

Orientation
Edition

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

VERITAS SINE DOLO



OUTNUMBERED

...but not defeated

**Standing up for beliefs against a tide of
opposition, THE PRIMARY SOURCE fights on.**

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1983 - PRIMARY SOURCE BEGINS ONGOING CAMPAIGN TO RETURN ROTC TO CAMPUS

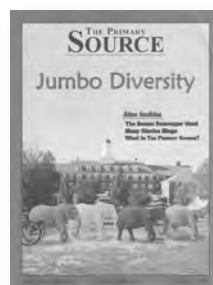
1990 - PRIMARY SOURCE FIGHTS AND DEFEATS SPEECH RESTRICTION ZONES AT TUFTS

2000 - PRIMARY SOURCE HELPS AVERT DEFUNDING OF TUFTS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

2002 - SOURCE FIGHTS VIOLENCE, VANDALISM, AND THEFT AS EDITOR IN CHIEF IS ASSAULTED, ISSUES ARE STOLEN

2003 - PRIMARY SOURCE HELPS REFORM TCU SENATE, GAINS EQUAL REPRESENTATION FOR ALL

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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

VOL. XXIII • THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY • No. 1

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THE PRIMARY SOURCE v23.0 Optimized

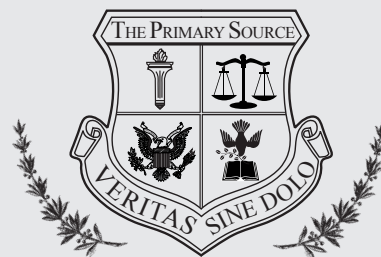
At no other time in recent history has the partisan division of America run as deeply as it does now. At Tufts, this cleavage is sharp and the resulting political battle is fierce, but the discourse is dominated by the single-minded ideology of the Left. In their quest to win the votes of young America, the Left has nearly eliminated conservatives from the administration and faculty of colleges—and the trend is reflected at this institution. Professors have a captive audience which some use to push their Bush-hating, anti-Republican agenda. *The Tufts Daily*, Tufts' semi-autonomous and semi-proofread student newspaper, only treats conservatives with the minimum amount of respect. With the University's ears all but deaf to the voices and sensibilities of whole groups of students, *The Daily* does not adequately balance the climate of discourse. For over twenty years, this has been the onerous duty of THE PRIMARY SOURCE.

Accusations of bias should not be made without substantial fact to support them. But it would be impossible to convey the magnitude of liberal nonsense experienced by the generations of Tufts conservatives in a single page. The story is best told by reading the history of Tufts through the writings of SOURCE staffers—those who directly bear witness to incidences of physical violence and threats made against conservatives. The writers of this magazine report egregious acts of liberal indoctrination and espouse ideas that would otherwise be missing from the Tufts education.

Yet, THE PRIMARY SOURCE is not just a journal of conservative thought. It has become the champion of student interests against failing administrative policy in a non-partisan manner. As the Office of Residential Life and Learning consistently made poor deci-

sions regarding its staff and its policies, the SOURCE led the way in calling for reform. This magazine exposed inequities in the Tufts Community Union constitution that resulted in a redrafting of the document for the benefit of all students. The SOURCE also advocated a bill to end classroom indoctrination that had become commonplace in subjects like Math and English. Most importantly, THE PRIMARY SOURCE never abandons reason, no matter how strong the opposition is.

This magazine stands to benefit the entire Tufts community, but perhaps those who benefit most are the masses that read the SOURCE's every biweekly issue. Regular readers engage themselves with new ideas, develop more informed opinions, and enjoy the magazine's poignant satire. For those involved, participation in this magazine has become the defining learning experience of their Tufts education and this is evident in their writing. After all, we do not demand that you agree, merely that you think.

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE
THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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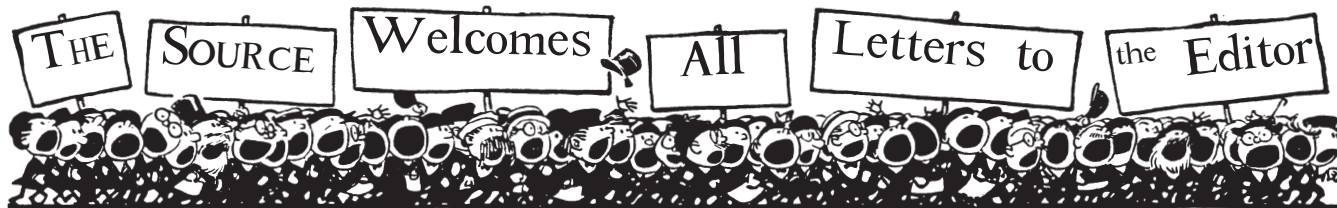
To the Editor,

Having just sent an email inquiring about a past SOURCE writer with whom I have serious ideology disagreements, I would like to commend you on an even handed assesment of the current situation concerning Isreal and the Palestinean territories. Your commentary offers perhaps the fairest view-point of the specific conflict between the Isreali government and Hamas available. While the Isrealis tend to use excessive force when dealing with their conflict with Hamas (property destruction and civilan casualties), Hamas' (or is it Hamas's or Hamases?) political objective is so out of synch with reality as to perpetuate the conflict indefinately. Any theoretical Palestine will never adhere to the borders sought by extremist militants and Palastinians will not ever get the right of return to Isreal proper. That the SOURCE acknowledges the basic humanity of the Palestinians and on their lack of viable champions is an observation sorely lacking from most mainstream American conservative voices. Maybe the SOURCE has turned a corner in the last year or so I've been out of the Tufts community as this commentary offers a rather fair assesment and some useful suggestions for a solution (as opposed to the ridiculous "humor" and ad homynm attacks that I am used to).

—Dan Wesche, LA '02

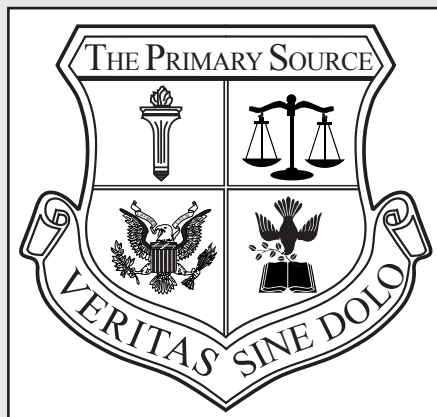
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The SOURCE welcomes all letters to the editor. Please address all correspondence to submissions@TuftsPrimarySource.org

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ARE YOU A DEMOCRAT,
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LIBERTARIAN, LIBERAL, OR
CONSERVATIVE WHO SEES THE
NEED FOR CHANGE?



**THE TUFTS DEMOCRATS ARE HERE
FOR YOU!**

Come to our first meeting on Wednesday
Sept. 8th in Eaton at 9pm
And don't forget to sign up for our
e-mail list at
www.collegedems.com/echapters

Comedy is allied to Justice.

—Aristophanes

PS New Jersey governor and outed homosexual James McGreevy says he will resign from office amid allegations of corruption and sexual harassment. At least this Democrat can honestly declare he “did not have sexual relations with that woman.”

PS Also in New Jersey, the Department of Environmental Protection has started enforcing regulations that prohibit vehicles from continuously idling. The measure is purported to help the environment, but really reinforces common sense: do not stop in New Jersey.

PS Top Ten Ways to Ruin Your Candidacy:

10. Be seen reading THE PRIMARY SOURCE.
9. Let Florida decide it.
8. Bring your Star Trek wife to an orgy.
7. Run against Ronald Reagan.
6. Get endorsed by Michael Moore.
5. Failing to “Ride this donkey as far as it would go.”
4. Be friends with Al Gore.
3. Drive around in a tank while looking like a goon.
2. Dean Scream.
1. Crawl through tunnels wearing a dorky “bunny” suit.

PS In Philadelphia, half of the 28 public schools that Pennsylvania designated as persistently dangerous last year have been removed from the list for 2004. According to a spokesperson, “After the Bloods wiped out the Cryps, things pretty much worked themselves out.”

PS In Nevada, the Coalition to End Prostitution has gathered enough signatures to place an anti-brothel measure on the November ballot. The Nevada prostitutes are reportedly willing to cooperate, and will instead be conducting their business in the Campaign room.

PS A Florida man was fatally stabbed after he commented on a teenager’s Afro hairstyle, deputies said. After hearing his story, the Bravo channel offered cosmetic assistance to the troubled youth. Check Fall listings for Queer Eye for the Showering Prison Guy.

PS When Washington State Fish and Wildlife agents found a black bear passed out on a lawn, some clues were scattered nearby: dozens of empty

beer cans. Also nearby: twelve seriously-wounded frat brothers who regretted wrestling “that dude in a bear suit.”

