

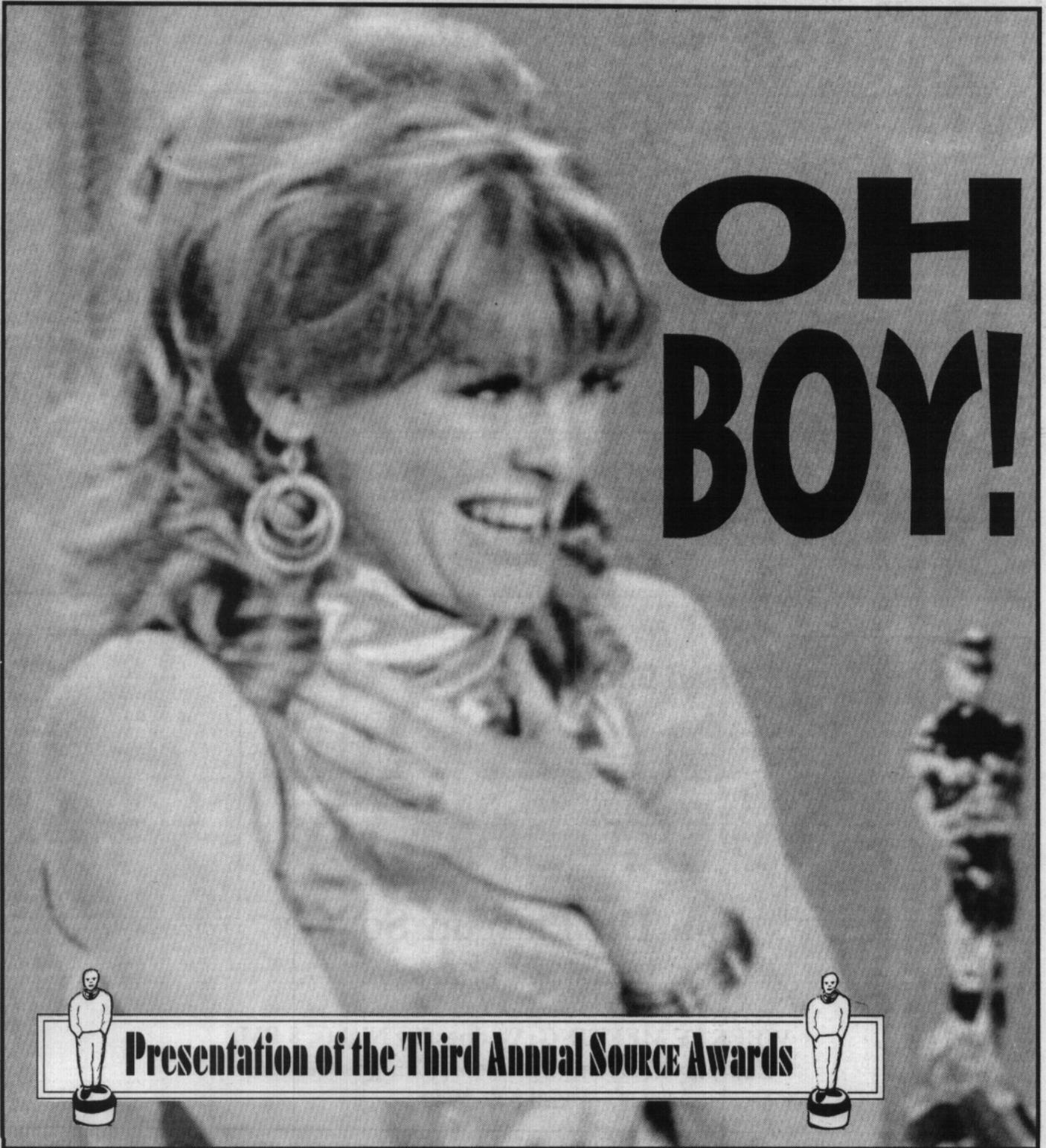
THE PRIMARY SOURCE

The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University

Volume XIII Number 12

VERITAS SINE DOLO

April 6, 1995



OH BOY!



Presentation of the Third Annual Source Awards



"I'm so offended!"

"Right On!"

"Dittos, TPS!"

"How insensitive!"

"I'm a communist and proud of it!"

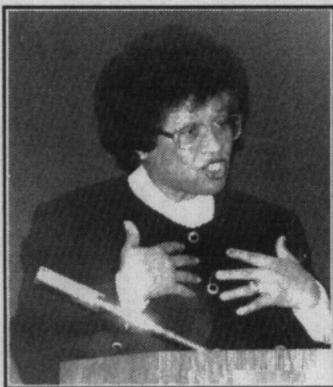
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"CONSERVATIVE PIGS!"

"You will drown in the workers' blood!"

"Can you believe what they said now?"



Joycelyn Elders

Had Enough of Tufts' Idea of

Intellectual Diversity?



NOW President Patricia Ireland

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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT
AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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FROM THE EDITOR

True scholarship can only exist in a setting that encourages the free and open exchange of thoughts, ideas, and opinions. Tufts officials claim that the university is committed to fostering a campus climate of competitive debate, ideological diversity, and intelligent questioning. Intellectual freedom on the Hill, however, only applies to those who choose to become self-righteous champions of liberal causes. While John DiBiaggio, Bobbie Knable, and I. Melvin Bernstein proclaim their dedication to tolerance and scholarly inquiry, the left advances its political agenda.

Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization for Women, has joined Joycelyn Elders as a prominent figure invited to speak at Tufts in order to stimulate thoughtful campus-wide discussion. The claims of Tufts students, administrators, and professors that these individuals exemplify Tufts' commitment to fairness, learning, and objectivity are nothing other than farcical. During her speech, Elders reveled in her support of abortion, condom distribution, and national health care. The former Surgeon General's idea of intellectual debate and discussion was to silence one questioner who was daring enough to challenge her dogmatic assertions.

Ireland's radicalism speaks for itself. Along with NOW she has attempted to increase the number of abortions performed nationwide, endorsed the radical politics of feminism, and has unscrupulously attacked the GOP's Contract With America. Ireland and Elders are radicals who can only be viewed as mainstream at a school such as Tufts, where social elitism and political correctness dominate.

One need look no further than Dean Knable's politically-motivated manipulation of her very own Controversial Speakers Policy in order to discover the administration's true feelings about maintaining a campus that cherishes the free expression of beliefs and ideas. According to the policy a speaker is controversial "If other appearances by this individual have been accompanied by demonstrations, strong and vocal disagreement with the speaker's views by the audience, disapproval by some community members of permission to appear or if the speaker is from a country in the midst of hostilities with another...." Elders and Ireland have each issued statements and supported extreme positions that have inspired widespread contention. Neither of these two individuals were deemed controversial speakers by the Dean of Students Office. Conversely, the conservative Dinesh D'Souza was designated a controversial speaker for his 1991 speech at Tufts. It can only be assumed that an individual's politics determines whether or not he must uphold the standards of Dean Knable's policy.

Ostensibly, Tufts recognizes the value and importance of intellectual freedom in an academic environment. The university's actual views on the subject are motivated by petty political biases. The invitations of supposedly educational, thought-provoking individuals to speak on campus ultimately become forums to wallow in feel-good liberalism. Sadly, freedom of expression has taken a back seat to preferential politics.

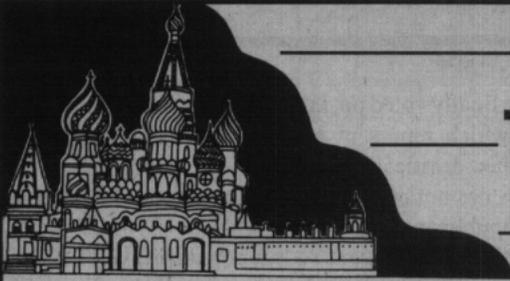
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The Eastern White House

Moscow

Dear Hillary,

We sure are having a great time here in Moscow. President Yeltsin has really rolled out the red carpet for us, and it sure brings back memories of my college days. Last night, everyone got together for a big banquet, and Tipper let Al drink some vodka. It probably wasn't a good idea, though, because a few minutes later he stood up and started singing "Back in the USSR." That is, until Tipper grabbed him by the ear and took him back to his room. Yeltsin passed out between dinner and dessert, and we haven't seen him since. I left at midnight and stopped at the Moscow McDonald's for some fries.

This visit isn't all fun and games, though. Tomorrow is the big ceremony commemorating the victory of the Soviet war effort over Nazi Germany. You know, John Major wanted me to come to London and celebrate the victory there; but the way I see it, allies come first. Anyway, you know how much I hate these military things. I'm thinking I'll start tomorrow's ceremony with some of our old protest songs.

Hey Charles, Winnie, Adolph & Benito: One, two three, what are we fighting for?

Hope Pakistan's a blast.

