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THE PRIMARY
SOURCE

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

Vol. XIX • The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University • No. 2

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“You Don't Want to Read That.”

In a matter of months, Tufts President John DiBiaggio will leave the university that he made great. During his eight-year term as president, Tufts became an elite institution, challenging the Ivies for students and professors. Due to Dr. DiBiaggio's emphasis of public service and admiration of all the liberal arts, our university provides an education worthy of its hefty price tag. The trustees will be hard-pressed to find a replacement of a similar caliber.

Yet, we at the SOURCE mark the announcement of President DiBiaggio's retirement with a bitter twinge. For all of his accomplishments, to our staff he will always be remembered for a comment that spoiled his splendid career during its twilight days.

Only weeks ago, at a reception for legacy parents and their matriculating children, President DiBiaggio mingled with Tufts parents and wide-eyed freshmen. As he greeted one woman, he noticed a copy of THE PRIMARY SOURCE Orientation Issue in her hands. Recognizing the magazine, President DiBiaggio told the Tufts parent, “You don't want to read that.” When the parent asked why, DiBiaggio responded that the magazine was very conservative and engaged in personal attacks. The woman insisted that she would most likely read the SOURCE regardless. When asked why, she told the President that her daughter was a former editor-in-chief.

According to the parent, President DiBiaggio then assured her that her daughter's recent tenure as chief editor marked a drastic improvement in the magazine, and the issues to which he objected were written several years beforehand.

Disappointment can be the only emotion with which we at THE PRIMARY SOURCE describe this unfortunate incident. Although the staff members of this magazine are no strangers to criticism, it pains us to think that voices from the most elite administrative offices promote censorship of this journal. And the wound is

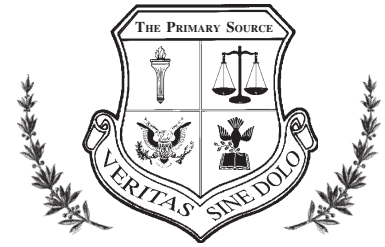
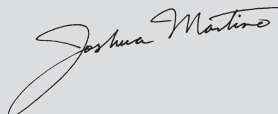
twice as deep since this administrator is perhaps the most admired leader on campus.

Regardless of the unpopularity of our politics, THE PRIMARY SOURCE is the result of the personal sacrifice of its members. As the president of the university, to advocate its censorship is to dishonor our hard work and invalidate the beliefs that we hold dear. Such a remark not only disgraces the efforts of writers current and past; it also shames those new to our masthead, in this year and in years to come.

Here we have a clear case of a powerful and popular man objecting to basic journalistic prerogative. There is no authority at Tufts that may instruct parents or students what to read. And one can only hope that Dr. DiBiaggio's remark was an isolated suggestion to one ironically pro-SOURCE parent.

Perhaps most disturbing is that President DiBiaggio is the last person that one would expect to make this comment. A self-declared advocate of the First Amendment, Dr. DiBiaggio spoke of the ideals of the university during his welcoming remarks to matriculating freshmen this month. To our President, and indeed to the SOURCE, the university is a place of innumerable opinions, where education is fostered by discussion, disagreement, and enlightened debate. As any student of history knows, to mute dissenting voices is to create ignorant silence.

The SOURCE has been done an injustice. At Tufts, when a member of the popular Left is slighted, petitions arise, letters are written, and protestors march the campus. We ask for no such action, as the SOURCE has never courted sympathy for our cause when reason alone would suffice. In this case, we sincerely hope that if President DiBiaggio chooses not to remain at Tufts, that he leaves behind an apology.



THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE
THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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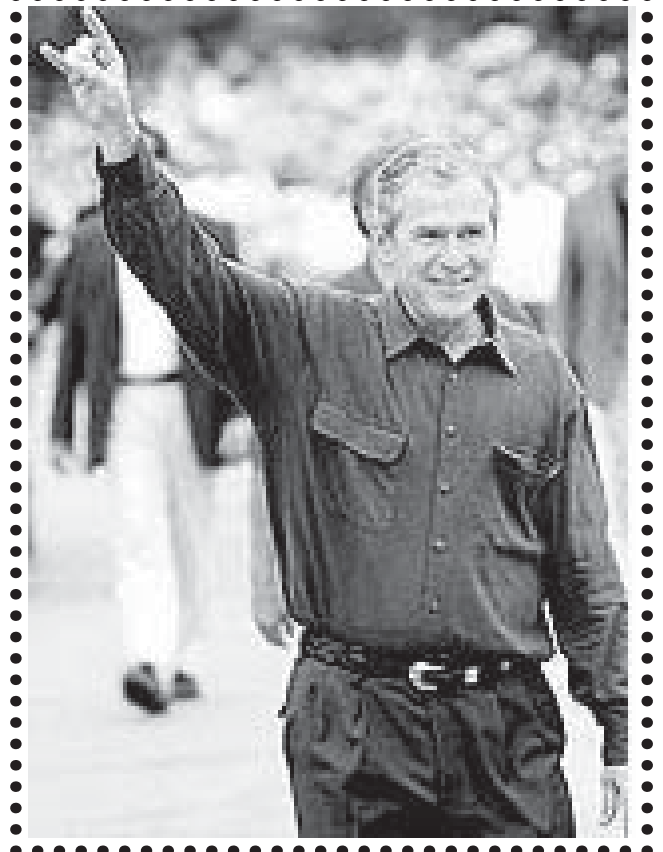
Special Thanks

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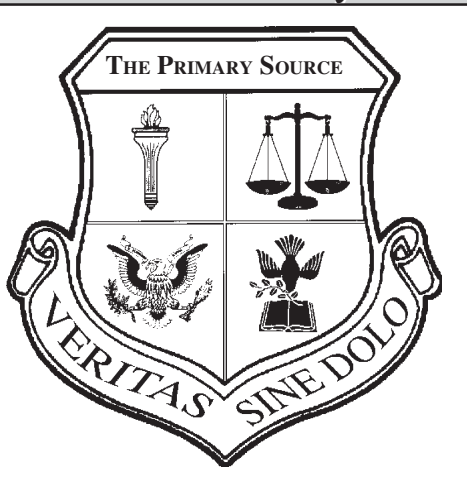
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Victimizing the Victim

During Orientation week, hundreds of students marched to Cohen Auditorium to learn why “No Means No.” This annual Orientation date-rape education session seems to teach freshmen that the law allows a woman to cry rape under almost any circumstance. Freshmen women leave the seminar thinking that the best “morning after” treatment is a lawsuit filed by Daddy and his attorney. As usual, the program began with a skit sponsored by Tufts Men Against Violence, which was intended to enlighten us about and sensitize us to the seriousness of rape. Unfortunately, this “enlightenment” only caused confusion and anger.

Par for the course, the roles portrayed in skit were the victim, the aggressor, and a mutual friend of both persons. In theory, the skit should be ambiguous enough so men can see how easily rape charges can be filed, but not so ambiguous that the women feel rape is not a real concern. The skit is not, however, meant to entertain the audience. Thus, when laughter rippled through the audience, the actors were confused. After the skit, the actress playing the victim asked the audience, “What did you find so funny throughout the skit that you kept on laughing?” One woman responded: “Your stupidity.” Responding to the “victim whining about her helplessness, another woman stated, “Men have this thing called a penis, and it hurts when you grab it.”

Perhaps affirming the anti-male viewpoint of the feminists who organize the program, many freshman women said that they would never return to a male dorm room alone because males are untrustworthy. At one point, the discussion quickly escalated to shouts. The “victim” shrieked, “I’m the victim here! I’m the victim! I can’t believe you’re siding with him! You people make me sick!” This hostility only increased the rupture between women in the audience and the victim. “Why No Means No” pitifully failed to produce any sort of uniform message. The only thing that the date-rape confusion proves is that perhaps it is in the best interests of those women who go drinking with random men to invest in titanium, industrial-strength chastity belts.

Dealing with the Devil

Just when you thought that the election year would pass without the Democrats dabbling in censorship and Orwellian thought-control, Al Gore and Joe Lieberman demanded last week that the entertainment industry alter its advertising standards or face grave consequences. The ultimatum was issued after a report by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) found that music, movies, and video games containing violence are marketed to a teenage audience. The study, initially ordered by President Clinton after the Littleton, Colorado massacre, found that there was absolutely no definite connection between violence and sexuality in popular culture and the tumultuous actions of teenagers throughout the nation. Not surprisingly, this did not prevent the dynamic Democratic duo from decrying Hollywood for corrupting American youth.

What *is* surprising is the amount of campaign donations that the Democrats gladly accept from these so-called defilers of teenage morality. From the triumvirate of DreamWorks show-biz deities to the evil siren that is Barbara Streisand, apparently the Democrats believe that these Hollywood fiends are not so bad, as long as they take time out from corrupting America’s youth to reach into their wallets. This was plainly shown last week. Just days after attacking the entertainment industry, Al Gore took time out of his busy campaign schedule to attend a fundraiser at New York’s Radio City Music Hall organized by his confidant, Miramax co-chairman Harvey Weinstein. It was Weinstein who, in 1995, bypassed Miramax’s standard distribution procedures in order to release the film *Kids*. The film could not be released normally because its content was so lewd, it violated the moral standards of Disney, Miramax’s parent company. While he has been absent from Buddhist temples this election season, Al Gore seems to devour the hands that feed him campaign dollars.