PS On Fenwick Island, Delaware, state officials said they would issue permits to deepen the Assawoman Canal. Because of its change in geometry, officials will also need to rename the feature, but are reluctant after recalling their last naming attempt.

PS In related news, Senator Joe Biden secured federal grants to lessen violence against women in Delaware. A less expensive proposal: stop naming public works after cheap pornos.

PS A West Virginian man accused of letting his properties become a breeding ground for mosquitoes said the insects and other natural vermin are acts of God. The man also claimed that his eight pick-ups on cement blocks, 13 dogs, and his aunt/mother/cousin were an act of God.

PS Governor Fletcher of Kentucky lifted a moratorium on new MRI services aimed at holding down state health care spending by limiting proliferation of the expensive equipment. Using the word “proliferation” in association with healthcare apparently did not create the kind of hysteria he expected.

PS The West Virginia State Police will receive about \$41,000 for their equipment fund from an auction of shotguns, sniper rifles, and machine guns they no longer wanted. The police force is now considering selling other unwanted material for cash—after all, there’s only so much confiscated cocaine you can take home before you get sick.

PS In Elmore County, Alabama, students can no longer wear T-shirts bearing the Confederate flag, a picture of Malcolm X, or any other emblem that could be considered offensive. It is still unclear if students are allowed to read THE PRIMARY SOURCE.

PS Mayor Bloomberg reportedly offered Republican National Convention protestors vouchers for free room and board in New York City to promote good will among the potentially destructive visitors. A protest spokesman said he was disappointed when the city declined to help firebomb Madison



Square Garden, claiming Bloomberg was not willing to go all the way with his outreach.

PS Top Ten Security Measures of The Democratic National Convention:

10. Uninviting Howard Dean.
9. Herding the anarchists into a pen.
8. Shutting down the Boston economy—just in case.
7. Keeping Bill Clinton away from the Kerry daughters.
6. Having Boston's police force on strike.
5. Trying to tell Al Sharpton what to say—oh well.
4. Chauffeuring Ted Kennedy to the convention from the bar.
3. Heavily medicating Teresa Heinz Kerry prior to her speech.
2. Closing all major highways in a several mile radius.
1. Being the al Qaida-preferred party.

PS In Little Rock, Arkansas the new world headquarters of the anti-hunger Heifer Project International has started rising in the shadow of the Clinton Presidential Library. The aroma of the world's two biggest pigs attracted them to the state.

PS In Burlington, Vermont a committee approved an ordinance that would ban circuses and shows with non-domesticated animals from performing in the city. Those unable to travel to Vegas will only be able to see tigers eat their trainers on FOX's prime-time lineup.



Gail Devers claws to the finish.



THE PRIMARY SOURCE PRESENTS



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Student Organization Leaders: Contact us today to register your organization and let it moderate and sponsor debates on issues of your choice.

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[HTTP://WWW.TUFTSPRIMARYSOURCE.ORG/CROSSFIRE](http://www.tuftsprimarysource.org/crossfire)

Tufts is not telling the whole truth about campus freedom.

The Forbidden Words

by Brandon Balkind

As a private institution, Tufts owns a proud reputation for excellence in education, research, and intellectual independence. Private schools like Tufts are indeed among the most elite in the nation—a group that contains but is not limited to Harvard, Princeton, and Yale. It is this privacy though, that hides a dark secret at the top universities—something that students can get at UMass, but can scarcely find at Tufts—free speech.

If one defines free speech as any combination of walking out, sitting in, or shouting with bullhorns at University administrators, then it is true that Tufts is home to “free speech.” In reality, the freedom of such speech is superficial. The most basic forms of speech, such as the freedom of the press, are truly in jeopardy.

Though it is not abnormal for those who disagree to denounce one another, the University has established procedural means to censure and censor those with whom it is at odds, specifically this magazine. By redefining or categorizing speech normally protected by the first amendment as “intolerant” or “discriminatory,” Tufts is able to enforce rules of its own jurisdiction, which in private institutions generally take precedence over the Bill of Rights. It is scary, but absolutely true.

According to the *Pachyderm*, Tufts’ official student handbook, “when attitudes or opinions are expressed in words, in email, or in behavior” and “constitute a verbal attack” it is harassment—an offense that is punishable by the University. Furthermore, any action that discriminates on the basis of gender, race, religion, or national origin is punishable. This is not the same definition of discrimination the rest of the free world lives by. Anti-discrimination laws

were enacted to assure equal protection of all citizens before the *law*, not to mandate equal treatment between private citizens, who are entitled to their opinions.

A jury cannot convict a man for simply being black, nor can his boss fire him for the same reason. However, every private citizen in the United States is entitled to express their opinions about whites, blacks, Catholics, Jews, or even Muslims.

Such protection of free speech has

justly defended people like Harry Belafonte, who called African-American Secretary of State Colin Powell a “house slave” for his support of a white president. At Tufts, Belafonte would possibly face probation for his racially charged remark. It is a distinction that may have dire consequences for those who speak any forbidden word in their four years at Tufts.

To make this point clear, one may examine a recent (though not unique) example in which the University’s policies have threatened the Bill of Rights at the peril of free speech. In April 2004, THE PRIMARY SOURCE published a parody feature which mocked the Arab Students Association (ASA) for linking their website to pages which featured symbols of Palestinian violence towards Jews. As is normal in such circumstances, the ASA became quite defensive. They even pushed for the Committee on Student Life (a University body which has the power to expel or punish students and organizations) to hear a formal complaint against the magazine. This action is still pending, but its mere intentions are troubling.

It is certain that any public judiciary would dismiss the case as a violation of the first amendment, yet at Tufts, their complaint, while still unfounded, is admissible. By falsely claiming THE PRIMARY SOURCE targeted the Arab community in a hostile

and discriminatory manner, the ASA will attempt to stifle the voice of students—a voice which speaks truth when others have not and that prompted the ASA to change their website in recognition of their error. The grounds by which Tufts may violate free speech are indeed alarming. One need only hurt someone’s feelings, even if such an offense can be justified in the name of opposing blatant anti-Judaic activities. Such are the values of a private, elite institution that would convince its members free speech truly exists.

New students must realize how delicate the situation is. Colloquial speech that includes the words “gay”, the “n word”, or even “Arab” may be ground for punishment, even though different groups according to context use such words inoffensively. Reciting rap lyrics can end a student’s college education if they upset a peer.

Tufts, in its infinite wisdom, has sought to mandate a kindergarten-like campus where if one does not have anything nice to say, then nothing should be said at all. This works well for those who oppose campus conservatives, because the University feels nothing we have to say is “nice.” Coincidentally, Tufts does not share the SOURCE’s view that student groups who support the elimination of Israel are in fact acting quite “mean.” When one power is in a position classify speech as free or forbidden, the essence of free speech has been destroyed.

To preserve the essence of free speech, Tufts and other private Universities must let go of their control over campus rhetoric. The University must adopt the First Amendment of the Bill of Rights into their own charter, so that no administrator can justly restore policies that inhibit students’ expected freedoms. It is time for Tufts to move into the 21st century by respecting a document drafted in the 18th.

When one power is in a position classify speech as free or forbidden, the essence of free speech has been destroyed.

Mr. Balkind is a senior majoring in Computer Engineering.



John Kerry wants to toss aside his “girlie man” image.

DNC You Later!

by Adam Hoffman

In the time after the pomp and circumstance of the Democratic National Convention in Boston several sizeable concerns about John Kerry have arisen. The DNC is supposed to be a week where liberals pretend to be patriotic, claim to love this country, drop red, white, and blue balloons every possible moment, and convey just how evil their opponent is. According to tradition, this smoke-and-mirrors act is accompanied with a sizeable boost in the polls, but this year, there was no such bump.

Post-DNC there are new voices being heard protesting Kerry, including a new documentary focusing on Kerry's positions on the two invasions of Iraq.

At face value, the DNC proceeded in a well-choreographed manner. The Democratic Party brought in its big guns to whip their high-minded, money-raising delegates into a frenzy before the nominee came in to bring down the house. Bill Clinton talked about shared responsibility and global cooperation. Al Gore implored people to get out and vote (wishing he had done the same thing to 537 more people in Florida in 2000). Hillary Clinton convincingly pretended to support Kerry's presidential bid. Everything seemed perfectly set up for a coup-de-grace by Kerry in the final speech of the convention, but for some reason, it never came.