Bill

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Commentary

A Navy Without Ships

Its coffers depleted by operations in Somalia, Bosnia, and Haiti, the Pentagon is forced to cut \$2.5 billion from the military's operating budget. Tentative plans to save the required amount include ordering Air Force pilots to cut back flying time by twenty-five percent, further delaying the overhaul of aircraft carriers, and canceling Army and Marine Corps training. The restrictions on operations are expected to inhibit the ability of the military to maintain a ready fighting force. In the words of Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon, the proposals "will create a lot of training problems...."

Unfortunately, one of America's greatest strengths, its military, is sinking to the wasteful level of other aspects of the federal government. Military interventions in Rwanda, Somalia, Haiti, and Bosnia have been ineffectual at best and often counterproductive. Millions of dollars, countless man-hours and scores of lives were lost in the effort to achieve goals which were unattainable. Money spent on the four recent humanitarian missions did nothing to protect American national security; the operations were a waste, as they were irrelevant to the United States and only served to expend funds vital to national defense.

Maintaining a secure and free state by providing for defense and internal policing is the only legitimate endeavor of government. Yet time, money, and resources committed to that cause are all being drastically scaled back. The percentage of federal expenditures dedicated to the military is decreasing as President Clinton forks over funds to his National Service Corps. Wasteful military actions only serve to exacerbate the problem. The result is a weakened nation more susceptible to attack and armed confrontation. A strong defense has long been a priority of the United States and must remain one as the international system becomes more unstable.

GOP Senators Should Follow Their Own Lead

Commentators on the operation of government have often looked favorably upon the slower, more stately pace of debate in the US Senate, when comparing it with the feverish and hectic manner of the House of Representatives. Given the contentious history of these legislative bodies, it comes as no surprise that many of the provisions of Newt Gingrich's Contract With America have lost momentum in moving to the north wing of the Capitol. Unfortunately, as key provisions of the contract came before the Senate they have been watered down or defeated completely. When bills such as the Balanced Budget Amendment and the moratorium on federal

regulations were finally voted on, the strong nature and language of the legislation which represent meaningful changes in federal policy were either drastically weakened or simply killed. The culprit, however, has not been the deliberate nature of the Senate, but moderate Republicans.

Last November, Republicans rode a popular wave of support to victory by campaigning on such conservative themes as less government and lower taxes. Unfortunately, when faced with the challenge of acting on campaign promises, moderate Republican senators have balked. Oregonian Mark Hatfield, for example, the lone Republican senator who opposed the Balanced Budget Amendment, granted the opposition the solitary vote it needed to defeat one of the most overdue and long-awaited bills in history.

The BBA was not the only Gingrich-supported bill to get curtailed by the Senate. The House recently passed a six-month moratorium on new federal regulations 276-146; a tally which reflects widespread—including considerable Democratic—support. The bill quite simply prohibited federal agencies from creat-

ing new regulations for six months, during which time the House intends to vote on an omnibus regulations bill. But critics in the Senate derided the bill as a threat to public health, fearing that America would be unable to survive without regulations. As a result, the curtailed bill that the Senate passed and the House will vote on shortly, will allow Congress to veto any specific federal regulation, but allows all others to pass with unanimous consent.

The Senate, in its stately and sedate manner, has lost the revolutionary fervor of the November election. Two years ago, a Republican minority in the Senate stood firm against the Democrats, leading in part to the monumental victory of 1994. Republicans stopped President Clinton's "Economic Stimulus" spending package because they refused to compromise their ideals. Today, faced with the task of providing leadership beyond opposition, the Senators would do well to heed the lessons of the past and not bow to the Democrat minority.

Thanks for the Help, Bill

Vice president Al Gore's "Reinventing Government" program has once again risen to the surface of Bill Clinton's political agenda. As the Republican Congress takes a meat cleaver to the pork-swollen federal budget, the administration has plodded away making minor cuts in expendable programs; Clinton announced last week his intention to cut \$13 billion from just four departments. The Interior Department, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Small Business Administration, and National Aeronautics and



Space Administration are the focus of his plan. While this proposal by President Clinton is certainly welcomed by Republicans and conservatives, it does not even begin to tackle the mounting budget deficit.

When the President announced his intention to curtail spending on NASA and the Interior Department, he touted his ability to make meaningful cuts without touching the summer jobs, drug awareness and national service programs—pork-barrel spending projects expected to be the first on the GOP chopping block. Although the President may be quite skilled at finding ways to save taxpayers \$13 billion, he knows there are other portions of the budget that can and should be cut. No federal government, especially not one that is \$4.5 trillion in debt, should be spending money to encourage “volunteer service.” Americorps and the Peace Corps all sound good, but cost too much and are simply outside the realm of the state's duties.

The federal government cannot undergo significant reductions in expenditures unless social welfare programs, including those for youth, are eliminated. All areas of government require minimization, and the GOP has started to unveil the sometimes painful restrictions on spending that Clinton has challenged them to make. Balancing the budget is not a simple task, and Clinton's desire to keep the game a political one only hinders the process.

Innocent Victims

Marjory Lant, a former Pine Street Inn employee who accused her boss of rape, suddenly dropped all charges three years after having leveled the accusation. Her decision, supposedly based on a reluctance to release her mental health records to the defendant, has touched off a wave of controversy throughout Boston. Once Miss Lant had charged her superior with rape, a gruesome and terrifying process of social leperization had begun: the man's name had been publicly defamed and his career damaged for good. Few will remember, now, that his constitutionally-protected rights to a speedy and public trial and to confront witnesses had been trampled upon, or that his accuser withdrew the charge for fear that information about her character might become public.

Because rape is such an abominable crime, and victims have been so horribly violated, the press is often kept in the dark as to

their identities. Meanwhile, the accused must face a court and media trial in which his standing as a man is questioned. Often, the accused's only way to clear his name is to shed light on problems with his accuser's character as a witness. The man-hating press often cries foul and leaps to the conclusion that “he must be guilty,” and so even an acquittal is not enough to clear a man's name.

For this very reason, the right of a defendant to a public trial must be protected at all costs. Governor Weld must not be allowed to pass the bill he supports which would curb defendants' access to accuser's medical histories. Curbing the rights of accused criminals to a fair trial in the name of “victim's rights” can only lead to certain and increased injustice for all.

Packwood, On The Dole

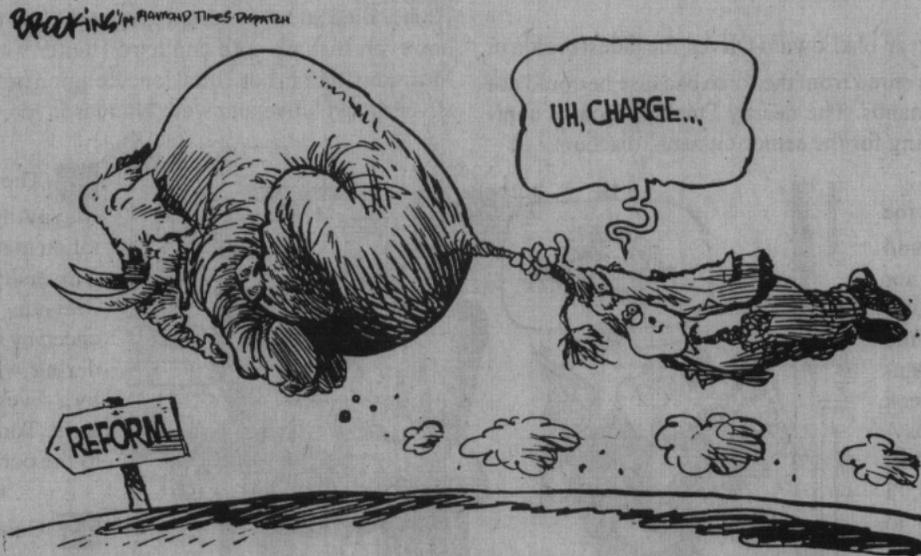
Finally, the Republican Senate has shown a little strength of character. In comments to the press last week, Bob Packwood, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, predicted that the Senate would pass into law fundamental changes in the welfare system as approved by the House. A key aspect of the measure will bring an end to the status of Aid to Families with Dependent Children as an “entitlement.” Currently, AFDC is guaranteed to

everyone who qualifies, even if that means increasing expenditures beyond the original budget. Under a similar plan approved by the House, that budget will remain binding, diminishing government's role in social engineering.

The announcement surely strikes a blow to the liberal political elite who believe in forced charity on the part of government. These individuals wrongly

believe that having money is a fundamental human right and hold that all citizens are entitled to some. By telling people that they were entitled to cash payments from the state and that the money would always be there for them, welfare created a cycle of dependency that was more a trap than a social safety net.

The end of AFDC as an entitlement, however promising, does not signal the end to “welfare as we know it.” The Senate and President Clinton have both indicated misgivings about conservative mandates such as the denial of assistance to teen mothers. The bill passed by the House is by no means the requiem of welfare, but the chapel bells do seem to be ringing.