Meanwhile, Senator Lieberman maintained his reputation as a censorship czar. The senator testified before the Senate Commerce Committee asserting that the entertainment industry was purposely marketing adult material to underage audiences by showing commercials for R-rated movies and violent video games during teenage TV shows. While admittedly there are some cases where the entertainment industry oversteps its bounds, such as giving out free passes to R-rated movies at a middle school, censoring the entire entertainment industry is ludicrous. It is important to remember that teenagers are allowed to watch R-rated movies with a parent’s permission, and plenty of individuals over 17 watch teenage shows, therefore making advertising during those programs perfectly valid. A better course of action for the government to take than limiting free speech would be using free speech. By making public the names of the corporations that have been found to practice absolutely deplorable advertising strategies, the people of the nation could use their own judgement and morals concerning the music, movies, and video games of their children.

High Taxes Fuel Disaster

Last week, in an almost habitual reaction, thousands of French citizens took to the streets to protest soaring fuel prices. Following in suit, the French government refused to negotiate with the outraged truck drivers and farmers, stealthily shifting blame to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the oil companies. With the growing economy within Europe and in third world countries, the demand for oil products has steadily increased. As usual, there is increased seasonal demand as the Northern Hemisphere prepares for winter. On Monday, September 11, 2000, the meeting of the ministers of OPEC adjourned with news of an increase of 800,000 barrels per day in crude oil production. There is still some disagreement about the impact of this increase because low supply is by no means the sole problem.

Government intervention is also a prime cause of the crisis. The world price of crude oil has tripled over the past two years from

\$10 per barrel to \$30. The most important factor driving the increased prices at the gas pump is national taxes. In the United Kingdom, the highest fuel-taxing country, taxes account for almost 73% of the price of gas. Although the French pay less for their fuel, 80% of the price goes to the government. In comparison, American taxes make up 22%. The European governments base the tax rate on the world price of crude oil. In these countries, the price of oil will increase exponentially even if the pretax price is growing slowly. One-third of the increase in British gas prices over the past two years has been due to taxes. This is the reason for the abruptness of the oil crunch.

Since OPEC's meeting, protesters from all over Western Europe turned their attention to local politicians. European governments tried to appease disgruntled citizens by explaining that the taxes help reduce frequent shifts in the price of gas, noting that American gasoline taxes are lower but fuel prices are influenced much more by OPEC production. French protests eventually resulted in fuel tax cuts worth \$396 million over the next two years. Since they are not organized by trade unions, the cost of fuel directly affects the income of French truck drivers and farmers. British drivers also complain that the government is not using taxes to improve roads.

This situation raises one important question: should governments levy extremely high taxes that control economic progress? The question is fundamental to economic policy, and when the government has such control over the incomes of private businesses, the answer is assuredly no. When complete free trade is so rarely achieved, Americans need to decide whether OPEC's control or high fuel tax is more threatening.

Scouts Under Fire

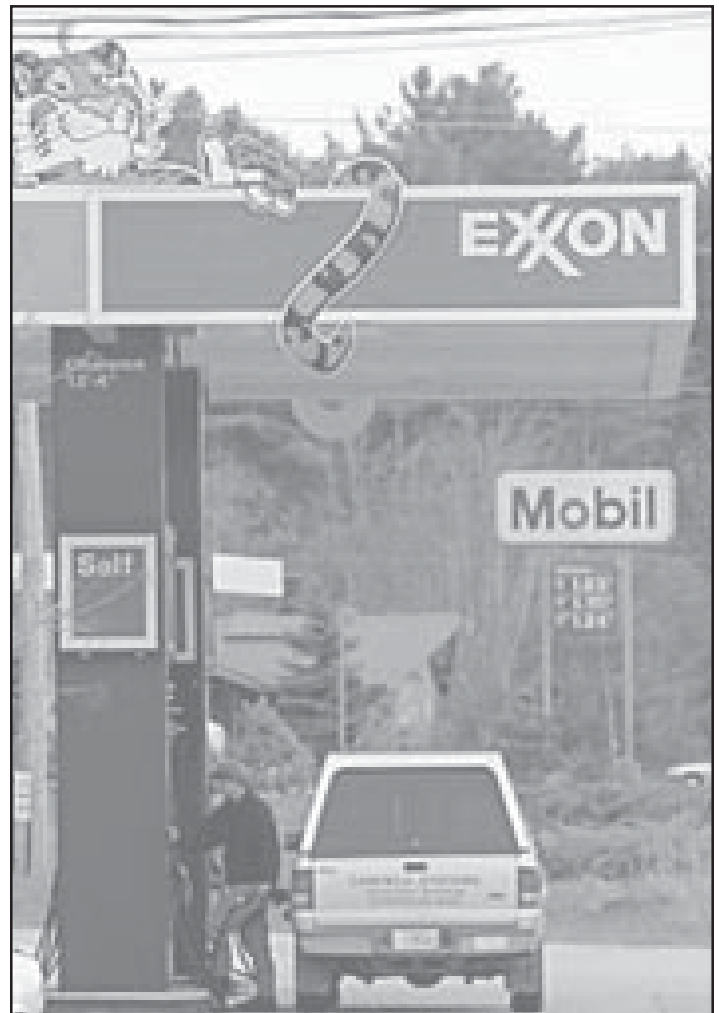
Liberal assassins have once again targeted a private organization that teaches its members morals and values. The Boy Scouts of America have encountered fierce opposition from voices on the Left that believe that the group's policy on homosexuality is discriminatory. The policy in question, which the Supreme Court recently upheld, allows the Boy Scouts to bar gay leaders. This position follows closely with the Scout Oath, which includes the phrase "morally straight." Apparently, to the Boy Scouts, being gay is not morally straight.

Some members of the House of Representatives have a different definition of what is moral. In response to the Boy Scout's refusal to allow gay leaders, California Democrat Lynn Woolsey is proposing a bill to end a federal charter held by the Boy Scouts. Few groups in the nation have this special distinction, which was given to the Boy Scouts over eighty years ago for their service to the country and to American boys. Other groups receiving this honor include the American Red Cross, the American Legion, and the Boys and Girls Club of America. While this bill will likely be defeated, it is a sad commentary that it is even being considered.

The Boy Scouts of America receive no federal funding, and should not be subject to a Clinton-issued executive order that bans the discrimination of homosexuals in federally conducted education and training programs. Without government interference, Boy Scout groups are losing support across the country. In

Fort Lauderdale, FL, one local group lost a \$10,000 grant because donors claimed that the Scouts discriminate. Elsewhere in the country, the United Way has stopped funding Boy Scout programs. If the Boy Scouts are to be forced to change their policies, it will not be the government's doing.

Here at Tufts, we have our own group that is being attacked for staying true to their principles. The Tufts Christian Fellowship (TCF), which recently denied a leadership position to an openly bisexual student, is receiving harsh criticism from students and faculty at Tufts. This past spring, the Tufts Community Union Judiciary (TCUJ) voted to de-recognize the TCF for being discriminatory. To further brand the TCF as homophobic, the Tufts cannon was painted with the phrase, "TCF is unsafe." With actions like the denial of funding to the Boy Scouts and the painting of the cannon, the nation and the Tufts community are saying that even private organizations cannot hold ideals that some find controversial. It is vital to remember that neither the government nor individual citizens have the right to tell a private organization how to run itself. To allow the government to determine what is moral violates the most sacred rights that Americans hold. Still, unless vocal action is taken by right-minded people, the right of a group to hold unpopular convictions will be defeated by the mob. □



Fortnight in Review SM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS The Feds torched some seriously primo ganja in San Bernardino this week, sending forty-five million dollars worth of herb up in smoke. Authorities then congratulated each other by eating several tons of Fritos and laughing for three days straight.

PS A 17-year-old Texas girl received 40 years in the slammer after attempting to kill her parents. Happily, she was admitted early to Tufts.

PS A 75-year-old woman was killed by a 8-year-old deer she raised from infancy. Doctors are using this tragedy to further emphasize the need to stop breast-feeding woodland creatures at two years of age.

PS It's that time again. No, not for your Valtrex! For the Olympics! In the spirit of the Games, the SOURCE is proud to bring you:

Top Ten Things You Won't Be Seeing at This Year's Olympics

10. White track stars
9. Black track lines
8. Clothing-optional Greco-Roman wrestling
7. Juan Antonio Samaranch's ethics
6. Juan Antonio Samaranch's wife
5. Carl Lewis being heterosexual
4. Cubans who want to go home
3. The US Basketball team—losing
2. A pre-game Dream Team pep talk from Bobby Knight
1. Lance Armstrong's other testicle

PS A Connecticut man was rejected for employment with the police force after he scored too high on an intelligence test. Turns out he knows how to tell a gun from a wallet.

PS A Las Vegas man was arrested for smuggling twelve iguanas in his underwear through the airport after police looking for drugs noticed unusual bulges around his groin. Police were reported to have asked, "Is that a dozen iguanas in your pants, or are you just happy to see us?"

PS Florida Seminoles—the Indians, not the football team—are trying to recruit employees for an odd occupation: alligator wrestling. All the former alligator wrestlers have either become professional gamblers or drunks.

PS Joan Kennedy, former wife of Ted Kennedy, was charged with DUI on Cape Cod last week. Because no one was killed in the accident, her Senate bid is expected to fail.