Kerry's speech fell short of the thrilling vision for America's future many had expected. Apparently, he decided to take the highroad (what does that mean in politics anyway?) He did not attack Bush on key issues that could have solidified the connection with his base. In-

stead, he either mentioned them as part of tearjerker stories of “real life” people he has met on the campaign trail saying that “help is on the way,” or avoided certain issues altogether. It seemed that the main focus of the speech was to convince people he thought going to war

was bad, but he is just as capable of protecting the country as any Republican. Kerry talked about the justification of war saying, “the United States of America never goes to war because we want to, we only

go to war because we have to.” He discussed building alliances and the importance of keeping other countries happy. He talked about building a better and stronger America. Near the end of the speech, Kerry addressed President Bush saying, “Let's honor this nation's diversity; let's respect one another; and let's never misuse for political purposes the most precious document in American history, the Constitution of the United States.” After he walked off stage, one was supposed to be left with a warm feeling in the stomach, akin to that after eating a cookie fresh out of the oven.

The media, with the exception of FOX News, immediately launched into praise about Kerry, his speech, and the convention itself. They lauded his presidential poise, his calm under pressure, and of course, his jury-charming vice president. The newspapers claimed the DNC was supposed to be the knockout punch that his campaign needed to pull out from even with Bush in the polls.

In his moment to shine in front of the American people, John Kerry tried to jump to the front of the polls, but it turned out to be nothing more than a stumble.

But while the media fell hook, line and sinker, the undecided American public didn't buy it.

Looking back, Kerry actually said very little about his plans as president, other than listing some problems and quickly saying he will miraculously fix them. Also, for a candidate whose flip-flopping on issues has repeatedly been brought up by opponents, he did nothing to dispel the truths and half-truths that have been used against him. Immediately after pressing the need to rebuild alliances in order to fight terrorism, Kerry said “let there be no mistake: I will never hesitate to use force when it is required. Any attack will be met with a swift and certain response. I will never give any nation or international institution a veto over our national security. And I will build a stronger American military.” While in his own mind, devoted multilateralism and independence may be compatible, the American public only sees doublespeak.

Kerry's penchant for seeming to take both sides of issues has been a subject since the beginning of his campaign. A new documentary about Kerry's positions on the Gulf Invasion and the more recent war in Iraq is being shown on the internet at www.KerryOnIraq.com.

While it is sponsored by the RNC, and therefore meant to be propaganda, the documentary is more factually based than any of Michael Moore's shockumentaries could ever hope to be. Pieced

together from clips of interviews Kerry did on news programs and placed on a virtual calendar, it is remarkable how much Kerry seems to have changed in what he says during interviews.

In his moment to shine in front of the American people, John Kerry tried to jump to the front of the polls, but it turned out to be nothing more than a stumble. His speech was meant to shout how his view on Iraq was superior to that of President Bush, but he only managed to argue semantics. The speech that was supposed to shore up his problems appears to have highlighted them for his opponents, who will continue to ride them until the election in November.



**THE PRIMARY SOURCE'S
KERRY WATCH**
Covering both of his opinions on every issue.

Mr. Hoffman is a junior majoring in Computer Science and Economics.

Remembering a Great American

RONALD REAGAN

HE WAS THE MAN THAT DEFINED AN ERA. Ronald Wilson Reagan, a figure unfitting of his end, must be acknowledged as one of the greatest American leaders of all time. While men like John Kerry claimed “we cannot fight Communism all over the world,” Ronald Reagan did just that—winning a lasting peace and freedom for millions of people. While liberal Democrats were fixed on raising taxes, Reagan cut them and sent the nation into an unprecedented period of growth and prosperity that to this day sets an example for all conservative fiscal policy. After all, that tax relief gave American businesses

money to spend on technological investment throughout the 1990’s, creating millions of jobs, a new high-tech economy—coincidentally allowing Al Gore to invent the Internet.

Most importantly, Reagan, before the era of 9/11, understood that homeland security does not begin and end at the national borders. Whether it was the looming Soviet menace or thugs like Muammar al-Qaddafi, Reagan made clear his intolerance for acts of aggression against America, its citizens, and free nations. For many, the Libyan conflict that occurred early in his administration was a sign of good things to come—a sign that America would once again stand up proudly for freedom anywhere, at anytime. This feeling of American pride and security was sorely missed after the self-loathing years of the Carter administration.

When Qaddafi sought to maraud the Mediterranean as though it were his personal playground, American forces sailed to his illegally annexed region of international waters. The Libyan madman, who had aided numerous terrorist attacks in the Middle East, was plotting an assassination attempt against the President and had his forces attack American planes over international airspace in a region frequently used for US training exercises. Qaddafi had not managed to inflict substantial American casualties even after he sponsored an attack on American troops at a European disco, but it was clear, Qaddafi was looking for a fight—and he bit off more than he could chew.

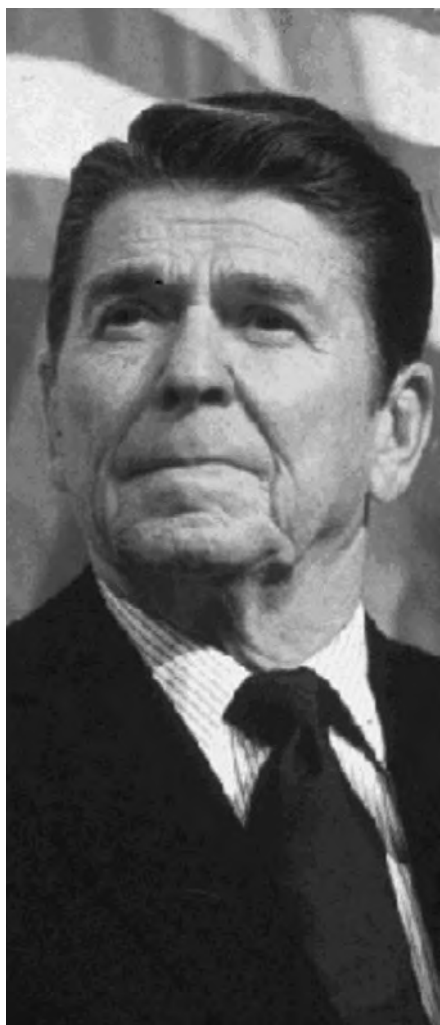
It was not in response to a loss of a handful of lives that Reagan decided to respond with military force against Qaddafi. Reagan acted preemptively. Though he was offered conclusive

proof, we can assume Reagan did not need a jury of government of officials to tell him what already knew in his heart: failure to act would mean American blood on his hands. After ordering an air strike on Qaddafi’s intelligence center, little more was heard from the dictator until George W. Bush took office—prompting Qaddafi to give up his nuclear weapons program.

The world community respected Reagan—not because he bowed to the will of France, but because he commanded respect through the virtue of his actions. In fact, it was France who caused the death of American airmen in Libya. They would not allow US strike aircraft to fly over French airspace, and in doing so, left the planes with little fuel to evade hostile fire. France, a peaceful, but irrelevant nation, did not have a veto on America’s right to defend itself under Reagan, but true to their character, found ways to undermine their WWII liberators—just as they do today.

The unforgettable tribute made by Mikhail Gorbachev at the casket of President Reagan should remind us all of the power of his strength and virtue. He did not destroy the Russians, he freed them—and it would not have happened without the firm resolve of a man who knew the value of lasting peace.

The writers of history were slow to give Reagan credit for his enduring effect on the world. While the class of 2005 was still in high school, the incredible legacy of Reagan, the Presidency that shaped everything we know, was simply a footnote at the end of a book. As those whose lives began under Reagan have matured, we must rediscover the leader whose boundless optimism and faith in the American spirit gave birth to a nation worthy of its people.



Farewell, President Reagan

Secret excerpts obtained by THE PRIMARY SOURCE from John Kerry's proposed 2006 budget.