Fortnight in Review

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

P5 A poll of American grade schoolers shows that 24% do not regularly brush their teeth, fifteen percent believe cheese to be a great source of fiber, and seven percent consider aspirin an illegal drug. But 75% do know how to fire an uzi, put on a condom, and apply for an NEA grant.

P5 Another report indicates that one in ten high school students carries a weapon to school. Good to see the young homosexuals are using protection.

P5 *The New York Post* reports that in Garden City, one businessman was so angry that he drove through town in his Lincoln, shooting at store windows with a slingshot. In actuality, a white man just pulled the slingshot from his briefcase.

P5 North Carolina has responded to the growing hazard of anti-smoking fanaticism by passing a law guaranteeing the right of smokers to light up. Who would have thought that Helms country would ever be a safe haven for flammers?

P5 LAPD Geezer, 59-year-old Edward Oliver, the oldest rookie in the squad's history, has retired from the force because he could not handle the rigorous demands. The nearby Dunkin' Donuts complained that he kept asking for the senior citizens' discount.

P5 A security guard at the Raleigh airport shoved former Virginia Governor Doug Wilder after the wildman's suspenders set off the metal detectors. When Dangerous Doug tried to check the guard's badge, the psychopath got angry, choked the governor, and yelled, "I don't like you, don't try to get my name." Gosh, sounds like an interview with Sherry Dong.

P5 Reasonable Louisianans have objected to the inclusion of *The New Joy of Gay Sex* in the state library. They don't want New Orleans to become the Big Sleazy.

P5 A convicted Albuquerque murderer escaped from prison last week by using a blowtorch. He might have gotten away with it, too, having hidden in his refrigerator. The only problem for the young varmint, however, was that when the cops arrived, his two-year old daughter pointed to the icebox and said, "daddy's in there." Baby iced her daddy.

P5 Shaw's supermarket in Londonderry, New Hampshire, has had to pull from its shelves copies of Jim Carrey's *Ace Ventura: Pet Detective*, after families reported catching pornographic scenes at the end of the film. We're shocked that anyone watched the movie long enough to catch the surprise ending.

P5 Reverend James Riley of a United Methodist Church in Delaware begged his congregation to forgive him for having sex with two of its female members. The churchgoers responded by shouting "We forgive you." Fals'well that ends well.

P5 Representative Douglas Ahearne of Maine has proposed forcing lobbyists to wear blaze orange name tags—the same color as deer hunters' vests—while inside the state house. To maintain the theme, taxpayers will be forced to wear antlers.

P5 Former President Reagan and Christine Todd Whitman campaigner Ed Rollins reports that if Republicans are to remain successful Speaker Newt Gingrich must recast his public image in a more likable light. Muzzle his mom, too.

P5 We were upset to hear that prominent religious leader Howard Hunter died and was buried last week. We were relieved to learn, however, that the cold and hard Hunter was the President of the Mormon Church, not Tufts' lone Religion professor. Tufts' Howard is very much alive and well. No reason to celebrate just yet, Sol.

P5 The great poet laureate, Maya Angelou, refused an invitation to speak at Emporia State University in Kansas. Angelou's decision was reportedly influenced by her last visit to the area during which she was taunted by a reverend for her support of gays. Too bad she couldn't rise to the occasion.

P5 Congratulations to Dean Knable for her success at the Oscars.



P5 Education Secretary Richard Riley criticized Congressional Republicans for trying to eliminate 75% of the Department's budget for technology. Unlike public school teachers, computers work all day, know how to add, and can spell.

P5 Democrats have been quick to criticize Speaker Newt and company for slashing the national endowments. But last week, the NEH showed just how important its grants are, spending \$1,619,167 on the "National Conversation," a program to get Americans to think and talk more about themselves. Most topics centered on government waste and excessive taxation.

PS The world's oldest living communist, Nelson Mandela, has fired his estranged wife, "Tire for Hire" Winnie from the South African government. If her new job offer from Pol Pot doesn't work out, she can try hooking up with Kim Jong-Il.

PS Cyberpornographers feel threatened by the pending Communications Decency Act which would prohibit the creation or distribution of on-line pornography. Fans don't want to lose the White House Home Page.

PS If the Communications Decency Act doesn't pass, censors intend to keep hackers from surfing the net by making them log on through Emerald.

PS Top Ten Overheard Statements at Patricia Ireland's Family Dinner:

10. Cooking the turkey sure was tough with that non-phallogentric baster.
9. Nice dress, Frank.
8. Hey let's light the bra.
7. Pass the salt, NOW!
6. Sure, Newt's terrible, but his sister's a real cutie.
5. Did anyone see my Freshette?
4. Hey Patty, I see you shaved... just kidding!
3. Hey look it's Cousin It! Whoops, sorry Gloria.
2. Anyone have a good abortion today?
1. Sure you don't want me to get you a cab home Teddy?

PS In celebration of "International Women's Day," the Population Reference Bureau announced that women are less likely to be literate, well paid, or formally educated than men. Maybe so, but they sure can bake some mean chocolate-chip cookies.

PS Yoko Ono and Paul McCartney have buried the hatchet, declaring an end to their long-standing feud. To show their solidarity, Ono and the McCartneys recorded a song together titled "Hiroshima Sky is Always Blue." And Pearl Harbor water is always clear.

PS At Bubba's most recent checkup, doctors reported that he gained some five pounds. But, reports White House Spokesman Mike McCurry, "we don't have the body fat measure. It might be true that he has become somewhat more muscular in the past year." We doubt it, he hasn't had much of a chance to exercise his muscle since leaving the Arkansas state house.

PS Get a life, Kato.

PS Ben Nighthorse Campbell, the Senate's one little Indian, has joined the GOP. To celebrate their new colleague, Republicans wore Nighthorse's trademark bolo ties. They're also shutting down the Capitol and holding session in a wigwam.

PS One crazed sixteen-year-old Celtics fan risked life and limb, scaling Boston Garden's 80-foot high rafters to steal the banner featuring the late Reggie Lewis' retired number 35. The hoodlum says he just wanted to get as high as Reggie.

PS Alaskan House Majority Leader Al Vezev has offended his state's natives by inadvertently calling "indigenous" people "indigent," thus equating Eskimos with poverty. After all, some igloos are actually pretty fancy.



Tough luck, Charlie. Play Ball!

PS Qubilah Shabazz, who is charged with conspiring to assassinate Louis Farrakhan, has hired '60s reject William Kuntsler to be her lawyer. If things go wrong for Q, she should have no problem appealing on grounds of incompetent counsel.

PS Speaking of rejects, Colin Ferguson —Bernie Goetz's worst nightmare— will spend the rest of his life in Fishkill, NY. Wow, sucks to be him.

PS Henry Waxman, the House anti-tobacco crusader has been ousted from his smoke-filled closet. Lew Rothman, owner of JR Tobacco, reported that the self-styled Torquemada frequently ordered cigars from him. "It's time we made smoking hypocrisy..."

PS Sorry Mel, you can't seem to win anything.

The First 100 Days

Benn Lieberman

Amidst a storm of national disenchantment with liberal dogma and policies, the November 1994 national elections saw the Grand Old Party claim the majority in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Upon taking office nearly 100 days ago, the newly-elected conservative legislators vowed to accomplish the virtually unprecedented in American politics: they pledged to stand by their campaign promises and pass the policies contained in their central campaign document, the Contract with America. The Contract presents a sensible, coherent, and comprehensive plan to reform and eliminate numerous aspects of government and return control of the nation to its rightful owners: the people and the states.

During the campaign, GOP leaders assured the American public that a Republican majority would see to it that all ten points of the Contract appeared before the House during the first one hundred days of the new term. Although the House has not addressed every single issue exactly as planned, the progress to this point can only be described as remarkable. While only two of the measures have become full law (Congress is now subject to the same laws as the rest of the nation, and unfunded mandates are prohibited), nine of the points have been brought before the House, seven of which have passed. The only measure that failed to pass the House was the term limits proposal.

While a majority of congressmen voted to support term limits, the legislation was introduced as a constitutional amendment, which requires a two-thirds majority in order to pass.

The one point which has yet to be considered by the full House, a tax cut, is an

extremely important reform deserving of careful consideration. This issue will be coming up for a vote in the very near future, thus fulfilling one of the central promises of

The Contract seeks to enact those laws which nearly every politician has been promising to the American public for the last twenty years.

the Contract: to bring all items up for a vote in an efficient and timely manner.

The ten points of the Contract are representative of fundamental aspects of conservative ideology. Congress is to be subject to the same laws as the rest of the nation, congressional staffs are being sliced, and a repeal of Bill Clinton's crime legislation is in the works. A freeze on new federal regulations, a balanced budget amendment, and a line item veto have all been passed in the House. Although congressional term limits were not passed and the issue of tax cuts has yet to be addressed, landmark tort and wel-

the progress of several elements of the GOP's plan. Despite its Republican majority, the Senate still has a strong liberal contingent. Since senators serve six-year terms while representatives are elected every two years, the Senate is less easily swayed by the changing opinions of the American public. Also, the Senate has historically been more deliberative than the House when considering a given bill. Specifically, the Senate weakened the freeze on new regulations, and

while the Balanced Budget Amendment received a majority of the votes, it narrowly missed gaining the necessary two-thirds majority.

