

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*SM

Volume XIV Number 9

VERITAS SINE DOLO

February 8, 1996



Valentine's Special ♥

Sweetie-pie Message Hearts

Tufts' Love Story

Sex Wars

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For the remains of the famed

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Lacking true inspiration, Tufts students have rallied around this mutant rodent as a lame symbol of unity. This creature, an affront to squirrels of color everywhere, must be exterminated. Upstanding men of character are encouraged to participate.

*known more commonly as a SOURCE t-shirt

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Message Candies

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FROM THE EDITOR

When a pair of young men visiting a Tufts freshman engaged in malicious defacement of school property, students and administrators alike voiced understandable outrage. The extent of the damage to Carmichael Hall and the directed, if lewd, comments which the graffiti expressed created widespread uproar. The perpetrators' apologies, ensuing statements by various officials, and extent of campus media coverage all point toward an unpopular truth. The vandals, however malicious, happen to be correct.

The offenders are certainly worthy objects of disgust; destroying private property and writing such hateful terms as "nigger" are simply unacceptable in civilized society. Leveling the accusation that "Tufts loves faggots" or that it is "dyking out" lends nothing to intellectual exchange. The slurs do, however, bluntly approach a number of issues with which our community constantly deals. Put simply, Tufts subjugates academics in hopes of creating a culture of victimization and promulgating extensive support for homosexuals.

From prospective freshmen's first contact with the University, Admissions categorizes them on the basis of race. Once Tufts confirms membership in a historically oppressed group, it grants these hyphenated Americans special consideration ranging from favoritism in admissions to a getaway weekend on Cape Cod. In fact, the University is so obsessed with racial classifications and compensating "victims" that official forms regularly ask "How would you describe yourself?"

Of course, the provided options never include "bright," "articulate," "shy," "funny," or even the P.C. favorite "globally conscious." No; chief among Tufts' concerns are "African-American," "Native-American," and, a new one here, "White-American." So when the visiting offenders scrawled racial epithets across dorm walls, they were only taking racist attitudes a step further than Tufts itself. On the admissions application racial clas-

sification is polite "concern for diversity;" on a wall they call it a hate crime.

The slights considered most outrageous, those about homosexuals, hurt so much because they come closest to the truth. This university has carried on a well-documented, long-running love affair with gays and lesbians. Executive offices and academic departments often lend financial support to forums dealing with "sexual orientation," and administrators frequent homosexual pep rallies.

Veracity notwithstanding, the vandalism was clearly inappropriate. But the touchy-feely love-in it spawned garners the top prize for absurdity. The culprits apologized in letters published by *The Tufts Daily*, which also ran extensive articles regarding the University judicial system's response to the crime. One repentant misfit even wrote individual letters of apology to the Womyn's Collective, the African-American community, and the TLGBC.

Since the miscreants chose to slur a number of groups the University reveres, officials moved quickly to deploy the victim-support troops. Coordinator of Womyn's Programs Peggy Barrett, and Director of the Tufts LGB Resource Center Charlene Waldron met with students last week to discuss their feelings about the event. As some participants consoled one another, Barrett trotted out the stand-bys of self-esteem education saying, "Together as a community we have to know how to respond and be supportive of each other."

Here again, Tufts' well-paid busybodies made themselves useful by turning an unfortunate situation into a grotesque cheering session for allegedly oppressed minorities. College students are supposed to be young adults who can handle petty problems while exploring life's great questions. This incident stands as further evidence that instead of fostering intellectual discovery, Tufts treats students like vulnerable children incapable of facing even the smallest adverse situations while promoting a self-degradation it calls aggressor-confrontation.

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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Surprisingly, recent polls report that publishing magnate Steve Forbes has pulled ahead of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole in pursuit of the Republican presidential nomination. With the Iowa Caucuses around the corner and the New Hampshire primary eight days later, the suggestion of a two-horse race has sent a wave of alarm through the Dole camp. Rather than combating the Forbes threat with innovative ideas and sincere appeals to the American people, the one-time front-runner has resorted to defensive class warfare tactics.

In reactionary fashion, Dole speculated that Forbes has been able to evade media scrutiny because he owns stock in *Time*, *Newsweek*, and various television networks. The Kansas senator grumbled, "This election is not for sale. It does not go to the highest bidder. It doesn't go to the person who goes to work in a helicopter." If these statements reflect Dole's true beliefs about the nominating process, his supporters should question their candidate's perception of the public, since he seems to think that Americans can, in fact, be bought. Besides, Forbes is not offering citizens money in exchange for votes—just attractive policy.