John Kerry's BUDGET

	2005 Actual (Bush)	2006 Planned (Kerry)
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE		
White Flag Laundry Services	-	1,304,930
Purple Heart Accessibility Program	-	18,328,980
Iraq War Body Armor/Reconstruction Package	80,000,000,000	±80,000,000,000
Special Forces War Sensitivity Training	-	130,000,000
UN/US Flag Replacement Campaign	-	213,000,100
Los Alamos Nuclear Lab ID Cards for North Korea, Cuba, Iran	-1,930,000	6,500
Abu Ghraib Re-enactment (For better video for campaign use)	-	55,000,340
Additional expenses incurred from Halliburton contract blacklist	-	15,290,700,000
War on "Terror" Refocus Effort: Al Queda --> Japanese Yakuza	-	90,000,000
"Do ask, Do tell" Gay Recruiting Campaign/Dating service	-	37,000,000
Weekly Troop Realignments to Cover for Indecisiveness	-	900,000,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF RE-EDUCATION		
Secretary Michael Moore's Salary	-	50,450,000
Stupid White Men Copies (New US History Textbook)	-	92,672,000
Cross-country Racial Integration Bussing Initiative	-	604,000,000
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY		
"Entry Civility" Program: Airport Security Optional for Islamists	-	89,020,020
Patriot Act Exemption Program (for high-risk individuals)	70,000	34,330,400
Coal-powered Hummer Armored Presidential Limousine Fleet	-	701,999,890
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE		
Ketchup Tax Exemption	-	100,000,000
Mustard Tax	-	(200,000,000)
Divorce and remarriage to richer wife	-	(40,678,500)
DEPARTMENT OF PEACE		
Secretary Dennis Kucinich's Salary	-	50,000,000
"Undo the Iraq War" Exploratory Committee	-	400,000,000
Pinko-Commie Awards Foundation (1st Recipient: Madonna)	-	10,000,000
Immediate Solar-powered Battle Tank Conversion	-	80,000,000
War on Drugs now "Passive Effort Against Drugs"	-	1.67
DEPARTMENT OF LAW SUITS (old Dep. of Justice)		
Research A.I. Technology (Artificial Investigator)	-	450,000
Optional Frivolous Gov. Lawsuit Exemption Fee for Corporations	-	(999,999)
Gun Manufacturer Lawsuit	-	∞



THE PRIMARY SOURCE'S
KERRY WATCH
Covering both of his opinions on every

ROAD TO GRADUATION



RIGHT WING NUTS

THE CONSERVATIVE SLIDE

As Tufts Republicans mature and acquire a full understanding of the world, they drift over and become such right-wing nuts as the writers of *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*.

REPUBLICANS

RIGHT WING CONSPIRACY

Rumor has it that there is a vast right-wing conspiracy within Tufts' student government. This rumor is entirely true, as proven by the existence of at least one known Republican.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

NOT LEFT, NOT RIGHT...

Previously uncategorizable creatures may be encountered at Tufts. They talk like conservatives and act like liberals. These "libertarians" have been spotted in student government and elsewhere on campus.

LIBERTARIANS

TUFTS PSY-OPS

The *Daily* is known to use its legions of incapable reporters to pick up fragments of information, often originating from student government, extrapolate three months worth of stories from them, distort them to reflect the paper's editorial stance, and then misspell the headline.

TUFTS DAILY



MATRICULATION

ON

GRADUATION

INTELLECTUAL REBELS

Striking only selectively but effectively, the Tufts Republicans have known contacts in the White House and secretly control the Universe through the Patriot Act.

ADMINISTRATION

SUPERFICIAL POWER

There is an unwritten, implied relationship between these factions. In return for unconditional support of the feminist platform, men are permitted to retain positions of power within the administration.

FEMINISTS

OBLIGATORY REVERENCE

Though frequently a stain on the University's reputation, the administration upholds its principles of going easy on disrespectful and violent leftist thugs and protestors.

LEFTISTS

NOT IN THEIR NAME!

High in the Blood for Oil Mountains, leftist student and faculty forces converge, creating a supposedly non-violent juggernaut capable of disrupting your education with classroom walkouts and covert disinformation campaigns.

DISTRUSTFUL ALLIES

Sure, they're both left-of-center, but the love ends there. To destroy America or to just make it worse, one of many questions they simply can't seem to agree on.

DEMOCRATS

THEY WILL OWN YOU

The most integrated, enduring alliance to ever take shape at Tufts. Their interactions are flawlessly proficient. Hand-in-hand they coalesce, tirelessly picking at your common sense, until you finally, unwittingly, drop your inhibitions and become one of theirs.

FACULTY

MANY STORIES, ONE COMMUNITY

BINGO

Growing tired of your mandatory sensitivity training? Make your Orientation that much more bearable with our handy-dandy game of BINGO! As you find the items (trust us, this is not the difficult part), cross them off your card. Get five in a row, and you've won! Now yell out BINGO! THE PRIMARY SOURCE takes no responsibility for injuries inflicted by enraged panelists.

Panelist blames President Bush for her problems	Speaker, on purpose or spontaneously, introducing a new politically correct term for an ethnic group	Speaker's frank use of an ethnic slur meant to horrify the audience	Row of administrators looking as if they would like to adopt the panel as their grandchildren	Token Asian speaker who for some reason endorses affirmative action despite its dire consequences for his people
Bi-racial speaker claiming she has experienced twice the racism	Black panelist claiming a connection to Africa even though he's from Queens	Black panelist claiming a connection to Africa even though he's from Queens	Within a span of one minute, hear the words "tolerant", "diverse", and "inclusive"	Someone distributing dorm-room door stickers advertising a "safe space"
Token gay speaker warming up the audience with yuks and giggles for three minutes before finally announcing his sexual preference	Audience member playing this game	Free Spot! Speaker trying to make it look as if anyone who disagrees with him is a racist	White male Anglo-Saxon Protestant feeling left out.	Stereotypically effeminate audience member cheering on the panel with a "You go, girl!" worthy of the <i>Showtime at the Apollo</i>
Female speaker with blue hair and eleven piercings complaining that people look at her funny	Panelist praising culture houses as island havens of tolerance in the otherwise very hurtful, homogenous Tufts community.	Any speaker cries	Any speaker who completes his speech without using the word "threatened"	Muslim speaker who blames Jews for the Mid-East crisis (mark any adjacent square if she is also a Holocaust denier)
Empowered womyn suggesting that females are actually a minority group	Panelist dropping a blatant plug for his culture house	Any speaker majoring in Peace and Justice or Women's Studies	Sycophant audience member trying to befriend the panelists by asking stomach-wrenching questions	Panelist makes snide comment about THE PRIMARY SOURCE, audience chuckles

Ending the Assault

The upcoming September 13 expiration of the federal assault weapons ban will be a welcome relief from an irrational and ineffective law. Passed in 1994, the assault weapons ban (AWB) was supposedly intended to prevent the proliferation of military-style firearms among private citizens. After nearly ten years, the AWB has done nothing to that effect, yet pro-gun control politicians still proudly tout it as a golden piece of legislature.

The biggest problem with the AWB is its definition of “assault weapon,” since it applies this label to firearms based on their cosmetic appearances rather than their engineering or lethality. A gun is automatically classified as an assault weapon if it

has two or more of the features on an “evil feature” list: detachable box magazine, flash suppressor, pistol grip, bayonet lug, and grenade launcher rail. Guns that were legally possessed prior to the passing of the ban are exempt. The loophole-ridden AWB incorrectly targets the high-end guns coveted by legitimate hobbyists and collectors, inflating prices and forcing sellers to saw off a few bayonet lugs. These so-called assault weapons are virtually never used in crimes. To put it into perspective, the AWB would be like banning expensive wines to prevent drunk driving.

In its present condition, the AWB is a convenient way for pro-gun control politicians to feel good about themselves, while demonstrating nothing but their own ignorance. The majority of these politicians likely have no idea what kind of weapons it bans, but they can garner public support for it based on its name alone. To those who have never fired a gun, something that claims to ban “assault weapons” naturally sounds like a good idea. Unfortunately, misconceptions about the ban tend to be perpetuated by the media, which commonly describe them as machine guns, which were outlawed in 1934. Even when crimes are committed with guns that have nothing to do with the ban, the term “assault weapon” gets tossed about as if it were a catch-all term for anything unknown and scary.

To reduce gun crime, the enforcement of existing laws needs to be improved. It is not the collector who spends thousands of dollars on a rifle who will commit a crime; it is the gang member who picks up a cheap revolver. Passing laws to restrict possession is a nonsensical strategy when not enough is being done to prevent gun purchases by people ineligible to do so, nor are punishments severe enough for those who do commit gun crime. The AWB is based on such ignorance and so fundamentally flawed that ironically, one can easily support gun control and oppose the AWB at the same.

Sacred Heartbreak

The Sacred Heart Church on Winthrop Street closed its doors this July. Opened in 1939, the small parish was like second home to many residents of the Medford Hillside area. It attracted much media attention in March 2004 when the statue of the Virgin Mary in front of the church reportedly began weeping. Skeptics claimed the tears were really dew, but the constant pile of bouquets and mementos at the base of the statue showed the overwhelming faith in the miracle.

Sadly, the archdiocese of Boston closed the parish due to monetary constrictions following the sex-abuse scandals. They could not afford to keep every church open and pay the large costs of lawyers and settlements. The Sacred Heart Parish was deemed too small to handle the overflow from the closing of

other, larger churches, and became a tiny victim of the archdiocese’s troubles.

The families who have attended Sacred Heart for generations are the real victims in all of this. Felling displaced and overlooked, they are now forced to find another church. The famous Statue has been relocated to another Medford parish, St. Clement’s, where many of Sacred Heart’s parishioners have followed.