Despite these defeats, one must not lose sight of the fact that the Contract is a unique and effective document for two reasons. It demonstrates that conservatives can work to enact positive change by downsizing government. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, the Contract seeks to enact those laws which nearly every politician has been promising to the American public for the last twenty years.

Indeed, much work still remains. Many of the bills must still pass the Senate, and will ultimately land on President Clinton's desk. It is not likely that any of these measures will have enough votes to override a presidential veto. If, however, the President does not wish to be saddled with the blame for Washington gridlock, he will surely pass most of the Contract's points that are sent to the Oval Office for executive approval. To do otherwise would certainly ensure his failure to win re-election in 1996. Republicans, therefore, must not relent in their efforts against liberalism.

As long as Congress adheres to the conservative ideas and values that allowed the GOP to obtain its majority, the process of reform on Capitol Hill will continue to be a positive one.

Mr. Lieberman is a junior majoring in Biology.

BRUCKINS THE HONORABLE THOMAS BRUCKINS



fare reform legislation have also been sent to the Senate for consideration.

While the House has been extremely active in considering and passing major pieces of legislation, only a few aspects of the Contract have been signed into law. The Senate is primarily responsible for slowing

The Nominees for the Third Annual SOURCE Awards



CROOK OF THE YEAR

With so many corrupt characters, Tufts could open its own prison. The nominees for 1994-5 are: "Have it Our Way" **Hotung Cafe**;

Lecture Series' one-man gang, Tufts' version of Jimmy Hoffa, **Sherry "The Check's in the Mail" Dong** "Fistful of Won," the former **Treasurer of the Korean Students' Association** who got caught trying to get a free lunch on Matt Stein; and of course, **Tufts University**, which, for just 100 grand, offers top notch courses like "Gender, Kinship and Person" and "Issues in Non-Canonical Literature."

BEST NEW IDEA

They are few and far between these days, but here are last year's top ideas: JJ Kwashnak's **Fireworks at Homecoming**; Super-Newt Gingrich's **Contract with America**; the perennially new idea of **Cable and Hardwiring the Dorms**; and the administration's reluctant **Salvation of the Religion Department**

THE FOOT-IN-MOUTH

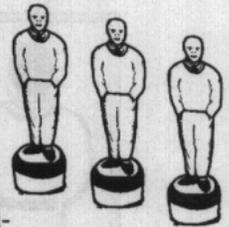
The biggest toe-suckers of 1994-5 are: House Majority Leader **Dick Arme**y for his succinct but improper description of Barney F... Frank; Rutgers President **Francis Lawrence**, who inadvertently suggested that blacks are genetically inferior to whites; **Kathleen Gingrich** for her honest portrayal of Hillary Clinton; and **Joycelyn Elders** for her rude and contorted dismissal of Chris Weinkopf's question.

VICTIM OF THE YEAR

We're all victims, but the following are society's *most* oppressed: **Charlene Desir**, who was violated by *The Daily's* translating her expression, "colored folk," to "African-American"; **The CD-Club Bandits**, suspended by tough-guy Bruce Reitman without a trial; Ginsu spokesman **OJ Simpson**; and last but certainly not least, **Colin "Whitey Did It" Ferguson**, the Long Island Railroad bulletboy.

HYPOCRITE OF THE YEAR

The 1994-5 Nominees are: *Daily* "Viewpoint" writer **Josh Robin**, who stresses the need for honest journalism, even though his reporter alter-ego falls far short of such lofty standards; "Beam Me Up" **Scotty McLennan**, who has praised Tufts for saving the Religion Department, although he refused to defend it over the past year; the legislation-hungry **TCU Senators** who voted overwhelmingly for a constitution about which each member expressed misgivings; and **Joycelyn "I don't answer... lies" Elders** for her contradictory defense of girl-sinker Teddy Kennedy and her opposition to violence against women.



MOST LIKELY TO SOON REQUIRE INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Always deficient, always defunct, the **Emerald** computer heads the list of nominees for this new category; drunk and deluded OJ lawyer **F. Lee Bailey** is next on the list; then comes **Anyone Insecure Enough to Misconstrue our "12 Days of Kwanzaa" Carol as Racist**, finally, **Regular Daily Features Readers** must be crying for a nice padded room.

PERSON MOST IN NEED OF AN ENEMA

The following Tuftonians could certainly stand a bottle of Ex-Lax and a visit to the proctologist: Rob Devigne Fan Club Secretary and the *Daily's* vain attempt at literacy, **Michael J.W. Stickings**; John "Sorry, No Comment" **DiBiaggio** for his love-in with the TLGBC at its October rally; Bags' sniveling henchman, **I. "Please Call me Mel," Bernstein**; TCU Treasurer **Matt Stein**, whose adoration of heavy-handed rules and weighty regulations provides hours of joy for all those who must work with him.

FLIP-FLOP OF THE YEAR

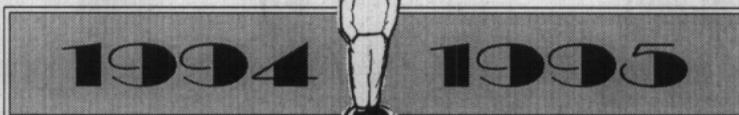
The Flip-Flop of the Year award is presented to the person who has had the most dramatic change of heart. This year's nominees: Senatorial would-be **Mitt Romney**, who foolishly thought he could out-liberal Ted Kennedy; culture chameleon **Dean Elizabeth Ammons**, who went from the Religion Department's crucifier to savior; **President Clinton**, no explanation necessary; and former speech code champion **Bruce Reitman**, who demonstrated a newfound respect for free speech by not prosecuting the pin-up postering boys of 1-2-3.

WORST NEW IDEA

Although bad ideas abound, the following vie for the coveted title of worst: Saul "Bad Medicine" Slapikoff's plan for **Including Affirmative Action in Tufts' Pre-Med Program**; **The Selection of Mrs. and Mr. Doris Kearns Goodwin as Commencement Speakers**; **Specter '96**; and the ill-conceived, ill-fated, and illogical drivel known as the **TCU's Proposed New Constitution**.

BIGGEST WASTE OF FUNDS

The nominees for this prestigious title are: **Wes Backman**, former Film Series Klingon wannabe who just won't leave and gets paid \$24,000 for a job the TCU used to do free; Wes' bosses, the ever-ineffective hacks at the **Office of Student Activities**; all the **Small Minds Who Contributed to Joycelyn Elders' Absurd Address**; and the even smaller minds who concocted the **Senate's Constitutional Referendum**.



And the V



Person Most in Need of an Enema

Michael J.W. Stickings



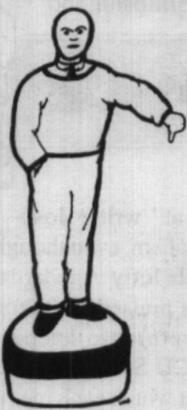
The Foot-in-the-Mouth

Dick Arney



Flip-Flop of the Year

Dean Ammons (Unanimous)



Worst New Idea

Goodwin & Husband



The Worst Idea

The Third Annual

Winner is...

SOURCE Awards



Most Likely to Soon
Require Institutionalization

Anyone Who Thought
"The 12 Days of
Kwanzaa" was Racist



Hypocrite
of the Year

Scotty
McLennan

Best
New Idea

e Contract
th America



Victim
of the Year

Colin
Ferguson



Biggest Waste
of Funds

TCU
Elections

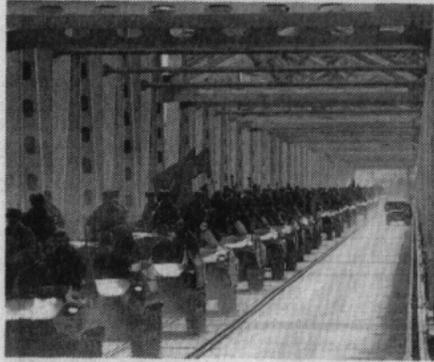


THE PRIMARY SOURCE Presents
The SOURCE Award for Lifetime Achievement to:

Ronald Wilson Reagan
Fortieth President of the United States

In his eighty-four years, Ronald Reagan has demonstrated a commitment to freedom and integrity unparalleled in modern politics. As President, his efforts to reduce taxation, deregulate business, and emancipate the poor from government dependency renewed America's sense of liberty. By fighting the menace of communism, he exported the values of democracy and individualism internationally. In addition to remaining unfailingly true to his beliefs, he articulated them concisely and persuasively, earning himself the title of Great Communicator.