PS The University of Hawaii recently decided to change their team name from the Rainbow Warriors to the Warriors to disassociate themselves from gay pride groups. Their signature sleeveless jerseys will remain unchanged.

PS Al Gore stunned the nation by performing a full tracheal examination of Tipper during the DNC. Immediately following, Bill Clinton said, "You should see where I kissed her."

PS Alabamans will be entering the twentieth century a year too late by removing a clause of the state constitution that bans interracial marriage. The clause approving father-daughter marriage was upheld.

PS A former Nevada high school teacher has been charged with having sex with a 17-year-old student. The charge: \$487.85.

PS The Arkansas Supreme Court overturned the death sentence of a man convicted of raping, robbing and killing an elderly woman when he was in high school. He said the sex was a step up from his teacher.

PS In hometown news, Boston's Catholic Archdiocese is demanding more low-income housing to shelter the city's homeless. Homeless males aged 8 to 12 are encouraged to apply.



PS The ever-brilliant New Jersey Turnpike Authority is blaming human error for \$1 surcharges imposed on an undetermined number of customers using E-Z Pass for Jersey tolls. Worse yet, the drivers were forced to spend time in New Jersey.

PS In other Olympic news, the IOC admitted that, because of new types of undetectable drugs, some athletes will be able to compete in Australia even though they take performance altering substances. Canada's Ben Johnson promptly set a world-record 100-meter dash time of 1.2 seconds before spontaneously combusting.

PS Also, Darryl Strawberry has been added to the US baseball team.

PS Vaclav Plch, a New Hampshire man accused of dismembering a woman, is trying to keep jurors from discovering his penchant for butchering. Plch is also trying to buy a couple of vowels.

PS Montana is in danger of losing its teachers, says a study, thanks to an aging teaching population and low salaries. Because old, underpaid teachers are better than none at all.

PS Texas A&M students (the living ones, anyway) are planning another giant homecoming bonfire this year. Students taking Darwinism are encouraged to attend.

PS An elderly Danish woman willed her estate of sixty grand to six lucky citizens of Denmark—apes in a zoo. After hearing of their windfall, the apes ate each other's body lice and threw feces.

PS Two women on an Amtrak train were found to be carrying a giant Winnie-The-Pooh stuffed with seventy thousand dollars in drug money. Oh, bother. Bitches set me up.

PS If you've picked up a *Daily* this year, you've no doubt seen the Tufts Christian Fellowship controversy, including the TTLGBC's slathering of the word "unsafe" in articles related to the TCF. Now, we at the SOURCE may not be big TCF fans, but we're puzzled how a policy against gays in an organization is somehow "unsafe" to homosexuals. So, with that in mind, we present:

Top Ten Things Even Less Safe Than The Tufts Christian Fellowship:

10. Programs in Ghana
9. Beirut at Zeta Psi
8. No Means Have Some More Jell-O Shots
7. TMAV alone with freshmen girls
6. TMAV alone with freshmen guys
5. Signing a "Pledge to Get Really High and Laid"
4. Hodgdon Chinese
3. Wearing a "Boston Sucks" T-shirt
2. Being conservative
1. TTLGBC

PS School officials are now forbidding the anti-gay Boy Scouts from distributing material in Santa Barbara schools. Condoms are still A-OK.

PS Ten thousand homes in upstate New York are now receiving more electricity—from wind, thanks to three enormous windmills. Wind will be provided entirely by Hillary Clinton.

☞ A poster seen around campus reminds disabled people, minorities, homosexuals, and women that "the non-discrimination policy is about you." THE ELEPHANT is comforted that the policy embraces all Jumbos, excluding, of course, straight, white, Christian men... According to *US News*, Tufts remains the 29th school in the nation. However, for the 100th straight year, Tufts was ranked first in "Schools With Silly Names," narrowly edging out Skidmore and Bowdoin... How many rapes does it take? This year's Tufts-in-Ghana was cancelled following four sexual assaults on Tufts students by last spring. Makes P-Row sound like a monastery.

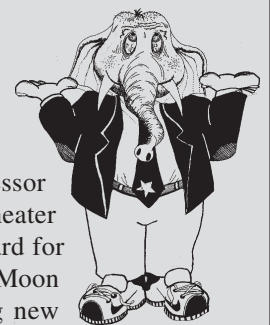
☞ Gettin' your godsmacks: anti-TCF rhetoric returns to campus as the cannon and sidewalk are chalked, declaring "TCF is not safe." Apparently neither is freedom of thought... Like bad acne, Adam Carlis resurfaces with an *Opinion* in which he says he hopes that TCF returns to campus. We wholeheartedly agree, and would be willing to trade Carlis to Bob Jones University for three evangelical Christians and a homosexual to be named later... In other *Observer* news, Tufts' Newspaper of Record now publishes on Friday as "Tufts' Weekend Newspaper." This will mark a big change on the Hill, as most students' weekend reading includes only beer labels and toilet stall graffiti... SOURCE Humor Editor

Lew Titterton pens a pro-Clinton piece in Tufts' new weekend paper. Strangely, Lew hasn't done anything that funny for us in months.

☞ God save the queens: Tufts Professor Laurence Senelick tells the *Daily* that theater is inherently homosexual. And the award for reinforcing stereotypes goes to... David Moon pens a parody in the *Observer*, telling new senators to supply "racist caricature of self for PRIMARY SOURCE." Thanks, Dave! That'll sure take a lot of deadline pressure off of our staff artists... President Bags sees a SOURCE member's mom at a legacy party holding our Orientation issue and says, "You don't want to read that." When's that retirement again?... A mini-movement arises to rid Dewick of closed circuit TVs. Piped-in music videos distract diners from eating, socializing, and not reading the *Observer*.

☞ How many Tufts students does it take to change a lightbulb? Two—one to fall off the ladder, and another not to call TEMS.

☞ THE ELEPHANT never forgets.



*How many rapes does it take
to get to the center of a controversy?*

Four Times Too Many

by Sam Dangremond

The most important role of any university *in loco parentis* is to ensure the safety of its students. If a school is unable to adequately fill this role, then it must not enter into the contractual agreement that is the basis of the student-university relationship. The suspension of the Tufts-in-Ghana program is the long-overdue response to a continual inability to guarantee student safety. The administration's handling of this serious issue has been disorga-

The administration's handling of this delicate and crucial issue has been disorganized at best, typical of a bureaucracy that would rather obfuscate than be open with the student body.

nized at best—typical of an administration that would rather smooth over its indiscretions than admit ineptitude to the student body. Additionally, the inclination to excuse criminal acts under a banner of “cultural differences” is one that seeks to exculpate, rather than condemn the Ghanaian criminals who committed these acts.

There have been four reports of rape since the fall of 1998. All of the victims were Tufts students studying abroad at the University of Ghana. The first three of these occurred in the fall semester of 1998, the fourth during last spring's semester. Such a large number of sexual assaults in such a short time is startling in itself, but the more alarming aspect of these incidents is that by all accounts the fourth rape should have been prevented. What role did Tufts University play in ensuring the safety of its students? What preventative steps were taken after the first three incidents? The ability of the University to provide for the protection and information of its students is being

Mr. Dangremond is a sophomore majoring in Chemical Engineering.

called into question.

Unfortunately, these questions have received few answers from Tufts' administration. When asked specifically what was done after the first three reports, Associate Dean of Programs Abroad, Sheila Bayne, responded, “we addressed these incidents in a way that we thought would be effective.” Clearly, communication between administration here in Medford and the resident director hired by Tufts to

administer students in Ghana broke down, resulting in insufficient response to the rapes and needs of students still in Ghana. According to Dean Bayne, “we are investigating what we wanted to happen and what did happen.” Steps taken to thwart future incidents have not been explained. What is more, the existence of preventive action on the part of the University is unknown.

The administration must do more to protect its students, and a mistake was made in that the measures they established did not achieve the goal of preventing further sexual assaults. The best way for the administration to deal with this is-

sue, however, would be to disclose fully their response to the first three rapes, and the steps they now plan to take. Most of all, the administration should be open and honest with its students, especially those who had hoped to become involved in the Tufts-in-Ghana program in the future.

This is not to say that Tufts is responsible for the rapes that have occurred. There is a fundamental difference between the responsibility to provide for adequate safety, and accountability for the actions of individuals. The police are responsible for providing security; it is not the fault of the police if you are mugged. THE PRIMARY SOURCE has always maintained that rape is solely the fault of the individual who commits the act. In much the same way, these individuals can not be exonerated by “cultural differences”. Regardless of color, culture, and geography, rape is wrong. Those who would suspend judgement of another culture for fear of moral imperialism are trying to defend the actions of rapists, and only help to perpetuate these horrible acts. Tufts should play an active role in the prosecution of apprehended Ghanaian suspects.

The culture and experiences of Africa have much to offer Tufts students, and it is wished by all that this issue be resolved and no future assaults occur. But the Tufts-in-Ghana program should only be resumed if the safety of Tufts students can be reasonably ensured. Until then, Tufts ought to be honest and forthcoming with all students, especially those future participants in Tufts-in-Ghana. □

Tara Heumann contributed to this article.



Does Tufts prepare students to understand Ghanaian culture?