As for the future of the church building—it is uncertain. Tufts may rent the building, as it is already renting the Catholic Center across the street from the Archdiocese. It would be an even better choice to buy the church, which would provide the University much needed space in an area close to the rest of the academic buildings. Maintaining a property so loved by the Medford community would also be an excellent step in boosting community relations. It was after all, a place where students and residents worshipped together.



How to make the most of your Tufts experience.

Get the Bang for Your Buck

by Jordana Starr

High school was hell and the “real world” is a frightening (and thankfully, far-off) concept, but college is the buffer zone between the awkwardness of adolescence and the burdens of responsibility. For the next four years, you will find yourself free to learn, grow, and explore, devoid of outside pressures. Since you’ve already made it into one of America’s top universities you might as well attend class, but as just about anyone will tell you, most learning will be done outside the classroom. But, if you don’t watch out, you can very well end up succumbing to the one-sided indoctrination common of northeast academia, losing all your self-respect in some dark corner of ATO’s basement, or passing out in a puddle of your own vomit in a Haskell lounge while your liver takes it upon itself to call TEMS while your brain’s on vacation. Regardless, your undergraduate experience will, no doubt, constitute the best four years of your life. 2008 is just around the corner, so make the most of the \$40 grand your parents are shelling each year for the next four years.

Go to those academic-sounding, educational forums. That means attend lecture series, go to the EPIIC events, get a ticket for the Fares lecture, and go to department-sponsored events.

Join, or at least pay attention to, student government. In high school, student government was a joke. At Tufts, it still is, but getting involved in the Tufts Community Union (TCU) government really is worth the sheer entertainment value. Every year, you get to pay \$200+ into a big pool of money that is then doled out to student groups. The treasury, a subset of the senate, decides just how much each group gets to spend in a given year. The senate is also responsible for wasting your student activity fee on extraneous functions, a task at which this body tends to excel. After each meeting,

the self-congratulatory senators engage in an exclusive, closed-doors whine-fest which they call “Good and Welfare” where the rest of the student body can only assume chairs are thrown and tears are shed.

The judiciary, or TCUJ, serves as a check on the senate when you’ve finally had enough with its foolishness and decide to sue for accountability. The TCUJ also recognizes new student groups, rerecognizes existing groups every two years, and derecognizes defunct groups. Additionally, the student panel for disciplinary hearings is chosen from the TCUJ. Above the TCUJ sits the Committee on Student Life (CSL), a governmental body consisting of students and faculty members who serve as the appellant board for the TCUJ, or arbitrates on cases involving the TCUJ. The CSL also writes the rules in the *Pachyderm*. Finally, the Elections Board (ELBO) has always been a big mess and hasn’t administered an election right in years.

Go sledding on the President’s Lawn. That does *not* mean use a trash barrel or shopping cart instead of a sled, and that does *not* mean go sledding on Dowling Hall hill where there is an iron fence at the bottom to break your descent down the steep, icy hill. Learn from the experience of past Tuftonians who have paid visits to the Emergency Room at Massachusetts General Hospital. But do “borrow” lunch trays from Dewick and Carmichael dining halls, and master the balance-on-your-butt-with-legs-in-the-air slide down the snow-covered Presidents’ Lawn. If you’re ready for AP-style, join ski team and go snowboarding on the hill.

Take advantage of Boston. Beantown isn’t a tourist destination for nothing. Boasting a rich history and a happening social scene, Boston is home to the Boston Common, Quincy Market, Beacon Hill, the Back Bay, and the Charles River Esplanade. Have a free afternoon? Take a Duck Tour followed by a hike on the Freedom Trail. Like the club scene? Lansdowne Street and Boylston boast the best nightlife Boston can offer. Want to

go shopping? Hit up the Prudential Center, Copley Place, and Newbury Street for all your high-end spending needs. Looking for the arts? The Boston Pops is a must-see at Symphony Hall, and Broadway in Boston offers all your favorite NYC shows just a T-stop away. More into museums? Your Tufts ID will get you into the Museum of Fine Arts for free, or make friends at MIT frats to get you into the Museum of Science, known for its late-evening laser shows at the planetarium. Want a freebie? Usher at Blue Man Group, and use the saved money for a nice scenic dinner at Top of the Hub.

Year round, Boston has a number of special events not to be missed. In the fall, HempFest comes to Boston Common for pro-legalization rallies, entertainment, and merchandise. Or, head on down to the Head of the Charles Regatta, with great views of crew teams from the Harvard Bridge (which has been so conveniently measured in “Smoots”—the height of MIT alum Oliver Smoot—as an MIT hack) and Charles River Esplanade. Root for the Tufts team at the Boston Marathon in the spring, or volunteer at water stations to quench the runners’ thirst. Here for summer session? Don’t miss the July 4th fireworks from the half-shell, choreographed in perfect timing with the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s July 4th show.

Don’t get sucked into the Leftists agenda. Although you certainly won’t get a fair and balanced education through your classes, you still have a shot of hearing more than one viewpoint if you read THE PRIMARY SOURCE. Go on a shooting trip with Tufts Right to Arms. Attend meetings of the Tufts Republicans (TR), or even if you’re a hard-core Democrat, keep your mind open to hearing TR sponsored-speakers. You may just learn something new, and you will definitely get a perspective different than what Peace and Justice Studies or the English Department can offer. ■



Miss Starr is junior majoring in Political Science and Philosophy.

Three years after 9/11, we have already forgotten.

Lessons Lost

by Nicole Brusco

Everyone remembers where he or she was on September 11, 2001, an event as momentous as any in American history. In the aftermath, vigils were held and aid was delivered to rescue workers and victims. More importantly, America was filled with a deep sense of purpose: to punish whoever caused this terrible tragedy.

Only three years after September 11, America has forgotten the lessons learned on that date. "9/11" is casually referred to by everyone from teenagers to politicians, but it is an empty reference, shallow because

we have gone on living our lives as if nothing had ever happened.

There have been many changes since the era of solidarity after the attacks. Americans no longer see the connection between 9/11 and Islamic extremists and, more importantly, those who fund fundamentalist activities. Immediately after September 11, the United States had no idea who had attacked, but we believed they were of Middle Eastern descent. Once America finished its job in Afghanistan and took the Taliban government out of power, the remainder of the enemy was forgotten. We must remember that it was not a single nation that attacked us, but a group comprised of citizens of various lands. To fight this enemy it is therefore necessary to go to many different nations.

The response of Congress to the attacks mirrored the response of the entire country, with a period of bi-partisan cooperation. Now, politicians unabashedly admit things like "I voted for the

war, before I voted against it." In this retraction of the cooperation exhibited after September 11, politicians are erasing much of the positive change that was a result of this tragedy.

The ongoing debate on the legitimacy of the War in Iraq is a prime example of the shortsightedness that has coupled

with partisanship to negate the lessons learned from September 11. Saddam Hussein was, in the smallest capacity, a monetary supporter of Osama bin Laden. After not having militarily

pursued every country that harbors terrorists, some now think America is within its precedent to limit action to Afghanistan. This is a strategic error of the largest scale.

Going into a passionate and divisive election, it is a shock to think back to three short years ago and remember the strong support of the President even from Democrats like John Kerry. Clearly, national security has been the most important issue of the last four years, but the Democrats have centered their campaign on healthcare, education and the environment. This is a foolhardy move, for the Left is denying the truth of the "post 9/11 world" that they so casually mention. The truth is that if America is under attack, healthcare, education and the environment do not matter. The Democrats have forgotten the horrific realities of September 11 and need to refocus their priorities.

The citizens, too, have forgotten the truth and are returning to the pre-9/11 state of ignorance and perceived invincibility. Americans ignore terror warnings, turn a blind eye to neighbors,

and are annoyed by any inconvenience caused by security. Airplane security too, it seems is becoming more and more caught up in a bureaucratic quagmire. Toenail clippers are forbidden on planes but 12-inch metal knitting needles are permissible. People should not be afraid to step outside their homes, but in their forgetfulness, vigilance is all but lost.

It is even more saddening to compare the level of patriotism, and how it has diminished since 9/11. The tragedy is ongoing for the families of victims and for those rebuilding from the attacks, yet Americans only slightly affected by the attacks have seemingly forgotten that they ever occurred. What happened to the millions of "United We Stand" stickers on cars and in windows? They faded and were thrown away. Instead of being patriotic we are being told to be ashamed to be an American. At the Olympics in Athens, athletes were told to tone it down and not to act American. There is no reason that any American should be less patriotic—civilians were attacked and the country moved onward with a strength and determination that is uniquely American.

Ironically, it is this same strength and determination that is now vanishing, as the images of falling towers fade deeper and deeper into memory. This year, reflect on the shock and terror of September 11, but remember the unity and determination of September 12. If we forget the lessons of our tragedies and retreat into naivety, we will let down our guard to the threat waiting just outside our door.