Even former senator and Dole adviser Warren Rudman admitted that the recent challenges to the Majority Leader's campaign stem from his failure to introduce appealing tax alternatives—not Forbes' bank roll. Other Dole aides concur; the scare arises from the Senator's failure to introduce his own flat tax plan, a proposal many expected last September.

The polls clearly demonstrate that the American populace demands the provisions of Steve Forbes' platform. The surveys also indicate that the people have grown tired of career politicians. As a Washington outsider, Forbes endears voters. If he intends to regain his front-runner status, Dole would be wise to develop some concrete proposals for economic growth of his own rather than unfoundedly blaming Forbes for enticing the public with his money.

It is ironic that Bob Dole, a supposed conservative, has attempted to discredit an opponent on the basis of class. Conservatism denounces evaluation of worth based on any measure other than merit. If Steve Forbes' financial success must become an issue in this election, it should be considered an attribute, not a vice. His achievements illustrate the rewards of hard work and serve as an exemplary model. Dole's criticism reinforces the public's frustrations with Washington-types as he relies on political posturing to advance personal ambitions. If the Senator continues to dodge the real issues, he can count on losing this two-horse race.

Although he is often viewed as a hate-monger, Americans rarely consider Louis Farrakhan more than a demagogic rabble-rouser, a greater threat to his own movement than anything else. His conference with Libyan strongman Muammar Quadaffi will surely change this perception. Shortly after meeting with the Nation of Islam leader, Quadaffi announced that he would be giving Farrakhan's group one billion dollars to support its fight against America's supposed racist tyranny. Clearly, Quadaffi wants to use Farrakhan as a political tool to fight American imperialism from the inside.

Farrakhan, never one to rule out violence as a means to achieve his ends, becomes exceedingly dangerous when openly connected to the leader of one of the world's premier terrorist states. Though it is doubtful that Quadaffi will be able to provide the Nation of Islam with one billion dollars, any move which would make it easier for radical terrorists to penetrate deeper into the US poses a direct threat to our national security. The sinister

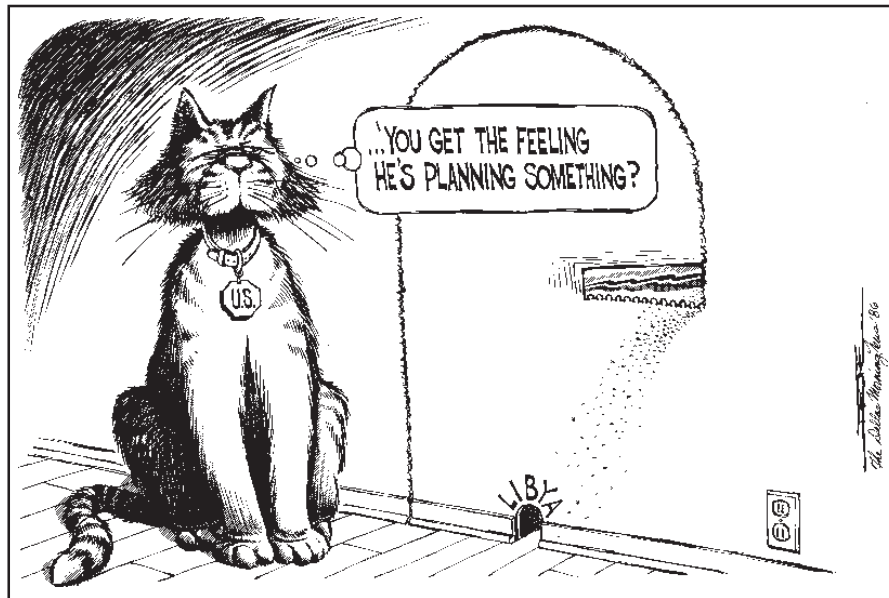
attack on the World Trade Center and the foiled plot of extremist Sheik Omar Abdel-Rachman show that America is no longer immune to the threat of international terrorism.

If Quadaffi fails to procure the funds, the Nation of Islam has nonetheless forged an alliance which

could have grave consequences. Farrakhan's followers, all well established in mainstream American society, are the kind of resources terrorists could exploit with devastating ramifications. Farrakhan's political showmanship has been carried one step too far. It is one thing to advocate black supremacy but quite another to join forces with a criminal mastermind responsible for the deaths of thousands of people belonging to all races and creeds. If members of the Nation of Islam want to maintain any semblance of respectability, they must dissociate themselves from that group.