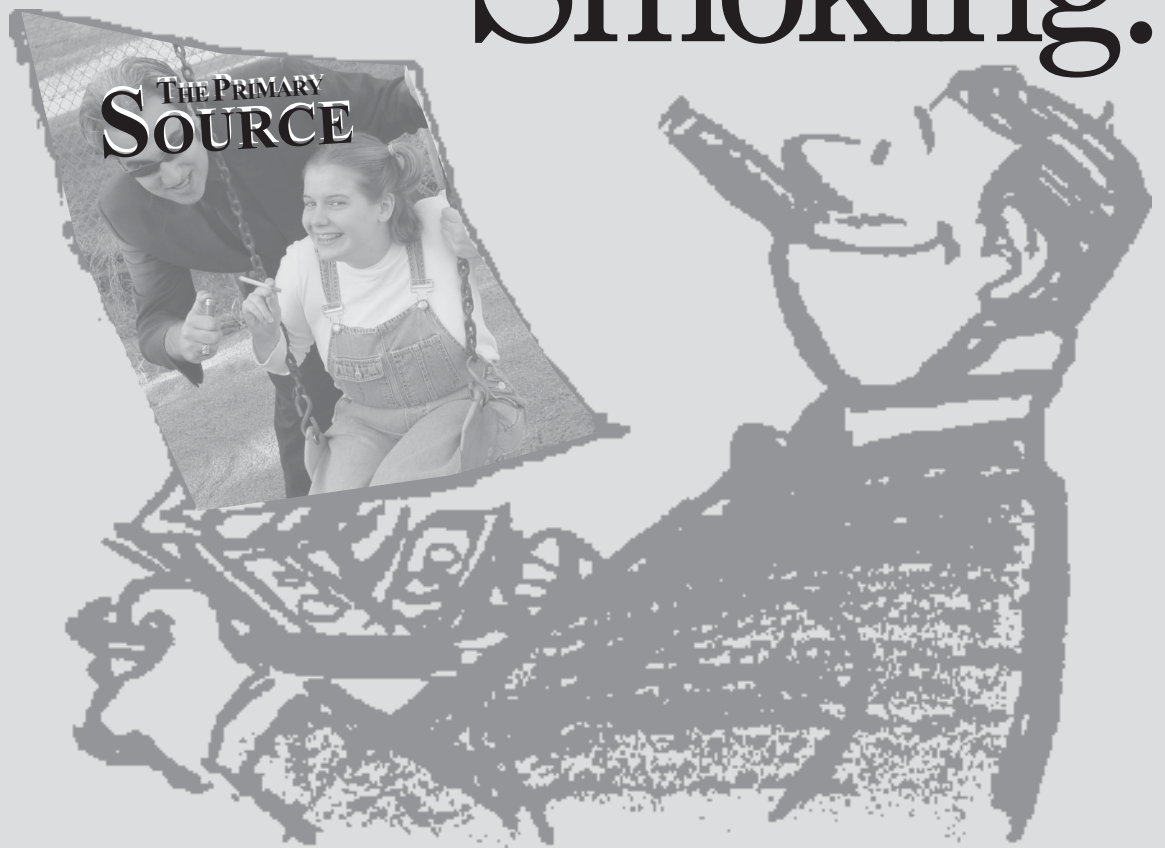


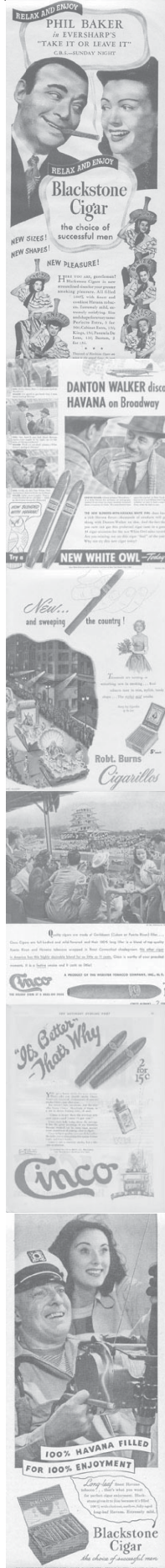
For years, people across the country relished the smooth character of Camels, the cool of Kools, and the pleasure of Newports. Smoking was lauded by celebrities, and a fine cigar became a status symbol.

Recently, however, society has begun to crack down on these supplicants of smoke. Driven from restaurants, bars and other public places (where they are often hermetically sealed in separate glass areas) these cigarette and cigar smoking civilians have had to invent their own places at which to engage in a favored pastime. Seeking refuge in cigar bars and humidors, these patrons of puff wait patiently for a rebirth—a time in America when smoking will once again embody all that is cool and rebellious.

Until then, The Primary Source proudly dedicates this issue to...

Smoking.





P.J. O'Rourke once said "I believe a rocking hammock, a good cigar, and a tall gin
No accouterment signifies power, confidence, and prosperity like a stogie. Yet, w
send hard-earned cash up in smoke for an expensive, imported c

Bargain Cigars for the



Founded in 1887, Wh
Owls feature a shee
wrapper around a fi
tobacco blend. A box
will set you back about

The bargain cigar classic! Many have found an alternative use for these blunts. It's mild-bodied taste is due to its blend of Dominican and Honduran. Phillie Sweets offer a tastier, milder version of the original. A 50-box costs only \$11.84.



-and-tonic is the way to save the planet." We at the SOURCE wholeheartedly agree. While we want to look like Wall Street fat cats, the average smoker cannot afford to cigar. With that in mind, THE PRIMARY SOURCE proudly presents:

Aspiring Conservative



White Owl
et
ve-
of 50
c \$14.

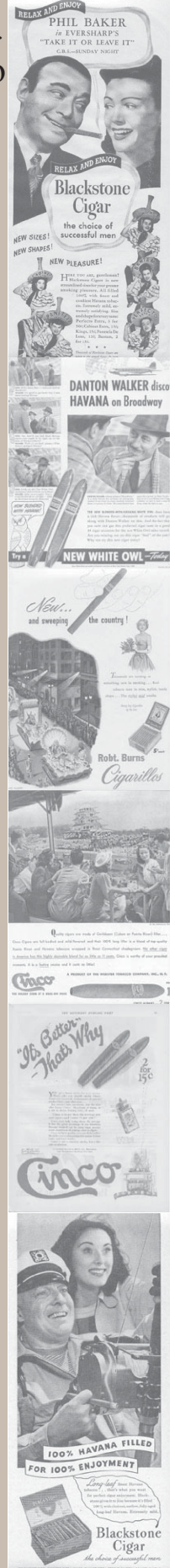
Mild and smooth, Tijuana Smalls are tipped and made with sheet wrappers. They're sold only in 10-packs. Ten of those will cost you \$14.

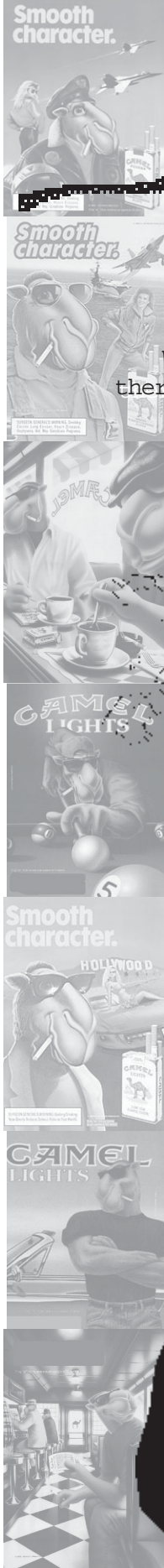


Since 1882, Garcia y Vegas has been blackening the lungs of underprivileged smokers. Despite their exotic name, a box of 50 Vegas is only about \$15.



Havatampa Jewels are the cutest of the bargain cigars. Fifty of these little Dominican/Honduran stogies are \$12.





SMOKING ON CAMPUS

While every bathroom on campus seems to be off limits to the Marlboro Man and Joe Camel, there are still many spots around Tufts where the Man has yet to hang a No Smoking sign. When you get the urge to light up, consider one of the following locations for a cancer break:

The back of a TUPD cruiser

Front steps of Gifford House

The waiting room at Health Services

Your club's Kids' Day Booth

In line to donate blood for LCS

The Community Tot Lot

Under your asthmatic roommate's bed

While giving tours to prospective freshmen

**The greenhouse on the roof of Barnum
(bring your own rolling paper)**

*Start spreading the news—Hillary's running
an issue-free campaign.*

Skirting the Issues

by Stephen Tempesta

Everyone knows that New York has some outstanding attributes. Hillary Clinton is not one of them.

Hillary possesses no real qualifications to become the next senator of New York State. She is undoubtedly intelligent and has spent numerous hours with politicians, but neither of these qualities make

her deserving of a seat in the Senate. Why does Mrs. Clinton want to run in New York? She has yet to answer that question, and until she does, New Yorkers cannot make an educated vote.

The First Lady commands an impressive knowledge of the state, which she has demonstrated by pointing to it on a map. She even knows the governor's name. She also has no political track record and no experience whatsoever. With one chance to shine in the political arena, she single-handedly conceived the largest spending plan in the nation's history, her health care plan, which was shot down in Congress by both Republicans and Democrats.