Going into a passionate and divisive election, it is a shock to think back to three short years ago and remember the strong support of the President even from Democrats like John Kerry.

Miss Brusco is a junior majoring in International Relations.



The GOP should take advantage of Fahrenheit 9/11's effects.

Fahrenheit 9/11: Good for Democracy

by Ford Adams

Is *Fahrenheit 9/11* misleading at times? Of course. Does Michael Moore stretch the truth? He even downright lies. Should Republicans bother to spend seven dollars and fifty cents of their hard-earned money to see the film? Most definitely.

Indisputably, Michael Moore has a serious difference of opinion with the current President that boils down to almost pure hatred. Such a relationship means that Moore will do just about anything to make Bush look like a bumbling, unintelligent, self-serving, coldhearted fool, unable to properly lead our country. Moore is successful in all these regards, but achieves his goal by means of lies, hearsay, and sound bites taken out of context. The film is one-sided, but that is not to say it is entirely fictitious. There is still much to be gained from seeing the film.

Fahrenheit 9/11 provides a fresh perspective that Republicans seldom consider in today's polarized political climate. The film offers a glimpse of the White House from the other side of the aisle. Such a perspective is important because Bush has taken the Republican Party by the reigns and has made it clear that no one in the party is to question his actions. President Theodore Roosevelt once said that "To announce that there must be no criticism of the President, or that we are to stand by the President, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." Republicans have adopted this no-questions attitude and have become somewhat complacent about questioning and scrutinizing our leaders—an important part of the democratic process that *Fahrenheit 9/11* seeks to remind us of.

Mr. Adams is a sophomore who has not yet decided a major.

The greatest success of *Fahrenheit 9/11* is its ability to engage people in debate and discourse, both tenets of a healthy democracy. However, this requires the participation of both sides, something that is only possible if Republicans see the film. Similarly, it does Republicans no good to simply stick their heads into the sand when controversial films like *Fahrenheit 9/11* gain popular support. They must remind the public that the majority of Republicans are good people and that much of what Moore portrays in the film is simply not true. In order to be effective, this too requires that Republicans first go see the film.

Moore has created an environment in which people want to talk about politics and the upcoming election—something Republicans should take advantage of.

Elections should serve to educate and inform the citizens as much as they do to process votes. Michael Moore has used his film to try to educate citizens about what he feels are serious problems with the current administration. He uses his right to free speech to help his country, and so should Republicans. Moore has created an environment in which people want to talk about politics and the upcoming election—something Republicans should take advantage of. Not an easy task, but it would mean doing the right thing.

In one movie scene, a group of businessmen discuss what the war in Iraq will mean to them. They come to the conclusion that the longer the war lasts, the more money they will make. This should make any true Republican's stomach churn. Moore illustrates the all too real stereotype that Republicans are heartless, self-serving businessmen.

These characteristics are not exclusive to Republicans, in fact, they are traits probably common to almost all politicians. It is worth seeing *Fahrenheit 9/11* just to be reminded of the danger of falling into the self-serving hole that many career politicians and businessmen already find themselves in.

Fahrenheit 9/11 makes Republicans—especially President Bush—look like the scum of the earth. Moore makes it seem as though Republicans have created all the problems that currently exist in the world. By refusing to see the film, Republicans only perpetuate these stereotypes. They must join the conversation that this film has created. Moore has engaged the American people, and it is time for Republicans to do the same. They cannot refuse to see the film and simultaneously denounce it. There is plenty to learn from *Fahrenheit 9/11*, which is good enough reason for everyone, Republicans and Democrats alike, to go out and see it. ■



A believer in “ends justifying means” if there ever was one.

Lying Jerk By Popular Demand

by Nicholas Boyd

doc-u-men-ta-ry (dŏk'y-mĕn'te-rĕ) *adj.* Presenting facts objectively without editorializing or inserting fictional matter; as in a book or film.

Fahrenheit 9/11, media-darling Michael Moore's new Bush-bashing feature that made big headlines when apparently illiterate journalist geniuses proclaimed it the highest-grossing *docu-mentary* of all time, violates this definition in so many ways it almost accounts for why so few have tried to keep track of them at all.

Rarely has a movie made

such a slew of desperate, hypocritical, and conjectured arguments. Sitting through the two-hour flick, one hears arguments as self-conflicting as anything John Kerry could ever dream of pulling off.

Why does Moore at one point deride US soldiers in Iraq for listening to music as they perform their duties, clearly suggesting they consider killing to be an enjoyable game, and later bemoan their tragic innocence in George W. Bush's imperialistic oil-pipeline-seeking conspiracy? He needs to, in order to broaden the appeal of *Fahrenheit 9/11* beyond the America-bashing pacifists and anarchists who make up his fan base. If you were touched by what you interpreted as Michael Moore's sympathy and admiration for US troops in *Fahrenheit 9/11*, it means he succeeded in getting you, presumably a fence-sitter or respectable disliker of Bush, to ally yourself with his coalition of America-haters. Consider yourself used.

In a rather infamous scene, President Bush is pictured sitting in a classroom of the Sarasota school he was visiting on 9/11 as he

is informed of the attacks. A concerned look in his eyes, Bush remains seated for seven minutes as Moore's narrative unabashedly concludes Bush is clueless and panicking inside. While it is a safe bet Moore would have preferred Bush jump out of his chair and wildly run around, nobody seems to have any suggestion for how the President could have better handled the situation.

Sitting through the two hour flick one hears arguments as self-conflicting as anything John Kerry could ever dream of pulling off.

That's because most Americans believe President Bush behaved appropriately by remaining calm and not scaring the children around him. For the record, John Kerry himself has pointed out he was

unable to think clearly on 9/11—who, if anybody, was perfectly clear-minded that day, for that matter?

The most convoluted parts of *Fahrenheit 9/11* deal with Moore's allegations of improper financial ties between the Bush administration and everyone from Halliburton to the Bin Laden family (and in a moment at which Moore's narrative can hardly contain his gleeful excitement, he even figures out a way to implicate the former CEO of Enron).

If “asking questions” really is patriotic, Moore would almost be a true American hero. The problem is, his questions are really, really, stupid. Moore realizes this and therefore shies away from trying to answer them, but also refrains from even fully formulating them. Case in point: the absurd idea that President Bush somehow does not want to see Osama Bin Laden get caught. Moore puts all the necessary elements in place but leaves it to the viewer to add the question mark—the work of a skilled propagandist, not a sincere documenter.

When Michael Moore encounters something he does not like, he prefers to trivialize it into obscurity rather than debate it. Whether it be by adding clowny, goofy music to otherwise perfectly serious scenes depicting Bush administration officials, or

ridiculously mocking America's coalition of the willing by pointing out only its smallest member countries, Moore knows to shy away from serious arguments crucial to his points that he cannot win.

In a shockingly ignorant and offensive collage of video clips Moore shows his audience Iraq as he believes it to have looked before it was liberated by the United States: busy streets and a content people with many smiling kids. In other words, life with Saddam was idyllic before the Americans came and invaded Iraq, a country Moore claims had “never threatened or attacked the United States, or ever murdered any American.” Mark Moore's choice of words: *murdered*, not killed, because later confronted about this absurd statement, Moore insisted the government of Iraq had indeed never “committed a provable premeditated *murder* on an American citizen.” Only someone as incessantly hateful of America as Moore is able to make such a razor-thin distinction, thereby disqualifying, among other things, Iraqi attacks on US aircraft patrolling Iraqi no-fly zones, Saddam's support for suicide bombers in Israel (who have killed Americans), and Saddam's plot to assassinate former President George Bush. Needless to say, it also serves as an excellent example of how far and loosely Moore will play with words and facts to make a point.

The mountain of lies and deceptions perpetuated by Moore approaches the unfathomable; the hyped omission of James Bath's name from President Bush's National Guard records was actually a federal requirement, Saudi Arabia barely owns 7% of *foreign* investment in the US let alone the 7% of all of America claimed by Moore, and contrary to Moore's assertion, the proportion of congressmen with children in Iraq is actually higher than the US average. The list goes on.

While distributing the half-baked propaganda film *Fahrenheit 9/11* is perfectly legal and within Michael Moore's rights, it is also highly irresponsible and destructive. Michael Moore can be a patriot only to those with allegiances that extend either beyond or in place of the United States of America. Because it seeks to inform only through dishonesty and deceit, *Fahrenheit 9/11* adds nothing desirable to the national political discourse, so honest Americans, Bush supporters or not, should do two things: base their loyalties and voting decisions on fact, not the twisted rant of a lying socialist jerk, and stop calling *Fahrenheit 9/11* something it is not: a documentary.