The following pictures represent just a few of the Gipper's accomplishments:



The Liberation of Afghanistan & Nicaragua



7 Years of Record Economic Growth



Restored American Patriotism



Made the World Safe for Peace... Through Strength



"Mr. Gorbachev... Tear Down This Wall!" -June 12, 1987



Signed the First Ever Treaty to Eliminate Nuclear Weapons



...And Brought Communism to its Knees.

Whose Money Is It?

Colin Delaney

A long-standing maxim in American politics is that "Taxes go up, but never come down." Of course, Ronald Reagan was able to prove the exception to the rule, and now the Republican-controlled Congress is trying to do the same. A key component of the House GOP's Contract With America is the promise to bring to the floor a vote on a middle class tax cut, along with a number of other proposals to lessen the tax burden on all American citizens.

Since the Sixteenth Amendment to the Constitution authorized the collection of a tax on incomes in 1913, the federal government has been taking money from Americans left and right. Under President Clinton's FY1995 Budget, the highest federal personal income tax rate is fully 39.6%; corporations pay as much as 39% of their income to the government, all of this after having paid a 28% tax on capital gains. Add to this a 14.3% Social Security payroll tax, property taxes, sales taxes, state income taxes and a 55% marginal tax for dying (the Estate tax) and it is a wonder that we have any money at all. These days, it seems, that even in death, taxes surely cannot be avoided.

Excessive tax rates are only the beginning. "Public servants" have fallen into a damning pattern of imposing unreasonably high levies, spending incredible sums of money to questionable ends, and conducting a deceitful public relations campaign to justify their policies.

Tax Relief At Last

As a part of their attempts to radically change the way government operates, Republican candidates for the House last year proposed sweeping reforms in tax legislation, the cornerstone of which is the elimination of the marriage and family taxes. Under the current system, an unmarried couple living together pays less money to

the federal government than they would if they were married. In order to eliminate this unfair and burdensome tax which is little more than a disincentive for couples to

These days, it seems, that even in death, taxes surely cannot be avoided.

marry, Congress has taken steps to reform the tax code so that it encourages the formation of the bonds that are the bedrock of American society.

Within the last 94 days, the House has also taken crucial steps to reform the way the federal government treats children. When one considers the combined effects of the marriage tax, the small tax credit for children, and the immense sums paid out to unwed mothers in the form of welfare, it becomes apparent that the federal government does not want children to be born into a two-parent family. The US government

the birth certificate so that no attempt to make him pay his fair share can be made. The greatest tragedy of the welfare system, is, of course, that the state offers an incen-

tive for women already on welfare to have more children: they receive increased food stamps and AFDC allotments with every additional child.

All of these problems have been addressed by the new Republican Congress. House

leaders plan to offer a \$500 per child tax credit to families. In order to help move middle class America away from dependency on Social Security benefits, a House Committee has approved a plan that would establish American Dream Savings Accounts which would be exempt from taxation on earned interest. Still another tax credit has been approved for families which take care of an elderly relative. Finally, a tax incentive is in the works that will encourage adoption.

In addition to giving incentives to families to marry and have children, the new conservative Congress is finally working to end the terminal cycle of dependency on the state. The GOP leadership realizes something that 40 years of tax and spend liberal Democrats did not: that government simply cannot provide for an individual's success better than he can. These vital changes will help insure that Americans will be able to break free from the burden of ballooning tax rates and provide for their own livelihood, rather than have irresponsible members of society live off the economy's producers.



Lunches and Liars

Naturally, the consequence of high taxes is high spending—on unnecessary services and superfluous bureaucracy. When GOP members of Congress proposed that the

Continued on the next page.

Continued from the previous page.

federal government stop directly providing lunches to schoolchildren, liberals and the media rushed to portray the Republicans as heartless friends of the rich. Joe Moakley, John Kerry and Ted Kennedy all ran out to local schools to hold press conferences with 8 year-olds over their sloppy joes. Members of Congress and other statist liberals such as Joycelyn Elders, claimed that Newt Gingrich was taking food out of the mouths of children, while the press did nothing to correct the misinformation. In fact, the bill concerning the school lunch program only transferred authority over the disbursement of funds to the states, it did not eliminate the program.

Not surprisingly, though, Democrats and the press—proud of their propaganda success—began spreading more lies, this time about the Republican tax cut plan. The tax-and-spenders used inflammatory language and heart-wrenching appeals to the public in an attempt to rally support for their vision of an activist big government. Dick Gephardt, the House Minority Leader, appeared on CNN the day the GOP announced its intentions to go ahead with a capital

gains tax cut. He claimed that Republicans were starving children and taking clothes off their backs so that the GOP could turn around and offer welfare to its big business friends. Liberal loudmouth and House Minority Whip David Bonior of Michigan made a similar accusation, saying that conservatives think government should

not help the poorest of society's poor, but give handouts to the rich in the form of tax cuts. Elaine Kamarck, staff director of the "reinventing government" project, contrasted the House's proposed budget cuts with her own by saying, "We are not looking to cut school lunches... to cut women, infants and children's food supplements."

The fantastic irony of the Democrat's claim is that if the GOP plan passes, it does exactly the opposite of what they say it will. Reductions in spending on social programs may seem to take food, clothing, and housing away from the poor, but those are things they never should have been promised by government in the first place. However heart-

Taxation for the sake of entitlement is not charity in the Christian vein, but theft in the way of Robin Hood.

less the analogy made on the House floor may have been, it was accurate: People are just like alligators; when we feed them, they will become dependent on us, and not be able to feed themselves. Government seems to be in need of a warning sign: Don't Make the People Dependent. True enough, the market will not be able to secure prosperity for all people at all times, but if the majority of Americans want society to care for the poor, they can surely give money to charity for that purpose. Taxation for the sake of entitlement is not charity in the Christian vein, but theft in the way of Robin Hood.

corporation took risks, built factories, employed workers, and created products and wealth. The welfare queen who reaps the benefits of the fruited plain did *nothing*. When a tax cut goes into effect, the reality is that the government merely takes a little less money from the economy and gives a little less to somebody else.

A Hoodwinked Society

That the media failed to attack the Democrats' propaganda as untrue only indicates that the press agrees with what the liberals are saying. Media elites seemingly want to propagate the notion that people *are not* entitled to what they earn, and that non-producers *are* entitled to cash payments. That the GOP public relations team has been unable or unwilling to publicly challenge the above notion indicates either a sudden deficiency in marketing skills or an agreement with the liberal world view.

That the accusation that conservatives are stealing from the poor to give to the rich has gone unchallenged by so many for so long may also indicate that American society itself has been transformed. It is impossible to come into contact with a product or service that has not been regulated by a commission or federal agency. One cannot buy a product without paying a tax on it, or provide a service without the government taking its cut. The state's long and not-so-invisible hand is so pervasive, that society practically accepts its presence. The thought that Americans—that unusually independent-minded breed of people—have resigned themselves to the interference of a distant and illogical government is horrifying.

The state has become so much a part of everyday life that we no longer challenge its authority or its "right" to take our property. Although we have a contractual relationship with our government—we pay for certain vital services such as defense and crime prevention—we should not be resigned to its theft of the wealth we create.

Mr. Delaney is a sophomore majoring in Political Science.



If one takes the current government interference in the economy for granted, then the cuts do take money from the poor and give it to the rich. But government's view of the world and the economy is not reality. Each year, the IRS takes about 36% of a corporation's profits and gives it to someone who did nothing to earn it. The

Hotung To Go

Steve Seltzer

The prospect of eating in the dining halls during weekends is simply too much to bear. Eating off campus is enjoyable, but often expensive and time consuming. Sometimes the only recourse on Friday and Saturday evenings is to try to find a decent meal at the Hotung Café.

Although paying for my meals with points bought by my parents is a pleasant consequence of patronizing Hotung, the pizza parlor is characterized by low-quality food and poor service. Managed exclusively by Tufts Dining Services, Hotung is an indicator of the university's feckless and wasteful approach to operating itself. Insulated from market pressures, Tufts functions in much the same manner as government. By providing such services, the university secures itself from the prospect of competition, as it is accountable only to itself. Hotung Café is little more than a shoddily run department within Tufts' labyrinthine bureaucracy.

Hunger Pains

A few months ago, when I placed an order for potato skins, I was told that they would be ready shortly. After fifteen minutes of waiting, I proceeded to check on my order and was once again informed that the potato skins were on their way. Fifteen minutes after that, I was given the bad news, that Hotung did not have any potatoes. After what seemed like an eternity of waiting for what was supposedly the latest addition to Hotung's menu, I was understandably upset that the pizzeria did not carry the item. Curiously, there was a sign on the counter that encouraged customers to purchase the skins.