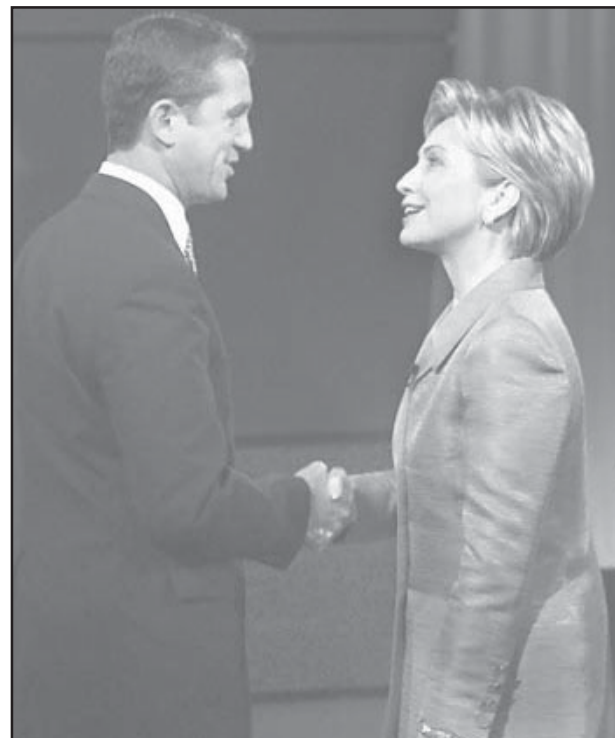
Her attempt to polarize New York's wealthier southern county voters, as well as those of the economically plagued north, is a sneaky campaign tactic. She has moved away from the issues, with which she has little experience, to Lazio bashing. Her TV ads airing in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut show pictures of Lazio and the headline "Gingrich's Lackey," simply because Lazio and Gingrich voted together on a single issue.

Mr. Tempesta is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major.

Numerous political analysts note that Mrs. Clinton draws broad conclusions and should watch her step before she finds herself blatantly lying.

Mrs. Clinton has no voting record, nor has she taken stances on many important issues. She simply says, "I'm here to fight for New York." Perhaps she repeats this state-

ment because she is not from New York. Mrs. Clinton has no platform. Becoming buddies with Al Sharpton does not mean that Hillary represents blacks, and denying charges of using anti-Semitic slurs



A friendly moment between bitter campaign rivals.

But is she good for the Jews?



does not give her control of the Jewish vote. Mrs. Clinton will have to start taking stances on issues that actually matter. Maybe if she lived in New York for more than a matter of weeks she would know what these issues are. However, since she hasn't, she is completely blind to all of the problems that plague the state.

Perhaps her most outrageous campaign scheme thus far has been Mrs. Clinton's public condemnation of Rep. Rick Lazio shaking hands with Yassir Arafat. The motive for releasing the photo of Lazio shaking Arafat's hand was undoubtedly to help Mrs. Clinton with her "Jewish problem." It was an obvious and unsuccessful attempt to downplay Hillary's own controversial embrace with Suha Arafat, the wife of the PLO leader. Hillary tries to convince voters that Lazio is friend to the Palestinians, when she herself has said she supported a Palestinian state.

Mrs. Clinton has illustrated that she is not fit to be a leader of the state. She has tried repeatedly to destroy the other candidate's credibility instead of establishing her own. New York needs a leader, a person who will prove to be a beneficial and competent Senator, not a finger-pointer without comprehension of the issues at hand. □

*Which is more dangerous to American youth:
cancer or television-induced complacency?*

Deconstructing “Truth”

by *Joshua Martino*

Edgar Allen Poe called it “The Imp of the Perverse.” It’s the indelible impulse within every human soul that impels us to do wrong. As Poe described it, this perverted stimulus is like standing on the edge of a cliff and wondering what it would feel like to jump: “because our reason violently deters us from the brink, *therefore* do we the most impetuously approach it.”

So too can we describe the swirling thoughts of a boy about to buy his first pack of cigarettes. His parents, his teachers, and even the package’s warning label implore him to replace the cigarettes on the shelf. Yet his friends, his favorite celebrities, and the rebel kid he idolizes smoke glamorously, puffing smoky rings with cool, pursed lips, and flicking their butts without a care when they are finished. The boy puts the money on the counter; he has taken the plunge.

Such is the price of American individuality. By the millions, adolescents purchase cigarettes because teenage culture mass-markets rebellion and self-destructive angst. Yet, anti-smoking missionaries on the Left do not see teen smokers as conformist slackers who succumbed to peer pressure like a bug to a steel-toed boot. Rather, to the propagandists at theTruth.com, young smokers are helpless victims of Big Tobacco.

We’ve all seen the commercials: a kid holding an electronic ticker tallying scores of smoking deaths, pimply brats spoon-feeding half-truths about tobacco advertising, Hollywood-hip teenagers ripping cigarette ads out of magazines to “silence Big Tobacco.” This is the handiwork of

Mr. Martino is a junior majoring in English.

theTruth.com. The Internet activist group is behind a bombardment of television ads aimed at youngsters, demanding that they personally take a stand against cigarette corporations.

But one must wonder: which group poses the greatest hazard to the health of America’s youth? While Philip Morris and R. J. Reynolds market carcinogens, theTruth.com creates a far more hideous product: victims.

TheTruth.com’s TV spots are perfect examples of the Left’s culture of victimization. Its motto: why take responsibility when there is a big corporation to

blame? To some on the Left, big business can do no right. The corporation, once viewed as a symbol of prosperity and the pinnacle of American enterprise, is now the biggest villain of radical activists. Certainly students at Tufts are familiar with this trend.

When Starbucks brought affordable latte to Davis Square, the natives feared their trendy coffeehouses would disappear. Pepsi and Nike have been protested on this campus for alleged corporate missteps. One campus group pleaded that Jumbos boycott macaroni from Kraft, owned by RJR Nabisco.

Of course, theTruth.com conveniently ignores that teenagers voluntarily buy cigarettes despite the influence of anti-tobacco propaganda. Years after the banishment of cigarette vending machines and the rise of Surgeon General’s Warnings and anti-smoking ads on television, teenage smoking rates are still sky-high. With so many voices “just saying no” and Big Tobacco’s voice all but muted, kids still want to be the Marlboro Man or Joe Camel.

One wonders when the American teenager became so meek. TheTruth.com tells young people that ripping pages out of a magazine makes one an anti-corporate crusader. They must believe that the youth of this nation are not only gullible and stupid, but also have no self-worth. Only someone with these gross mental defects would believe that tobacco companies are solely responsible for teen smoking.

There are anti-smoking commercials preaching responsibility. Ironically, they come from tobacco companies themselves.

In 1998, major tobacco companies were found guilty of marketing their product to children and were forced to fund an anti-smoking TV campaign aimed at a young audience. It is no coincidence that these ads are more effective than those from

TheTruth.com’s TV spots are perfect examples of the Left’s culture of victimization. Its motto: why take responsibility when there is a big corporation to blame?

A message from theTruth.com Message Board that you won't see on TV...

title: Tears of pride
author: Objective Reality
e-mail: Objectivereality@mail.com

I’m thirty years old, and words cannot express the pride with which I read the outright rejection of the Liberal propaganda machine behind this site by the bright, articulate younger persons who are its intended quarry.

You are the hope and the promise of the future of Western Civilization, and I thank you.

I would implore you not to repeat the mistakes of we, your elder brothers and sisters in Generation X, and build upon our experience - by voting straight-ticket Republican in every election from now until forever. Conservatives may grouse and bellow about abortion and drug culture, but it is the Liberal who literally intends to wrest control from you of every last aspect of your existence, and every cent you ever earn - if it takes them the rest of their lives. This noxious “truth” campaign is but an angry boil on the surface of a bone-cancer-deep disease, the terminal groupthink of Liberalism. Flee from it, and demand merely the right to decide your own destiny.

theTruth.com; if anyone knows how to get through to kids, it is the marketing department at Philip Morris. Big Tobacco's ads lacked the pretense of theTruth.com. Featuring defiant teens who tell the camera that they choose not to smoke in the face of peer pressure, these commercials address the real impetus for teen smoking. Though the "cool kids" in the ads who refuse to smoke may seem like corny teenage stereotypes, their message is clear: "we think for ourselves."

While Big Tobacco's ads are a breath of fresh air, theTruth.com's message is about as refreshing as happy hour at a Wall Street cigar lounge. They miss even the most basic anti-smoking messages—theTruth.com does not even tell its audience that smoking is unhealthy, or even simply not to smoke. Instead, they tell young people not to be accountable for their own actions. TheTruth.com's ads are not simply unsophisticated, patronizing, and annoying. They also fail to place responsibility for teen smoking with the true culprits: teenagers. □



The defiant faces of theTruth.com.

Tobacco companies aren't the only people telling lies about cigarettes.

Pointing Fingers

by Andrew Gibbs

You might see this in your local paper: Man uses cold medication, operates heavy machinery, dozens perish in worst forklift accident in history. Team of prosecutors assembled to pursue compensation for victims and punish the offenders. Cold medication manufacturer prepares defense. Witnesses take stand and cry big salty tears. Anti-cold medication propaganda ensues.

This situation may appear utterly inane, but in reality it serves as little more than a thinly veiled parody of actual events. The recent lawsuits targeting tobacco companies make a shameful mockery of our judicial system. In today's courts there exists no substitute for a poignant, tear-jerking testimony. Good lawyers know that. Its effectiveness surpasses that of sound reasoning and presentation of fact. Why then should jurors let the facts cloud their judgment?