President Inconsistency

Although the Senate rejected Dr. Henry Foster for the position of Surgeon General because of questions regarding his dishonesty and immorality, President Clinton still sees fit to incorporate this man of dubious character into his administration. Dr. Foster will assume the responsibility of heading the President's task force to combat teen pregnancy.



Clinton deceitfully claims that he wants to cooperate with the Senate, yet he spitefully appointed Foster to a position not subject to senatorial scrutiny. Despite such doublespeak, Clinton recently asserted that his record shows “remarkable consistency.” His perception, however, deviates from reality. Oddly, the President, who once championed nationalized health care, now claims that the era of big government is over. To his credit, he supports school choice— but only within the public education system. Other reforms, too, portend to return power to individuals and the states, while they in fact place strict controls on the extent of freedom. Moreover, that the government involves itself in any activity— such as the education of children— which families and local groups can better handle, indicates that Clinton considers “big” a relative adjective.

Furthermore, the newly self-proclaimed proponent of limited government does not plan to nominate a new candidate for Surgeon General during the remainder of his term. Since the spot has been vacant for over a year with little notice, the job’s irrelevance is abundantly clear. If Clinton is serious about downsizing bureaucracy, he would eliminate the title outright. We should not expect this measure, though. The President finds no fault with his inconsistent and self-interested ways. Unfortunately for him, the American public does.

Dismantling the Union

Traditional values will soon face another serious challenge. San Francisco is preparing to perform and recognize civil-service marriages of homosexuals. Though conservatives usually welcome any measure that alleviates government control over private life, there is, in this case, a compelling public interest to oppose gay unions under the law.

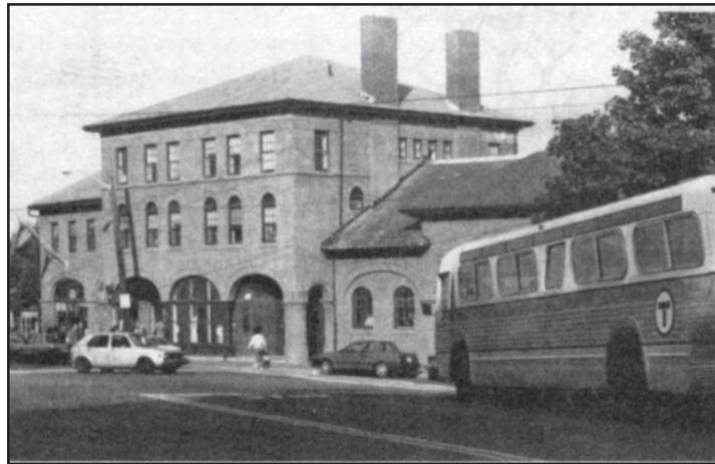
Marriage is a sacred cultural tradition and should not be subjugated to radical political interests. Such lifetime partnerships, by definition, take place between a man and a woman. Joining two individuals of the same sex in a ceremony mimicking Holy matrimony redefines the millennia-old institution.

Society honors this hallowed union with certain privileges such as favorable tax specifications and family-oriented health insurance plans that would have to be extended to same-sex couples if other cities follow San Francisco’s lead. And until now, states recognized the superiority of married heterosexual couples by giving them preference in custodial and adoptive matters. It is a liberal fallacy that family structure has no bearing on a child’s psychological development. Experts agree that youngsters perform best when they grow up in stable, traditional households. If the law recognizes homosexual marriages, it seems only logical that the City would permit gay couples to adopt and raise children.

While some homosexuals argue that a child is better off living within their loving relationships than an orphanage or foster home, that position is merely tautology. A child born to a crack-addicted mother may be technically better off in the home of a recreational marijuana smoker, but that does not mean that such an arrangement is an acceptable alternative. This law constitutes a gross violation of the community’s promise to protect the helpless. Minors have no choice but to place themselves in the hands of adult decision makers; unfortunately those who should know better are willfully jeopardizing children’s futures and well being. Any policy which places a radical political agenda before the interests of children is an egregious measure that will undoubtedly have adverse effects on future generations. Caring citizens cannot allow San Francisco’s politically loaded decree to become contagious.