Hotung follies are not rare occurrences. On another occasion, I phoned in an order

for three large pizzas. I arrived at Hotung to pick up the order, waiting patiently in line until it was my turn to be served. I was given the pizzas and was about to pay for them

Hotung Café is little more than a shoddily run department within Tufts' labyrinthine bureaucracy.

when the server informed me that I had to wait; the person standing in line behind me was called up to the register. The worker explained that the other customer was entitled to jump ahead of me because he was purchasing a small order, one that was easier to process. I politely offered that my order should have been completed first for the simple reason that it was my turn. A second worker, aghast at my unreasonable complaint, told me to "chill out."

with two. The café also has problems maintaining an adequate food supply. I was treated to yet another disappointing Hotung experience after placing a phone order, that time for a pizza with meatball topping. When I picked up the pizza I learned that Hotung had run out of meatball toppings. Instead, my pizza was covered with sausage.

Jumbowaste

Hotung's many flaws are the offspring of direct management by Tufts University. Tufts Dining Services operates the pizza parlor in a competition vacuum; consequently, Hotung Café is shielded from the market forces that prompt businesses to improve the quality of their products and the efficiency of their operations. As is the case with most colleges, Tufts is under minimal pressure to operate its internal departments in a cost-effective, efficient manner. Tufts, in effect, runs itself in the same unproductive manner that government conducts its business.

Once a student enters academia, he discovers that universities operate in ways that are often inconsistent with the workings of "the real world." Since Hotung Café does not exist to make a profit, Dining Services has little reason to strive to improve the quality of the service. Customers unsatisfied with Hotung are free to complain to a management that is under no obligation to respond positively. Most of Hotung's discontent patrons are therefore likely to pursue other eateries via the free market.

Competition, a meaningless term to those employed by the Ivory Tower, has minimal bearing on Hotung Café. Despite an abundance of fast-food restaurants in Medford and Somerville, Hotung continues



Lackluster service is complemented by Hotung's limited menu. I placed an order for a small pizza and was promptly informed that I was asking the impossible—Hotung does not make small pizzas on the weekends. Only on a college campus such as Tufts would one find a pizzeria that sells only one size of pizza, yet publishes a menu

*Please see "Hotung,"
continued on page 20.*

A Lesson in Division

Buddie Jo DiFonzo

Liberal social commentators have long promoted the myth that blacks are held captive by an oppressive "system" controlled by white males. All too often, the American Dream is dismissed by left-wing visionaries as an unattainable goal for blacks. Rather than allowing all people to rely upon their individual abilities in competitive settings, the liberal establishment and government have fostered a dependency among minorities upon preferential treatment. The assertion that blacks need a separate set of guidelines under which to compete is tragically rooted in the racism that liberals have feverishly attempted to combat.

Separatist politics have found a safe haven in college campuses throughout the country. The institution of culture houses, the creation of ethnically-oriented academic programs, and race-conscious admissions procedures are common phenomena in academia. Another striking, though seemingly innocuous, example of a segregationist policy here at Tufts is the university's approach to issuing study guides. The Academic Resource Center (ARC) offers a variety of materials that describe effective study strategies for the entire student body. Such standardized methods as the Cornell Note-Taking System and The Learning Cycle are tools which all students can utilize so that they may improve their academic performance. The African American Center (and perhaps other culture centers), however, deems it necessary to distribute its own study guide.

The seventeen-page booklet was designed by the Efficacy Committee at Harvard University in the late 1970's as a helpful guide for minority students. A casual read through the guide will indicate that the members of this committee lack confidence in the preparation of minority students entering college. The structure and content of the African American Center guide strongly imply that its creators and distributors believe that blacks are less capable of handling college work than other students.

Institutional Racism

There is solid indication that the guide is the result of an arrogant and condescending assumption that minorities, in addition

The structure and content of the African American Center guide strongly imply that its creators... believe that blacks are less capable of handling college work than other students.

to lacking study skills, do not know how to interpret basic study suggestions. The guide is ridden with tedious descriptions of obvious procedures. For instance, instead of simply offering a series of suggestions, the guide devotes an entire section to an explanation of "How to use this guide." The following instructions are included: "Read the entire document in its entirety." This point is redundant and should be implicit in any publication.

The Academic Resource Center, instead of producing a lengthy and extraneous

For instance, *Seven Strategies for Studying in College* advises the student to use the Cornell Note-Taking system, a standard procedure which improves efficiency in notetaking. The complete illustration of this system is provided in another handout offered by the Center. This information provides an explanation of an effective study hint without insulting students' intelligence. The Academic Resource Center seems to realize that students are less likely to read a seventeen page booklet of obvious material than a single page of concise points.

The study guide, conversely, is replete with extraneous information, including a section entitled "information" which repeats points made in the general course bulletin, and has little to do with improving study skills. Such advice as "Avoid reliance on information from people who have not had successful experiences" is not only unnecessary, but condescending. Students attending a prestigious university certainly do not need such obviously basic advice.

Sections on how to take notes are also included, as students are reminded to "use 8-1/2 x 11 paper." The guide reminds students to remember that exam questions are often derived from the lecture, a point that should be considered a given. In addition, it explains how to read, advising that one "highlight important concepts only," a point that is implicit in the very process. As to how to use a syllabus, one should "use the syllabus to determine when assignments

are due." This is the general purpose of a syllabus and does not need to be restated in a study guide. Under the heading "homework," the student is instructed to "do it before it is due," another ridiculously unnecessary explanation.

Please see "Study Guide," continued on page 22.



The African-American Center

booklet of unnecessary information, offers a variety of concise materials. These are presented in the form of numerous papers consisting of a series of suggestions for improving study habits. The ARC materials simply state these suggestions. They offer brief elaborations on these points, but do not assume that the student requires instructions on how to interpret the study hints they provide.

Church in State

Chris Weinkopf

In an age in which pervasive decay begs for moral leadership, politicians and judges try fervently to keep their beliefs and faiths separate from the nation's laws and policies. Ironically, such concerns for freedom and tolerance have undermined the American democracy. Without ethical standards to regulate societies and individuals, popular rule and freedom of choice can no better ensure against tyranny and injustice than can autocracy and repression.

A case in point is the pro-choice movement, which enjoys at least partial support from the overwhelming majority of Americans. Abortionist logic dictates that a woman's right to govern her own body transcends that of another person to live, and murder of the unborn is justified merely by public declaration.

Pope John Paul II, in his recent *Evangelium Vitae*, however, undercuts the rationale of the pro-choice and vehemently secularist political agendas. It is the obligation of society, argues the Pontiff, to "acknowledge, respect, and promote" the values "which no individual, no majority, and no state can ever create, modify, or destroy." In his articulate refutation of nihilist and relativist approaches to government, the Pope repudiates what Cardinal Law has termed the "false dichotomy between personal choice and public choice."

Surgeon General nominee Henry Foster, for example, claims personally to "abhor abortion," yet champions its legality with no restrictions all the way through the third trimester of a pregnancy. "The legal toleration of abortion," writes John Paul, "can in no way claim to be based on respect for the conscience of others, precisely because society

has the right and duty to protect itself against the abuses which can occur in the name of conscience and under the pretext of freedom." In cases where innocent parties are affected, personal and public morality are inseparable.

Responsible Government, Responsible People

"The value of democracy," notes the Pope, "stands or falls on the values it promotes." Indeed, if a democracy fails to protect the basic rights of its citizens, it is

Morality derived from religion is no less valid than that obtained through secular socialization.

worthless. Ignoble or cruel legislation, even if approved by an overwhelming majority, is still ignoble and cruel.

The Pontiff is not the first to recognize the limitations of democracy; he echoes the concerns of America's founders. In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson contends that to secure the "certain unalienable rights" with which men are "endowed by their creator," "governments are instituted among Men." Far from the liberal cry of keeping morality and religion distinct from government, the nation's foun-

doms of speech, assembly, and religion are the rights of man, argued the framers, regardless of whether society recognizes them or not. The Bill of Rights thus declares such liberties off-limits to infringement from any momentary political consensus.

The framers warned against the real dangers of a tyranny of the majority, and therefore sought to safeguard against it. The Constitution is remarkable not because its prescribed government is republican, but because its democracy has been shielded from fleeting political movements that might otherwise violate absolute rights.

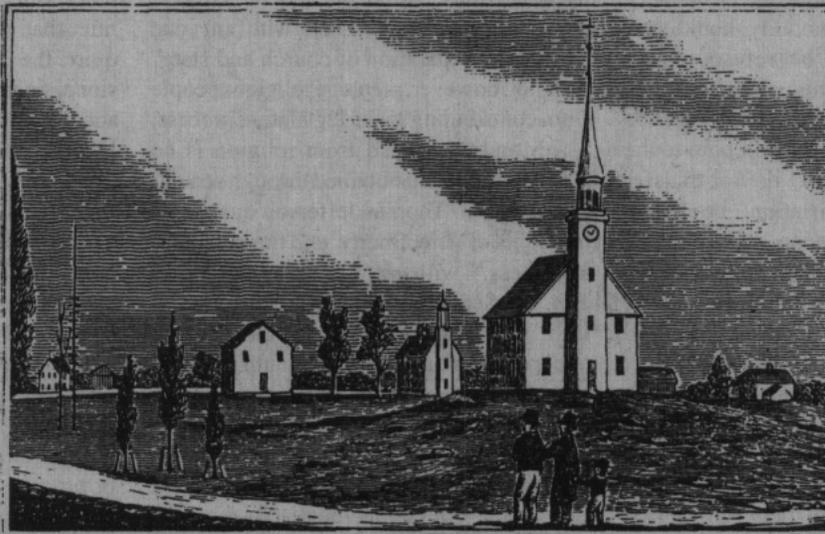
Shirking Responsibility

Yet the common pro-choice wisdom, 'I oppose abortion but think it should be legal,' defies historical tradition. If one believes that aborting a fetus is no different than killing a child, then he cannot defend legalizing the practice. When Jeffrey Dahmer acted upon his heartfelt belief that his victims had no right to live, he was

imprisoned. No one argued that Mr. Dahmer's appetite for human flesh should have been left to the discretion of his own "choice." The relativist argument for abortion—that the extent to which one person values human life is as valid as any other—may be politically convenient, but is morally bankrupt. The Pope's *Evangelium* stresses this very point, that

inalienable rights, such as the right to life, bear no relation to public or personal opinion.