Here is a typical story. John Doe starts smoking twenty-odd years ago. He smokes two packs per day, everyday, gradually morphing himself into Mr. Chronic Bronchitis. He claims that he did not know any better and demands compensation from the Evil Tobacco Empire. He started smoking some time in the Seventies before there was any real knowledge of the harmful effects of tobacco. He feels that he has been duped. The only comfort he could have now is an infusion of cash to pay for his hospital bills and maybe a little left over to build a money fort in his living room. It's only fair, right?

Not so. It seems that there was a *little* bit of information out about the possible side effects of cigarette smoking. As long ago as the 1950s, concerned citizens demanded the exploration of the health risks involved with smoking. In 1954, Dr. Charles Cameron of the American Cancer Society was invited to perform a further study on the effects of smoking. However, that people had any interest in such a thing left him quite flabbergasted. He responded to this request saying that he could not fathom any use for continued exploration of this topic since it

Mr. Gibbs is a junior majoring in Computer Engineering.

was already very well known that smoking is highly deleterious to ones health. Furthermore, Surgeon General, Dr. LeRoy E. Burney, acknowledged in the late 1950s that the public was well informed of the health risks of smoking. Many health organizations expressed their opinion that warning labels on cigarette packages would serve little or no purpose. A spokesperson for the American Medical Association was quoted as saying "Labeling will not alert even the young cigarette smoker to any risks of which he is not already aware."

Yet the public felt that the patently obvious needed reinforcement. The Surgeon General performed an exhaustive study that was released in 1964. If anyone should need an unabridged thesaurus for the phrase "It is bad for you" then look no further. The report consisted of a concise three hundred and eighty seven-pages. The result was to make absolutely sure that the obvious was, in fact, completely obvious. Surgeon General's warnings were placed on packages of cigarettes consisting of complex and confusing phrases like "Smoking Causes Lung Cancer, Heart Disease, Emphysema, and May Complicate Pregnancy." Oh, the delightful ambiguity. No doubt the cigarette companies had to drive a hard bargain with the governments, which probably initially wanted to say "Smoking will invariably destroy your body and lead to a slow agonizing death." At least with the former, one can hope to get off easily with just a complicated pregnancy.

To butcher a famous quote, "You have but one right, and that is to do as you please. Correspondingly you have but one responsibility, and that is to take the consequences whatever they may be." For at least half a century, the medical field has been certain that smoking posed great threats to ones physical well being. There existed no ambiguity. Anyone who claims otherwise elicits a total lack of responsibility for their actions, does not deserve to be taken seriously, and is clogging our already overburdened court systems with frivolous lawsuits. □

The problem isn't the utter stupidity of the FTC's report, it's that people will believe it anyway.

For The Children

by Chris Kohler

On June 1, 1999, following the horrifying school shooting in Littleton, Colorado that increased public calls for a national response to youth violence, President Clinton requested that the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice conduct a study of whether the motion picture, music recording, and computer and video game industries market and advertise violent entertainment material to children and teenagers... for all three segments of the entertainment industry, the answers are plainly 'yes.'" So begins the FTC's recently released study, which, apart from being sensationalistic, poorly researched, and lacking in basic common sense, is even more sinister and underhanded than the marketing plans that it decries.

The three sections of the report criticize the movie, music, and video game industries, first explaining the "self-regulatory" ratings systems of each and then presenting specific examples of marketing and advertising practices that the FTC feels contradict those ratings, such as an instance where an R-rated movie is advertised to consumers under 17 years of age. It illustrates these instances with direct quotes from marketing plans, including a few which suggested that some video games, all rated "Mature," would be sold to males ages 12-34.

The report goes on for another fifty

Mr. Kohler is a junior majoring in Japanese.

pages citing such examples, but manages to completely ignore one key point: demographics don't come out of nowhere. Obviously, 12-year-olds have been known to purchase those types of games, and in most cases the money comes from and the buying decision is approved by the parents. And, as the government must begrudgingly admit, parental consent is the final word.

This leads us to another point that the FTC has (intentionally?) forgotten: the ratings systems set up by the three industries

are intended to serve as *nothing more than* a guide for parents. A parent might deem one R-rated movie, M-rated game, or "Parental Advisory"-stickered record entirely appropriate for their younger child. In fact, parents who adhere strictly to arbitrary age-based ratings are the exception rather than the rule (and any parent or lawmaker who truly believes that, on his 17th birthday, a young person immediately becomes able to handle all manner of media is a complete moron).

The FTC was not content, however, to simply find a few examples of publishers "guilty" of marketing rap music to teenagers. The report attempts to implicate a far broader range of companies by accusing them of placing advertisements in media "popular" with teens: magazines like *Thrasher*, websites like *mtv.com*, and television shows like *WWF Smackdown*. It is here that the report's sheer ignorance of basic facts reaches its height. Appendices included with the report list the shows monitored and known to contain advertisements for mature movies, games, and music. What *isn't* mentioned in the main body of the report becomes immediately apparent in the small text of Appendix I: those shows and websites that the FTC calls "popular" with teens only boast under-17 viewership of around thirty percent! Of the 12 television shows listed, only MTV's vacuous Total Request Live had a youth viewership over 37% (nevermind what kind of adults would be caught watching it).

The worst thing about the FTC's minimum opus is not its appalling bias, its sweeping generalizations, or even its overwhelming ignorance of the facts. The real problem is that this is just another attempt to enact censorship while remaining within the confines of the First Amendment.

Appendix I

TELEVISION, PRINT, AND ONLINE DEMOGRAPHICS

I. POPULAR TELEVISION SHOWS AMONG TEENAGERS

Program	Network	Ranking (12 - 17)	% Audience (6 - 17) ¹
NETWORK SHOWS		Network Ranking²	
Simpsons	FOX	3 / 2 / 2	24.8
WWF Smackdown	UPN	- / 10 / 3	36.5
X-Files	FOX	21 / 16 / 12	not available ¹
That '70s Show	FOX	17 / 7 / 16	not available
King Of The Hill	FOX	4 / 15 / 19	22.6
Dawson's Creek	WB	8 / 9 / 20	34.6
Buffy the Vampire Slayer	WB	38 / 26 / 23	30.0
Smart Guy	WB	32 / 35 / -	not available
South Park	COM	not available	21.2
Saved By The Bell	TBS	not available	34.1
Teen Summit	BET	not available	36.4
Total Request Live	MTV	not available	62.0

The ratings for print media further illustrate the FTC's gross exaggerations. The first and most appalling example is clear in the chart labeled "magazine reader demographics." Charts show percentages of "young" readers for popular magazines ranging from 40% to 90%. But although the focus so far has been marketing to persons under 17, the percentages given in the chart show readers under 18. It would be difficult to determine how much this has affected the percentages, but the very idea that the government would resort to this type of deliberate manipulation is in and of itself unconscionable.

The report takes great pains to emphasize that the FTC's ultimate goal is not to censor but to encourage stricter self-regulation. What the report skims over or ignores, however, is that in each case, the "self-regulatory" systems in place were caused by the federal government. Movie ratings were

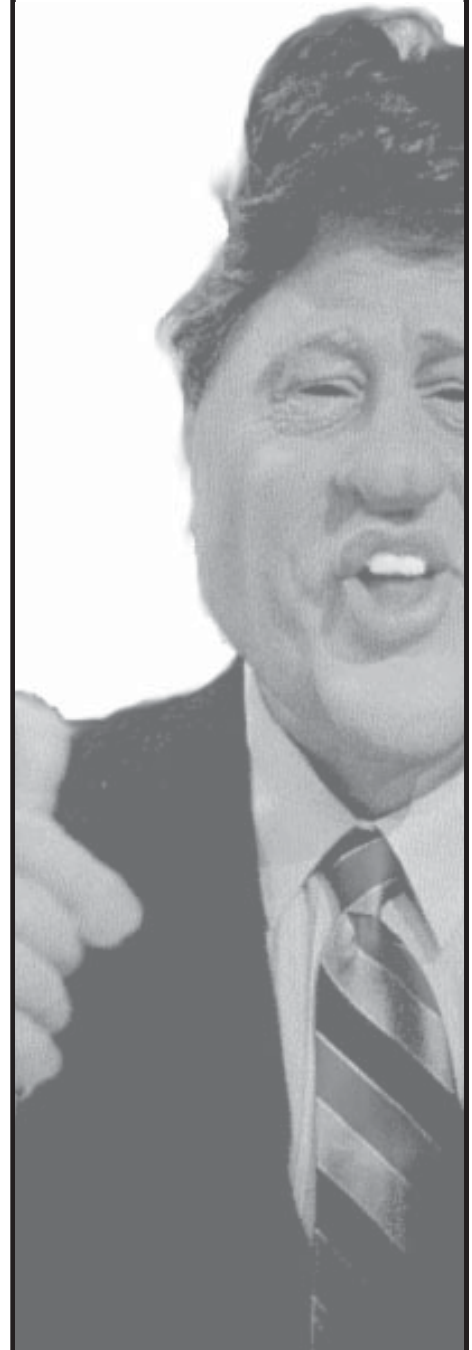
enacted only after a Supreme Court decision on regulating children's access to certain materials. Video game ratings were established after a 1993 congressional hearing and severe criticism of the industry led by Senator Joseph Lieberman. And the Parental Advisory sticker on music CDs was the direct result of the efforts of parental groups formed and led by Tipper Gore and other wives of US senators.