Mr. Boyd is a junior majoring in Economics and Political Science.

Conservatives think for themselves. Do you?

SOURCE of Reason

by Steven Bleiberg

When you read that THE PRIMARY SOURCE was a journal of conservative thought, you probably had a preconception of what “conservative” referred to. You may be certain that you are not a conservative because you do not agree with what you consider to be the “conservative” positions on certain issues. I’ll let you in on a little secret: conservatism is much more than a simple political platform, and conservatives are known to strongly disagree on all sorts of issues. So, if there is no single definitive conservative viewpoint, what sets THE PRIMARY SOURCE apart

from the mainstream? The answer is that this magazine is dedicated to critical reasoning, a rare skill at Tufts. Up to this point, many of you have not been challenged to think by your education. If you do not take the initiative, Tufts University may not teach you to think for yourself either.

In my high school experience, the focus was on getting good grades, participating in extracurriculars, and getting into college. When students asked teachers what the value of a particular subject was they would often get unhelpful responses like “It will make you a good citizen,” or, “You might want to teach it someday.” Although our teachers may have thought that they were preparing us to face the world, high school did not succeed in teaching us to think logically, creatively, and independently.

Early in my freshman year at Tufts, it became apparent that my high school was

not unique in its lack of attention to concept-based critical thinking. Some very intelligent students had great difficulty coming up with original ideas and supporting arguments both in their schoolwork and in their politics. This created a situation in which dogmatic radicals could easily take advantage of students on campus. Rational thought eluded campus activists who protested a ruling by the TCU Judiciary that found

a student group guilty of discriminatory behavior. It seems that someone misread the decision but had no trouble finding eager followers. The angry leftists forced their

way into Bendetson Hall and spent the night there, refusing to leave until then-President DiBiaggio gave in to their demands. Apparently, these activists did not believe in reasoned discussion and debate, and this victory reinforced their approach. After this incident, I asked myself why this behavior was unacceptable and how my views were different. I realized that I needed to justify my own opinions, and that failure to do so would make me not much different from the leftists whose behavior had disgusted me.

From talking to my friends, I learned that it was rare when we could actually explain why we had a certain view on an issue other than, “it just felt right.” Most of us described ourselves as moderates, whatever that meant. It seemed like we took “moderate” positions because we disliked what we knew of the “Left” (socialism) and the “Right” (blind faith in tradition). I had trouble with this. Splitting the difference is not a very compelling defense of a position. I wanted to know why an idea made sense. I realized that it

was not obvious if an idea was correct, so I had to keep an open mind. I read campus publications and decided that THE PRIMARY SOURCE was the only one that analyzed problems in this way. The SOURCE calls itself a “journal of conservative thought,” yet, as I soon discovered, its members hold a wide range of opinions. I realized that it was not necessarily the opinions that bound the members of the SOURCE but instead the process that produced the opinion. Conservative thought is the use of reason to answer a question.

Every SOURCE article I have written required me to stop and think about the position that I took. I refined my position by criticizing it. While many people took it personally when the ideas they espoused were questioned, I welcomed the reasoned criticism of others. If you keep an open mind in a discussion of an idea the worst thing that can happen is that you discover a flaw in your idea. If you accept something completely uncritically you will have a hard time dealing with conflicting evidence. At Tufts, this is a common problem. Professors and students in activist groups decide that something is true and then ignore any facts to the contrary. After all, it cannot really be a fact if it conflicts with the “truth.”

It is important to stop and think. When you read something, ask yourself why you agree or disagree with it. If you have a strong opinion on an issue, try your best to argue from the other side. You may not change your mind, but you may strengthen your own arguments and perhaps gain a better understanding of those you disagree with. You might be surprised with what you come up with when you are thinking for yourself. You might even consider writing for THE PRIMARY SOURCE. ■



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The 9/11 Commission Report

US Government Printing Office, ISBN 0-16-072304-3

\$8.50, paperback

Whereas much foresight would have been needed to prevent the calamitous events of the eleventh of September, little was needed to predict that some committee would be chartered in the aftermath. Once the bureaucratic cogs began moving, out plopped the bipartisan 9/11 Commission. Their mandate was to evaluate how the attacks happened and to make recommendations to minimize the chances of reoccurrence. Several months later, along with thousands of interviews and millions of documents—minus the few that somehow snuck their way into Sandy Berger's underpants—the commission released its five hundred-page report.

Jumping the gun, the only real role the commission and report served was to act like a Band-Aid on a national scale. While the attacks were sufficient to allow the U.S. government to "learn by experience," telling the public would be tantamount to declaring impotence. The commission's purpose was to engage the public by providing the impression of being involved in a deeply national process, when in reality tailoring our security to the new threat was already well underway. The report's content confirms this.

One mandate of the commission, to make recommendations necessary for national security, does warrant serious analysis, but for reasons other than the stated one. With elections pending, the report may well become cannon fodder for the Kerry camp if the current administration fails to follow the outline down to the last pagoda. For that reason, the report's validity and whether to heed its counsel should be scrutinized.

In the report, the commission cites the following four obstacles that must be addressed: imagination, policy, capability and management. But by a bureaucratic tendency to compound, the first two can be viewed as the same, and likewise the last two. Since the U.S. was still locked into a Cold War mindset, the commission believes that the agencies responsible for our protection were unable to think out

of the box, or imaginatively. Moreover, the commission notes that our policy was not geared towards treating terrorism as a top priority. In other words, our policy reflected our stunted thinking, which had not evolved along with the rest of the world. Secondly, the government was not able to match the capabilities of terrorist organizations, especially in the field. While management was treated as a separate problem, in fact our capabilities were limited by how well our agencies and managerial teams were staying apprised of both their potential, and ours. Essentially, the report found that the attacks on September 11 occurred because the US was not adapting to the international climate in its thinking and deployment of human capital.

Having isolated the causes, the report then presents suggestions that would aid in eliminating these loopholes in national security. In sum, they included establishing a new counter-terrorism center, a national intelligence director within the President's cabinet, streamlining information sharing by reorganizing existing agencies under the intelligence director, and an attempt to root out the causes of Islamic extremism. Indeed, while most of the proposals look good on paper, the real question is whether the U.S. government should move forward with them.

Bureaucrats love nothing better than more bureaucracy, and in good fashion a majority of the proposals fall into that line. If the administration enacted these proposals they would simply be cloning an already extant department. That is, the organization and objectives of Homeland

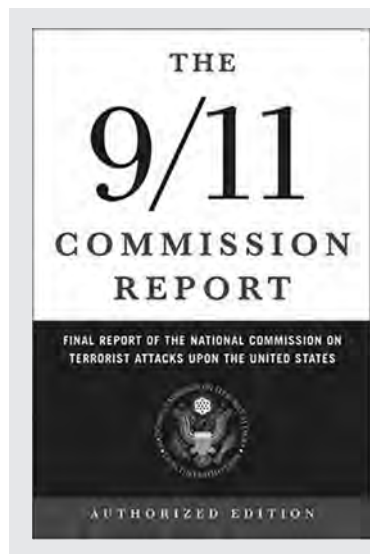
Security are surprisingly similar to the suggestions made by the report. The department already has as its focus protecting Americans from terrorism, and a cabinet level director to boot. Also, the department is designed to pool resources from various intelligence agencies in order to streamline information sharing. Not to mention, the department has taken immigration, border patrol and coast guard services under its wing, enhancing border security. Lastly, it does not take a rocket scientist—or bipartisan panel of politicians—to realize the importance of winning the values war in order to deprive Islamic terrorists of recruits. In a nutshell, the report advises doing what is already being done.

Where the report did hit home was how it mentioned that time and again the government did not manage to keep pace with a changing global environment. The report stressed that perhaps one of the serious flaws leading to 9/11 was the lack of adaptation. Rightly so as the 1990's bore out. Not engaging terrorism allowed Islamic extremists to decide how and when to escalate the stakes. Had the government devoted its resources, especially human capital, in a pro-

active manner, then with every confrontation the U.S. would have been aware of the growing potential of al Qaida and other terrorist organizations. And, with an understanding of capability would have come better preventative measures at a more fortuitous time. Consequently, the one comment of value was the emphasis on not only making better use of current intelligence and defense personnel, but also actively expanding the roster.

For all the publicity surrounding the commission and its findings, the end result was certainly all bark and no bite. Aside from recognizing the need to maintain a dynamic, proactive approach to any and all threats, the report will prove to be of little use. The only way to guarantee our safety is to perpetually meet these issues head-on, even aggressively and unilaterally if necessary, since the only institution that will ever have our safety at heart is good ol' Uncle Sam.