*Please see "Evangelium,"
continued on the next page.*



dation rests upon the notion that governments are valid only if they defend fundamental rights. "Whenever any Form of Government," maintains Jefferson, "becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the People to alter it or abolish it."

**"Hotung," continued
from page 17.**

to exist at a plodding pace. As long as Tufts continues to finance its operation, Hotung does not have to concern itself with competing against other firms in order to acquire revenue.

Better Business

Tufts can drastically improve the quality of Hotung's product by running its dining system as if it were a business instead of a wasteful branch of government. The decision-makers on the Hill would do well to emulate the approach that Boston University has taken to its food services. Nineteen years ago BU hired Aramark, to replace the university-run dining program. In recent years, BU has developed a Food Court, as Aramark has issued contracts to a host of brand-name companies. Boston University students are now free to choose from such vendors as Burger King, Pizza Hut, and Mrs. Field's Cookies.

The decision to hire Aramark, and the subsequent move to issue contracts to popular companies has yielded only positive results, according to Ed Schastny, the Associate Director of Dining Services at BU. As a result, the university now offers such a wide variety of cuisines that students are able to eat almost any type of food that they

Tufts can drastically improve the quality of Hotung's product by running its dining system as if it were a business instead of a wasteful branch of government.

desire. Schastny was also pleased that, in the time since Aramark was hired, service has improved substantially. When the university controlled the dining service, a typical student meal, according to Schastny, consisted of "one entree, one fruit, one desert, and a glass of soda."

Boston University has provided its students with top-notch dining facilities by

treating its food system as if it were a business. Aramark makes every effort to provide the university with quality food service in order to maintain a profitable business relationship; Burger King, Pizza Hut, and the remainder of the Food Court companies are constantly improving their operations so that they will continue to receive contracts from Aramark. By venturing out into the free market, Boston University has brought competition, innovation, and productivity into its food service.

Hotung Café, meanwhile, is a model of stagnancy and inefficiency. Removed from the pressures of a market economy, the eatery is just another mani-

festation of Tufts' ineffectual approach to handling its affairs. If the university is truly concerned about providing its students with a high-quality pizza parlor, then it should allow the free market to make its entrance into the Campus Center.

Mr. Seltzer is a junior majoring in Political Science and Classics.

**"Evangelium," continued
from the previous page.**

In response to the *Evangelium*, Massachusetts' junior Senator John Kerry, a Catholic, acknowledges that "morality should enter into all of our choices," but refuses to stop supporting abortion rights, on the grounds that his personal opposition to the practice is rooted in religious faith. "My oath to the constitution requires that I do not transfer church doctrine into legislation," he claims. But the Senator's comments do not jibe. If morality should be considered in the drafting of law (few would argue that it should not, given that law inherently rests on moral convictions), then religion, which for most people is the basis of morality, must play a role as well.

Kerry claims that his refusal to vote pro-life is founded on America's "clear, time-honored separation between church and state." His senior colleague, Senator Teddy Kennedy, also supports the segregationist argument, saying "It would be wrong for any public official, whatever their [sic] religion, to attempt to legislate the laws of their church."

But the two senators confuse the meaning of the First Amendment clause prohibiting the "establishment" of an official religion. The nation's founders sought to create a haven for refugees of religious persecution, and thus barred the federal government from affiliating itself with any one faith. "The separation of church and state" does not, however, preclude religious people from contributing to the legislative process.

Morality derived from religion is no less valid than that obtained through secular socialization. Thomas Jefferson quantified the rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," with references to the "Creator." If Senators Kerry and Kennedy believe God's will is to spare the lives of unborn children, then they cannot, in good conscience, continue to defend state-sanctioned abortion.

Life Comes Second

Pro-choice claims premised on avoiding "legislating morality" or "imposing religion" are disingenuous. If the liberals who speak so ominously of the "Christian Right" believed their rhetoric, they would also chastise Jefferson, the abolitionist movement, and Martin Luther King. In reality, pro-

choice claims to secularism are founded on little more than a desire to promote a political agenda at any expense.

Renouncing abortion would destroy Senator Kerry and Kennedy's political careers. But in his *Evangelium*, the Pope admits that doing the right thing might "require the sacrifice of prestigious professional positions or the relinquishing of reasonable hopes of career advancement." Public good must come before political aspirations.

A democracy is only just if it strives to protect its citizens from tyrannies of the majority. Leaders must not forsake fundamental tenets of decency to appease ephemeral public opinion. "Choice" cannot come at the expense of innocent lives. The Pope has called upon "all people of good will," of all faiths, "under grave obligation of conscience, not to cooperate in practices, which even if permitted by civil legislation, are contrary to God's law." The Bay State Senators would be wise to take heed.

Mr. Weinkopf is a senior majoring in Classics and Political Science.

Theory of Objectivity

Ananda Gupta

The world is smaller today than it was yesterday. As once distant and isolated nations open themselves to the international community, different cultures and ideas often come into conflict with one another. Accordingly, both secondary and higher education have attempted to reconcile these conflicts between differing fundamental human beliefs by adopting "relativism," a philosophy that ascribes to the subjectivity of truth. Relativism's framework—the diametric opposite of objectivism—posits that truth is neither universal nor absolute and that the determinant of truth is perspective, not reality. Under relativism, no one person's perception of reality or morality is better, or more correct, than any other's.

Whither Relativism?

Proponents of relativist theory like to propagate the notion that it and pluralism—the theory that many ideas are better than one—are one and the same. Since pluralism has been part of the American character since the colonists landed in the new world, it is convenient for relativists to associate their philosophy with it in order to obtain popular support. However, a fundamental difference between the two world views makes the association inconsistent: pluralism does not deny absolute truth.

Relativism allows for universal tolerance, acceptance of diverse, even opposing, ideas, and eliminates the idea that an individual or school of thought can be "wrong." In the international sphere, differing perspectives are often accepted as equally true, when objective verification seems impossible. Terrorists view what they do not as terrorism *per se*, but as an extreme method of conveying their message, made acceptable by a lack of other recourse. Relativism holds that for the terrorists, the murder of innocent civilians is not actually terrorism, while it accepts that,

for the target nation, such aggression is terrorism. Thus, relativism is an "easy way out": an attempt to quickly solve a problem whose answers cannot be immediately and objectively verified.

Herein lies another temptation of relativism: the acceptance of swift, convenient

Relativism, because of its initially attractive quality of sparing anyone from being "wrong," disallows the judgment of any person, government, or society.

answers. If all perspectives are true, then difficult problems become much easier to resolve (since any and all approaches can be the "right" one). Finally, some feel uncomfortable or rude expressing a conviction that someone else's world view or belief system is objectively wrong. Such people find solace in relativism's holding that no belief system can be totally wrong if only seen from a different perspective.

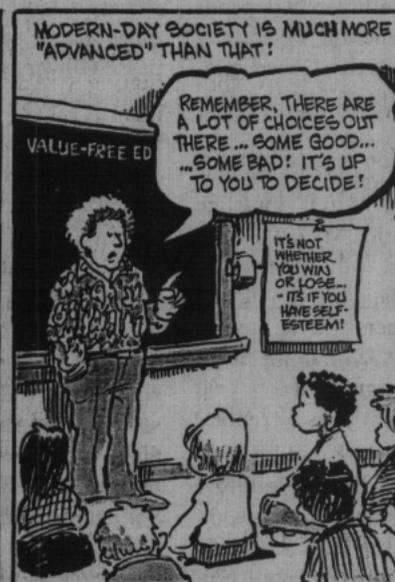
normally, their recent debate notwithstanding. Unfortunately, the pervasiveness of relativism and its implications extend far beyond the walls of the ivory towers, and cannot be ignored. If relativism is viable, then all notions of personal responsibility and accountability—indeed, all conceptions of right and wrong—must be discarded along with the objectivity of truth. However, these fundamental notions cannot be taken for granted.