In the end, the worst thing about the FTC's minimum opus is not its appalling bias, its sweeping generalizations, or even its overwhelming ignorance of the facts. The real problem is that this is just another attempt to enact censorship while remaining within the confines of the First Amendment. Their message is simple: if we can't censor you, we'll make sure you censor yourself. □

We'll miss you, Bubba.

Reminisce with us.

Classic articles at
<http://ase.tufts.edu/primarysource/>
 aged like a fine cigar.



II. MAGAZINE READERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

Magazine	% of Audience Under Age 18	Median / Average Age Of Audience
Jump	90%	15.7 / -
Teen People	77.4%	16 / -
Right On!	77%	16 / -
Metal Edge	76.2%	16 / 16.2
Thrasher	73.2%	17.5 / 16.3
Expert Gamer	68%	15 / 19
GamePro	62%	- / 18
YM	59.9%	17.1 / -
Electronic Gaming Monthly	59%	16 / 20
Unofficial PlayStation Magazine (PSM)	54% (18 or younger)	- / 21
Seventeen	50%	18 / -
Blaze	47.6%	18.5 / -
Vibe	43.6%	19.6 / -
WWF Magazine	43% (between ages 12 and 17)	- / -
Disney Adventures	(target ages 6 to 12)	- / -
Nickelodeon	(target ages 6 to 14)	- / -
DC Comics - Kids	-	8.3 / -
Marvel Comics - Junior	-	9.3 / -
Sports Illustrated for Kids	-	11.5 / -
Marvel Comics - Senior	-	13.9 / -
TransWorld Skateboarding	-	15.8 / 15.2
DC Comics - Teen	-	16.8 / -
Teen	-	17 / -
Heckler	-	17 / 19
Hit Parader	-	- / 17.6
Warp	89% (under 20)	- / 16
Tips and Tricks	77.1% (under 24)	- / 20

*No qualifications? No interest?
No problem!*

Publishing House Rules

by Megan Liotta

In the most hideous of ironies, those who condemn the injustice of racism are called racists by their contemporaries. People who are either instinctively blind to skin color or who have been properly taught that judgment based on physical characteristics is wrong are coming under fire for failing to recognize the supposedly inherent distinctions among differently pigmented persons. The cause of the confusion? Affirmative action advocates.

Affirmative action might be better termed affirmative *reaction*. Reckless liberals birthed this idea in the mid-Sixties to solve a problem rooted in the ear-

liest and ugliest chapters of our history. It is a poorly thought-out, feel-good quick fix to an issue that cannot be solved overnight. Racism causes inequality in the employment pool, they said. Let's give the victims exclusive opportunities so that there is a better balance of numbers, they concluded. It looks nice on paper, but the solution stops there. Instantaneous emotional reflex is not a practical response to an intensely complex issue.

In a ridiculous display of ignorance immediately following the brilliance of the civil rights movement, liberals decided that the way to eliminate bigotry was to begin to discriminate against the discriminator. Following the government's lead, businesses began setting employee quotas and restricting new hires to minority individuals in a sad attempt to bring diversity to the work-

place.

Locally, Boston's Beacon Press has recently implemented the "People of Color Internship Program." According to their website, the program subscribes to the idea that "People of Color" do not find publishing a "viable and attractive career option." Furthermore, they restrict paid internship openings eight months of the year to students who fulfill the company's ethnic requirement to make sure that they find it attractive. One would have to be incredibly morally stoic not to accept this kind of offer.

When asked about the origin of the grant fund-

ing for the program, the internship coordinator, Wendy Bivens, declined to answer, stating only that she had already said everything she was interested in saying. Off the record, of course.

Grants, such as the one afforded Beacon Press, often originate at the federal level when government agencies decide that a prime way to control the country is to control the workforce. They are almost assuredly correct, and that is what is most frightening. Give everyone lots of money just for hiring "People of Color!" Who wouldn't turn down a handout like that?

Thus, the Beacon Press has been financially obligated to force the world of publishing down the throats of non-whites. Then they pat themselves on the back when these coerced individuals vomit the foul, partially-digested con-

cept of diversity all over the industry. The buffoonery of the situation is that most coerced individuals aren't aware that they are coerced. They think they are getting jobs because of their value as workers, but are, in fact, still being degraded by the system. It doesn't matter one iota if they want to be publishers or if they are qualified for the position. Simply add melanin and presto! You've got a job. How convenient for them and despicably shameful for anyone who encourages the policy.

In the construction world of Boston, contracting companies owned and operated by "People of Color" are guaranteed a certain percentage of municipal projects regardless of their past experience. The purpose of this city statute is to encourage more minorities to become entrepreneurs. Instead, people with no idea what they are doing start businesses because they are handed the money to do so. Once in a while there is a lucky or a legitimate break, when someone is a truly interested and competent contractor. Unfortunately, the result is often work that is questionable at best. One need only look at the skyrocketing price tag on the Big Dig for evidence of occupational ineptitude.

In both of these examples, people are understandably accepting the money offered by bureaucratic bigwigs to engage in something they might not otherwise care about at all. Disinterest leads directly to apathy concerning quality. Inferior production will result in an eventual descent of quality from which the United States will be unable to recover.

When did qualifications go out the window of opportunity? The defenestration of interest and skill will undoubtedly result in an America with few worthwhile products or services that can compete in international markets. And perhaps the worse of the two is

America the melting pot is disintegrating into America the TV dinner. Instead of blending cultures and traditions to create a uniquely American stew, people are being divided into individual Styrofoam compartments of archaic notions.



"You're all hired! Uh... except you in the middle."

Miss Liotta is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major.

not the decline in skill, but the disappearance of interest in work. Many of those hired regardless of their interest are understandably without passion for their occupations and will not advance their industries. The result may be a sharp deterioration of American culture as people segregate themselves into their respective color classifications with the plainly stupid idea that they must have something in common because their flesh is roughly the same hue.

The future might not be so grim. Still, the current attitude among races is only going to get worse if "People of Color" are continually herded into the employment world like mindless market sheep, allowed to graze on the greenest grass without considering if this is what they actually want. Both "People of Color" and whites are not allowed to act freely. Some eligible white applicants are turned away at the door to Corporate America because they are the wrong color. Similarly, minority applicants who used to be herded away from job opportunities, are sought after because they are now the right color.

Here's a fantastically novel idea: dispel the myths and stereotypes based on skin tone through education. It may take several generations before bigotry heads the way of smallpox, but if implemented properly, education will ultimately prove to be the cure for the debilitating disease of racism. Perhaps when the government encourages companies to hire people based entirely on their qualifications for the job and their interest in the field, the need for financial freebies to corporations and occupational handouts for undeserving people will be eliminated. This will improve acceptance among races, cut needless national expense and ensure better quality production from industry. Thus, three birds are killed with one stone of equality.

America the melting pot is disintegrating into America the TV dinner. Instead of blending cultures and traditions to create a uniquely American stew, people are being divided into individual Styrofoam compartments of archaic notions. After sitting in the microwave for a while, everything starts to taste like plastic anyway. A country that once prided itself in quality has become a nation of blandness. Celebrating color and calling it culture is not enriching the piquancy of the United States, but rather slowly removing flavor from what once was a gourmet meal, leaving a miserably tasteless gruel at the bottom of the kettle. □

Putin's recent actions prove that old KGB habits die hard.

Red Resurfacing

by Jonathan Perle

There ought to be an axiom in foreign policy circles that goes like this: "Anytime a former head of the KGB becomes the President of Russia, start worrying." It is time to start worrying. Since becoming President of Russia, Vladimir Putin has consistently used a heavy hand in dealing with issues of personal liberty and human life. Of particular note are his jailing of Russian media mogul Vladimir Gusinsky for allowing his media outlets to carry Presidential criticisms, and Putin's recent cover-up of the Kursk submarine disaster. Both incidents highlight Putin's dangerous belief system—an authoritarian government that acts above all other forces.

This past week, the Kremlin Security Council released an "information security" doctrine, which, while having no legal implications, is one of the latest and more troubling incidents for the former Soviet Union. The document is replete with anti-foreign media language and seems directed at Radio Liberty, a media outlet that has often criticized the tyrannical tactics of the Putin administration. Between the attack on Gusinsky and his "information security," freedom of the press is being constricted.

Last week, the *Moscow Times* ran a story detailing massive amounts of voter fraud during the previous election. According to the official results, Putin won the last general election by 2.2 million votes. Yet, it appears that at least 2.2 million votes were stolen from other candidates and 1.3 million were outright manufactured. Between the Duma elections on December 19 and the Presidential election three months later, 1.3 million new voters were created, many of whom were children. In addition, corrupt Putin supporters simply added, on paper, stories to Russian buildings and counted all of the nonexistent voters as voting for Putin. The fraud even extended to a "vote for vodka" scheme, whereby voters were prom-

ised a bottle of vodka in return for their vote. Such actions by Putin come as no surprise to those who have watched his rise to power and his despotic tactics. But while his actions elicit no shock, his methods are worrisome because they portend an increasingly authoritarian state with no regard for democracy and individual liberties.

