thought "Wag The Dog" was a satire!

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