If all truth is relative, then no act requires any sort of moral justification beyond the agent's simple conviction that what he did was right. With relativism, whatever and actor does can be self-justified, and is automatically viewed as "right." It is only when truth has authority that actions can be deemed "right" or "wrong." Since relativism robs truth of moral authority, anything can be both right and wrong at the same time, if viewed by different people. Perspective and sincerity become the only determinants of morality.

These consequences of relativism harm society because its moral standards lose their meaning. Homicide is considered immoral by civilized societies; with relativism, it doesn't have to be. For the relativist, Nazi Germany cannot be considered more or less moral than any other state, because it is reasonable to think that the Nazis' feelings towards Jews were sincere and

right. No relativist would dare to pass the judgment that what the Nazis did was wrong, in any absolute sense. While people should

Please see "Relativism," continued on the next page.



Social Implications

What is not as immediately clear, however, is the relevance of the moves towards relativism in society. In philosophy classes, the very existence of a material world is questioned and debated; yet outside class, students go about their lives and the world

*"Relativism," continued
from previous page.*

always take care not to leap to a moral judgment, a society that wholly refuses to judge its members will crumble for lack of foundation. Relativism, because of its initially attractive quality of sparing anyone from being "wrong," disallows the judgment of any person, government, or society.

Relativism: Self Contradiction

The chilling consequences of widespread adoption of relativism aside, fundamental problems with relativism as a philosophy remain. Relativism contains two major contradictions. The first is that all truths are relative. This claim makes an appeal to objectivity. Indeed, the most crippling irony of relativism is that it cannot avoid such appeals, because the basic premise of relativism must be stated in objective terms. Einstein's scientific Theory of Relativity—often invoked by relativists as proof of their beliefs because it holds that those items that appear to be solid and concrete truths of nature do not apply in every situation—contains constants. The contradiction is obvious when one notices that a theory that claims to throw out any attachment to absolutes ultimately depends upon one. In order to function, objectivity and relativism cannot co-exist. Hence, relativism falls apart before it establishes meaning.

Another contradiction results from the conflict of two different relative truths. Relativists often wave this problem away as semantic and claim that differing truths can

co-exist. Aside from its circularity, the argument devalues truth entirely and robs it of integrity since two co-existing yet different "truths" cannot be equally correct. If truth loses verifiability as one of its qualifiers, then it ceases to make any difference whether or not "truth" has any relation to reality. In effect, the veracity of one statement or another becomes meaningless.

Degrees of truth, however, should not be discounted. A statement may be partly true or not at all. Belief in objective truth does not necessitate viewing all things in terms of black and white; it merely accepts their existence and distinction. Shades of gray are still possible. Objective truth is the only way to accept shades of gray. With relativism, the black/white/gray metaphor does not make sense, because every color is the same as every other color, yet different for all persons. Nothing can be "more true" or "less true" than anything else. The result is a society in chaos, not knowing what to believe.

Church and State

Rejecting relativism has serious implications, especially when one considers the matter of the separation of church and state. For many, religious faith is the source of personal morality. If laws are to reflect society's moral standards—that is, to be more than a set of codes and regulations passed down to us from on high by elected representatives—then morality must be legislated. Since approximately 85% of Americans accept one form of Christianity or another, it is reasonable to infer that the majority of Americans derive their personal moral standards from that religion. It would

seem to follow, then, that if society's laws are to reflect its moral standards, then religious faith is a valid basis upon which to legislate.

Legislation does not have such a logical basis, however. One of the greatest problems with relativism is its arbitrary nature; religious faith is no less subjective. The number of religions and the conflicts they come into are proof of its arbitrary nature, as is the frequent admission of faith as the driving force behind religious belief. Many believers hold that their faith is "the only real faith," thus making an appeal to objective or divinely inspired truth; however, one who makes that appeal cannot claim that *all* religious faith is a legitimate basis for legislation. Clearly, only *his* faith has that legitimacy. Therefore, the believer is caught in a quandary: either allow that all religions, not just his own, form legitimate and inarguable bases for legislation, or insist that his and only his religion has that legitimacy.

Unfortunately, the non-believer in religion is caught in a quandary as well. Although the idea that ethics can exist without a religious foundation has gained a following in recent years, and books have been published which propose such ethics, it still remains a daunting problem of philosophy. A way to resolve this problem is to compare the major moral and religious philosophies, observing where they overlap (such as in the prohibition of murder), and accepting those principles as objectively moral. This solution does retain some arbitrariness, but less than either relativism or a pure religious faith.

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*"Study Guide," continued
from page 18.*

Misguided Advice

Three pages of the study guide are devoted to the natural sciences and mathematics, indicating that the Efficacy Committee lacks confidence in the ability of minorities to learn these subjects. The ARC materials do not specify these areas of study. There are no hints with regard to any other subjects in the booklet. This contrast is possibly illustrative of the committee's belief that minority students are less proficient than others in these rigorous subject areas.

The booklet also repeatedly states that students should not give up, as if poor results are expected. The ARC materials do not discuss this information, perhaps in part because the Academic Resource Center does not automatically expect failure. The minority study guide sets students up for what is seemingly perceived as the inevitability of failure.

Liberals attempt to instill in blacks and other minorities the false notion that merit-based success is impossible and that they are faced with insurmountable odds as a result of the racism that pervades society. Unfortunately, blacks who achieve success

through hard work are chastised for taking advantage of the opportunities presented by the American Dream. The African American study guide is just another example of liberal elitists' lack of faith in the ability of blacks to succeed on their own. In order to alleviate their problems, blacks must throw off the yoke of their true oppressor—not the entire white population, but the very liberal establishment which continues to undermine them by underestimating their potential for success.

*Miss DiFonzo is a freshman majoring in
Political Science.*

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Matt Stein has been very good about carrying out all of the rules.

—TCU Budget Coordinator David Backman

I get my exercise acting as a pallbearer to my friends who exercise.

—Chauncey Depew

Mahatma Gandhi was what wives wish their husbands were: thin, tan, and moral.

—Unknown

My schoolmates would make love to anything that moved, but I saw no reason to limit myself.

—Emo Philips

I phoned my dad to tell him I had stopped smoking. He called me a quitter.

—Steven Pearl

Adolescence is the stage between infancy and adultery.

—Unknown

It is time I stepped aside for a less experienced and less able man.

—Professor Scott Elledge, on his retirement from Cornell

No matter how cynical you are, it's never enough.

—Lily Tomlin

The price of purity is purists.

—Calvin Trillin

For a single woman, preparing for company means wiping the lipstick off the milk carton.

—Elayne Boosler

Support wildlife. Throw a party.

—Unknown

MTV is the lava lamp of the 1980's.

—Doug Ferrari

I believe that professional wrestling is clean and everything else in the world is fixed.

—Frank Deford

A starlet is any woman under thirty not actively employed in a brothel.

—Unknown

Every government is run by liars and nothing they say should be believed.

—I. F. Stone

The first human being who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.

—Attributed to Sigmund Freud

I propose getting rid of conventional armaments and replacing them with reasonably priced hydrogen bombs that would be distributed equally throughout the world.

—Idi Amin

I wish people who have trouble communicating would just shut up.

—Tom Lehrer

A statesman is a politician who's been dead ten or fifteen years.

—Harry S Truman

The people never give up their liberties but under some delusion.

—Edmund Burke

All happy families resemble one another; each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.

—Leo Tolstoy

Justice is truth in action.

—Benjamin Disraeli

Labour to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, called conscience.

—George Washington

So love is Lord of all the world by right.

—Edmund Spenser

The world's history is the world's judgment.

—Friedrich von Schiller

Good painters imitate nature; bad ones vomit it.

—Miguel de Cervantes

No one can guarantee success in war, but only deserve it.

—Winston Churchill

I would rather be wrong with Plato than right with such men as these.

—Cicero

Men willingly believe what they wish.

—Julius Caesar

There are in nature certain fountains of justice, whence all civil laws are derived but as streams.

—Francis Bacon

All great truths begin as blasphemies.

—George Bernard Shaw

Fortune is ally to the brave.

—Virgil

Not that the story need be long, but it will take a long time to make it short.

—Henry David Thoreau

Truth is the cry of all, but the game of few.

—George Berkeley

A camel is a horse designed by a committee.

—Anonymous

Justice is the constant and perpetual wish to render to every one his due.

—The Emperor Justinian

Sir, I perceive you are a vile Whig.

—Samuel Johnson

A woman, especially, if she have the misfortune of knowing anything, should conceal it as well as she can.

—Jane Austen

There are two kinds of men who never amount to much: those who cannot do what they are told, and those who can do nothing else.

—Cyrus H. Curtis

Pardon one offense, and you encourage the commission of many.

—Publius Syrus

Bankruptcy is a legal procedure in which you put your money in your pants pocket and give your coat to the creditors.

—Joey Adams

I should like my country well enough if it were not for my countrymen.

—Horace Walpole, Fourth Earl of Oxford