These infringements on the basic rights of Russian citizens are worrisome not only in the domestic sphere, but also internationally. Putin has shown that he is not interested in cooperation, but only in attempts at rebuilding a violent and militaristic Russia. The Kursk submarine disaster harkens back to the Cold War era Soviet Union; cover-ups, disinformation, and state secrecy were the primary concerns of the government, and peoples' lives a trivial matter. Though it appears that the sailors of the Kursk died almost as soon as the explosion occurred, Russia delayed for days before asking for help. They attempted to conduct an operation for which they were obviously woefully unprepared. Putin proved he was too proud to ask the United States to aid in the rescue effort, even though the United States has the best deep sea recovery subs in the world.

Russia is currently a member of the United Nations, but on September 17, a Russian plane carrying 11 senior officials and the head of one of Russia's largest oil companies landed at Baghdad airport. This landing directly violated the U.N. embargo on flights into Baghdad. The meeting of a senior oil official signals that Russia has more than a casual interest in dealing with Iraq, rather than cooperating with other states to end the current Iraqi regime. In addition to this landing, the Russian airline Aeroflot announced last week that it would soon resume flights to Baghdad. The Russian government's recent authoritarian acts add up to trouble for the United States, but more significantly for the people of Russia. They will surely suffer the loss of more freedoms so Putin may achieve his goals. □

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*Is Tufts unsafe?
That depends on your definition.*

Coming to Terms

by Alyssa Heumann

Though Tufts Christian Fellowship (TCF)'s bout with derecognition was resolved come summertime, a new year (and TCU Judiciary) are upon us. Once again, the campus is gearing up to battle Tufts' ideational demons. For those new to campus, you are about to witness the attempted resolution of one of the most explosive university issues in recent years. Indications of looming ideological confrontation abound, but none more obvious than last week's first public installation. In large chalk

letters, students on our campus inscribed this year's first liberal battle cry: TCF is *UNSAFE!*

For years, ideologies right and left have debated definitions of the most basic terms in the English language, including forms of the verb "to be." (Quoth Clinton: "that depends on what your definition of 'is' is"). But perhaps none has dominated the theoretical commerce of the university quite as much as the word "safe." When strong subjects are discussed, professors and advisors talk of the environment as "safe" and at many schools, resident assistants are required to place a sticker on their door inscribed with the saying "safe person, safe space." The declaration of safety almost always describes the protected status of a minority group—be it women, ethnic constituencies, or members of the LGBT community. As such, it is no surprise that this one word is at the forefront of the TCF debate.

The formal definition, borrowed from Webster's dictionary, illustrates the far-reaching implications of "safe." Benjamin Franklin said: "They that can give up essential liberty

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to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." Is it not this contradiction—liberty as opposed to safety that has been at the heart of most university debates? In the past, the more liberal among us have gladly traded their liberties in order to preserve the university as a "safe space." Indeed,

safe

adj. saf·er, saf·est.

1. Secure from danger, harm, or evil.
2. Free from danger or injury; unhurt: *safe and sound.*
3. Free from risk; sure: *a safe bet.*
4. Affording protection: *a safe place.*

the advent of Tufts' speech codes in the eighties attempted to do just that—make the university a "safer" place by abolishing the First Amendment in various campus locations.

It is not just this liberty/safety dichotomy that presents room for controversy, however. The very definition of "safety" is called into question when used by groups with a political agenda. Though "safety" is easily construed as free from physical threat and harm, what does it offer us in terms of ideological refuge? When university administrators refer to someplace as "safe," it usually indicates that a liberal philosophy is in place, and that one's beliefs (as long as they tend to the left) will go unquestioned. But is that really the way "safe" should be interpreted? It is this confusion of theoretical challenge with physical security that allows for the politicization of the term. In the conservative mind, the University is a place that should be preserved as inherently "unsafe." As a locus of learning, exploration, and debate, the college campus should be one of the most liberated places in society. Though there is never any excuse for presenting another human being with physical threat, chal-

lenging someone's beliefs is a critical component of higher education. It is a property of our community (and a valuable one at that) that allows for ideological diversity and debate. But how do these abstractions apply to the TCF case?

When anyone enters a TCF meeting, they are not at any risk of physical danger (see definitions one and two). Indeed, as Julie Catalano (the "unsafe" individual) reiterated, she was *close friends* with the members of TCF. Miss Catalano was motivated to stay a member of the group (and seek a leadership position, furthermore) because of this closeness, and because of her own religious beliefs. A three-year dedication to a campus organization that contains many of one's closest friends—does this sound like an "unsafe" situation? The political term "safety" is thus found in definitions three and four.

Miss Catalano's beliefs were consistently challenged as part of this group, and she was compelled to consider her personal beliefs. Does this constitute an "unsafe" condition? If so, most other student organizations should be designated "unsafe," from TMAV to Hillel, because each requires its members to consider their convictions in relation to those of the group. Pressure of conformity is everywhere, and makes no campus organization any less "safe" than another.

If she perceived a threat at any time, or felt "unsafe" by any definition, the campus abounds with "safe spaces" where Miss Catalano could seek refuge. Despite TCF's best efforts they were unable to shake Miss Catalano's belief in her own sexuality. The irony of the situation is that only upon entrance of a "safe space" did Miss Catalano begin to label her previous situation as "unsafe." This begs the question, where was Miss Catalano's thinking limited? Where was only one side of the situation considered—the "safe" space, or the "unsafe" space? It is the lack of "safety" inherent in TCF's actions that ultimately made Miss Catalano aware of her own identity and ideology.

Though the psychological methods used by TCF are currently challenged (and rightfully so), the spirit of their efforts should not be called into question. These individuals act in the pursuit of their religious beliefs, which are no less suspect than the motivations of any other campus group. Only when beliefs dispute the prevailing campus ideology do we hear cries of "unsafe." If challenge and debate are actions that prompt left-wing indignation, may we all be branded "unsafe" and thus retain our liberty. □

Yet another Bush campaign ad featuring
subliminal messages...

Al Gore wants to be President...
But did you know he is a
card-carrying member of
THE
NORTH AMERICAN ZOOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.



Al Gore... **he** wants to
eat away money to feed your
babies and provide for
your family's security.

Al Gore

voted to spend
over

666 million

dollars of
taxpayer funds on
trips to Buddhist
temples.



And Gore refuses to tell voters about his
investments in several Swiss banks...

Al Gore
is the
anti-
Christ

Paid for by Citizens for Bush in 2000

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

If the Perennially Indignant think pollution is the fault only of Reaganites wallowing in capitalist greed, then they should go take a deep breath in Smolensk or a long drink from the river Volga.

—P.J.O'Rourke

Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the forms of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question.

—Thomas Jefferson

Liberty has never come from government. Liberty has always come from the subjects of government. The history of liberty is the history of resistance.

—Woodrow Wilson

There will never be a really free and enlightened State until the State comes to recognize the individual as a higher and independent power, from which all its own power and authority are derived, and treats him accordingly.

—Henry David Thoreau

Roaming the world as a foreign correspondent for more than a decade, I was able to observe how a variety of vastly different nations organized themselves economically. The inescapable conclusion was that no politician anywhere on the planet has ever actually created a rupee's worth of prosperity.

—Louis Rukeyser

In the other direction I suggest to them, immerse yourself in the Founding Fathers. These people thought a long time about the nature of being human, about the problems of power, about how to organize a free society so it could sustain freedom. And if you can combine the two, you can begin to create an opportunity for every American to participate in ways that will prove to be quite remarkable.

—Newt Gingrich

Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

—Benjamin Franklin

I am not a Marxist.

—Karl Marx

The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don't do anything about it.

—Albert Einstein

In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, it was planned that way.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt

One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.

—Plato

"My country, right or wrong" is a thing that no patriot would think of saying except in a desperate case. It is like saying 'My mother, drunk or sober.'

—G. K. Chesterton

You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline—it helps if you have some kind of a football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer.

—Frank Zappa

I'm very dubious of all sorts of government solutions. I do not think they work over the long run.

—Alan Greenspan

The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

—Hubert Humphrey

I could teach the dumbest guy in the Navy how to heart surgery.

—Ross Perot

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.

—Winston Churchill

Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar.

—Sigmund Freud

The individual is not accountable to society for his actions, insofar as these concern the interests of no person but himself.

—John Stuart Mill

That depends on what the meaning of "is" is.

—William Jefferson Clinton

When a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, he will either quit being mistaken or cease to be honest.

—Abraham Lincoln

The less people know about how sausages and laws are made, the better they'll sleep at night

—Otto von Bismarck

Everybody wants to be a victim. And the paradox is that victim status accrues precisely to those who can acquire enough clout to make others afraid of them. Victimhood has become one of the fruits of power. Anyone can be an underdog; the trick is to be a registered, pedigreed underdog.

—Joseph Belloc Sobran

God must love the rich or he wouldn't divide so much among so few of them.

—H. L. Mencken

What I have realized is that I will always be Al Sharpton.

—Al Sharpton

You can put lipstick on a pig and call it "Monique," but it's still a pig.

—Ann Richards

Making a speech on economics is a lot like pissing down your leg. It seems hot to you, but it never does to anyone else.

—Lyndon Baines Johnson

Necessity is the plea for every infringement of human freedom. It is the argument of tyrants; it is the creed of slaves.

—William Pitt

A presidency can shape an era - and it can change our lives. A successful presidency can give meaning to an age.

—George Bush