—Christian Miller



If votes really are for sale in America, I'd like John Edwards to buy mine.

Kerried Away

by Chris Kohler

This has been a great year. First of all, somebody is running for president against President Bush, which for the last three years people were telling me wasn't going to happen because there was a "dynasty" or a "fascist regime" in place in the United States now, and the president had been selected by the Supreme Court, and the great experiment in democracy was all over. But no, there's another guy who's going up for the job, so I guess we're still okay after all.

I found out about this new guy because I had the Democratic National Convention on in the background the other night while I was do-

ing typical conservative things like making the country unsafe for women and minorities and such. I didn't catch much of the audio, occupied as I was, but from what I heard at first I thought the candidate's name was Vietnam.

At first I figured the Democrats had finally paid attention to their own message of inclusion and diversity and nominated an Asian candidate. Then I looked over at the TV and it was just John Kerry. This is one of the instances in which having gone to Tufts gave me a leg up on the general population, because I knew who this guy was. Meanwhile my parents were watching TV wondering why Fred Gwynne was still alive and talking about abortion all of a sudden.

Now, I knew who it actually was because I went to a liberal college in Massachusetts, and Kerry is a Massachusetts liberal. Or actually, no he's not. This has apparently become a hurtful smear attack phrase now, and you're not supposed to say it. What part of it isn't true? They're not telling. Maybe he's actually from Djibouti. In any case, you've

got to admire the nerve on some people, telling you that you can't call a left-leaning politician from the state just above Connecticut a "Massachusetts liberal." Meanwhile, calling the sitting president a "f—king stupid moron bastard" is considered reasoned, intelligent discourse.

Kerry chose as his running mate John Edwards, who just prior to all this was running for President himself. I have a lot of respect for this because running for President is hard.

When you run for President you give one speech three hundred times. Edwards' speech was about how there are two Americas.

That's about all I caught of it, so just off the top of my head I guess the two Americas are: my America, where I'm sitting here drinking Wal-Mart brand soda and voting Bush, and Edwards' America where everyone has one billion hillion skillion dollars and votes for Kerry. I will say right now that I'll vote for Kerry if Edwards gives me, say, the relatively tiny sum of just one jillion dollars. He's got that in his couch cushions.

Actually, what people said about Edwards was that he was, all along, running for Vice President. This is the same thing as running for President, but you try not to be too much of an asshole when you talk about the presumptive front-runner. This meant that at first, Edwards had to walk on eggshells whenever he was near Howard Dean. Of course, everybody walked on eggshells when they were around Howard Dean because he looked like at any time he was going to explode into a fiery ball of death. Then he did, and suddenly Edwards had to start making nice with Senator Eggo.

Speaking of which, have you ever stumbled into a diner at like f—k o'clock in the morning and ordered the hungry man's breakfast, but you're too drunk to really pinpoint the home fries with the ketchup

and it just goes all over everything, and now you've got to try and choke down the taste of waffles tainted with ketchup? That's how I feel when Teresa Heinz Kerry shows up on TV. I won't say much else about her except just to point out that she is the kind of woman who, if she were a Republican, would be viciously attacked about her looks in the *New York Times*.

The Times continues to serve its usual vital purpose this election year by reminding us every day that John Kerry is the only presidential candidate to ever serve in the military, ever. This is to suggest that Kerry would be a good wartime president. In the interest of fairness, here, it should be noted that Kerry does have a plan for what he's going to do in Iraq. He's just keeping it secret. This is strange because usually you want to tell people what your platform is when you're running for elected office. Kerry's message re: Iraq seems to be "If you want to know what I'm going to do, elect me and find out."

Lucky for him, something like half the country is totally okay with this. Kerry just has to concentrate on getting the message out to "swing voters," which given the content of the rest of his acceptance speech means the kids on the swings in the playground. Hearing the heroic tale of how Kerry saved Licorice The Wonder Hamster from near death in one of the Heinz Kerry family's many gold plated toilets nearly made me cry, and dry heave, and anyway and I'm sure it convinced the world's children that whatever was on television was not a scary mummy but was actually the father they never had. In any case we're off to the polls this November, or at least the grownups are, which makes me optimistic for Bush's chances yet. I'll be voting Republican, unless Edwards comes through with the jillion dollars. Think about it, John-John—we know how much difference one vote can make.

I didn't catch much of the audio, occupied as I was, but from what I heard at first I thought the candidate's name was Vietnam.

Chris Kohler graduated from Tufts University in 2002. He served as Production Manager of *THE PRIMARY SOURCE* for three years.



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NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

If it's safe enough for humans in France, it's probably safe enough for dogs in America.

—Hank Hill

If you're able to put your money away in a 401(k), and you're not going to need a government retirement plan someday, then you don't need liberals. That's what they're scared of.

—Rush Limbaugh

Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.

—John Adams

God grants liberty only to those who love it, and are always ready to guard and defend it.

—Daniel Webster

I actually did vote for the \$87 billion before I voted against it.

—John Kerry

The free market is ugly and stupid, like going to the mall; the unfree market is just as ugly and just as stupid, except there is nothing in the mall and if you don't go there they shoot you.

—P. J. O'Rourke

If John Kerry had a dollar for every time he bragged about serving in Vietnam—oh wait, he does.

—Ann Coulter

John Kerry will undergo surgery to repair his right shoulder. He originally hurt it when he suddenly switched positions on Iraq.

—Craig Kilborn

In closing, let me thank you, the American people, for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your president. When the Lord calls me home, whenever that day may be, I will leave with the greatest love for this country of ours and eternal optimism for its future. I now begin the journey that will lead me into the sunset of my life. I know that for America there will always be a bright dawn ahead.

—Ronald Reagan

A government that is big enough to give you all you want is big enough to take it all away.

—Barry Goldwater

I believe I can fight a more effective, more thoughtful, more strategic, more proactive, more sensitive war on terror that reaches out to other nations and brings them to our side.

—John Kerry

America has been in too many wars for any of our wishes, but not a one of them was won by being sensitive. A sensitive war will not destroy the evil men who killed 3,000 Americans and who seek the chemical, nuclear and biological weapons to kill hundreds of thousands more.

—Vice President Dick Cheney

Patriotism is easy to understand in America; it means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country.

—Calvin Coolidge

Even if animal research resulted in a cure for AIDS, we'd be against it.

—Ingrid Newkirk, President, PETA

White folks was in caves while we was building empires... We taught philosophy and astrology and mathematics before Socrates and them Greek homos ever got around to it.

—Reverend Al Sharpton, in a 1994 speech at Kean College, NJ, cited in "Democrats Do the Dumbest Things"

Many families have been devastated tonight. This just is not right. They did not deserve to die. If someone did this to get back at Bush, then they did so by killing thousands of people who DID NOT VOTE for him! Boston, New York, DC, and the planes' destination of California—these were places that voted AGAINST Bush!

—Michael Moore, September 12th 2001

If you have ten thousand regulations you destroy all respect for the law.

—Winston Churchill

The worst thing you can do is allow a coalition to determine what your mission is.

—Donald Rumsfeld

I don't measure a man's success by how high he climbs but by how high he bounces when he hits bottom.

—George S. Patton

They had a profile of John Kerry on the news and they said his first wife was worth around \$300 million and his second wife, his current wife, is worth around \$700 million. So when John Kerry says he's going after the wealthy in this country, he's not just talking. He's doing it!

—Jay Leno

Saying we rule the world doesn't make it so. We don't rule the world. We lead the world—this is a huge distinction to people who live outside the intellectual menagerie of an Ivy League English department. If the coolest guy in school wears a leather jacket and all the other kids follow suit, that's hardly the same thing as the coolest guy forcing them at gunpoint to buy a leather jacket from him.

—Jonah Goldberg

Political correctness is just tyranny with manners.

—Charlton Heston

How do you tell a Communist? Well, it's someone who reads Marx and Lenin. And how do you tell an anti-Communist? It's someone who understands Marx and Lenin.

—Ronald Reagan

Americans have a right and advantage of being armed—unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.

—Thomas Jefferson

There is no "squelching of dissent" in the United States. Certain people who were not used to it were merely criticized. That is evidence of free speech, not its absence.

—Mona Charen

Freedom is not empowerment. Empowerment is what the Serbs have in Bosnia. Anybody can grab a gun and be empowered. It's not entitlement. An entitlement is what people on welfare get, and how free are they? It's not an endlessly expanding list of rights—the "right" to education, the "right" to health care, the "right" to food and housing. That's not freedom, that's dependency. Those aren't rights, those are the rations of slavery—hay and a barn for human cattle. There's only one basic human right, the right to do as you damn well please. And with it comes the only basic human duty, the duty to take the consequences.

—P. J. O'Rourke