Dining Competitively

The proposal to build a coffee house in Curtis Hall has spawned much dialogue about who will be the vendor. TCU Senators Brooke Jamison and Stacy Goldberg whole-heartedly support making Tufts Dining Services the sole operator of the new eatery. Although they have much zeal for the University and confidence in TUDS, they should reconsider the benefits of granting the space to a private firm.



Curtis Hall’s lounge may soon be the sight of a coffee house, but concerns about low quality TUDS service have stirred debate.

The Senators wrote in a *Daily Viewpoint* that “A coffee house run by Dining Services has many advantages,” but offered no indications why that would be the case. Instead, they attempted to qualify the statement by declaring, “Dining Services is interested in designing a coffee house with a unique atmosphere that would include an eclectic collection of antique tables, sofas, and dishware.” While TUDS may be able to provide these aesthetics, an outside firm would be no less capable of constructing a facility with similar

amenities. In fact, an independent vendor would be more likely to oblige Tufts students because, if it fails to do so, competitors will swiftly replace it.

There is no reason to believe that a coffee house managed by Dining Services would be better administered than Hotung Café or The Commons. Dining Services monopolizes on-campus eateries and abuses this privilege by overcharging students for mediocre service and poor quality. TUDS has bitterly fought allowing a private café on campus because competition might force Dining Services to raise its dismal standards. Ironically, the TCU Senate Dining Services Committee, which supposedly works for the best interests of students, promoted TUDS’ deceptive strategy. Tuftonians should step up where their representatives have failed them and demand consumer-sensitive dining options.

Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS When the most famous groundhog of all, Punxatawney Phil, made his annual appearance last week, a number of onlookers held up signs touting the rodent's prediction about winter. One read "Six more weeks? Your kidding me." We're sure that the author placed out of English 2.

PS Heard through the grapevine: President Clinton now supports forcing public school kids to wear uniforms, in the hopes of preventing playground violence. Sure worked for the Postal Service.

PS Ohio prosecutors charged a sixteen-year-old girl with beating her mother to death with a baseball bat. Unlike Tufts, we won't capitalize on this tragedy.

PS Curtis Dancy decided to bring his four-year old daughter with him while he robbed a Massachusetts convenience store at three in the morning. Looks like Curtis took the "Take Your Daughter to Work" routine a bit too seriously.

PS Q: How do you know when a Tufts student has been surfing the World Wide Web? A: When there are block schedule markings all over the computer screen.

PS A New York woman is being held for assault after raiding her employer's liquor cabinet on the first day of her babysitting job. She also hit her boss and a police officer. She is now a Tufts RA.

PS The Kentucky State Senate is debating whether to remove a section of their 105-year-old constitution which decrees that white and black youths should attend separate schools. They should use Dewick-MacPhie as their model.

PS Since Virginia Lee became the first social worker at the Suffolk County big house, which she calls her home, she has counseled hundreds of men awaiting trial. *The Boston Globe* proudly reports that she "serviced" three generations of some families. A family that steals together, wastes tax money together.

PS The late Gene Kelly once starred in a film entitled "What a Way to Go." How appropriate.

PS Top Ten Reasons Why TUDS Should Not Run the New Coffee House:

10. Chicky-chicky-cino
9. Gives the Arts House another high
8. Pastry roll-ups
7. Another free meal for Patti Lee
6. Tick off *The Observer*
5. Tofu canollis
4. Jennifer Aniston wouldn't be caught dead at Tufts
3. "Equal" instead of sugar
2. One more Chaplain's Table
1. One Hotung is enough



PS More Limey lovin' trouble: Prince Philip and an unidentified woman had their personal conversation taped by a third party. A tabloid reported that the two were discussing "sensitive issues." They, too, were upset by the Carmichael graf-fiti.

PS The official White House spokesman for Whitewater (read: liar), Mark Fabiani, was recently abducted by robbers. The kidnapers forced him to withdraw money from an ATM machine before they set him free. They then invested it in cattle futures.

PS Then they rubbed out Vince.

PS Ohio State University researchers have found that men and women who retire tend to increase their alcohol intake. You'd pound 'em down too if the government kept taking your money until you reach 65.

PS South African President Nelson Mandela told Louis Farrakhan that he should focus on tolerance instead of division. Talk about the pot calling the kettle... diverse.

PS The heir to Du Pont is in isolation at a Pennsylvania jail while police look for the weapon he allegedly used to kill an Olympic wrestler. Hulk Hogan didn't arrive in time to save him.

PS Four high school girls were caught re-enacting a scene from "Bonnie and Clyde" in a convenience store. Police, believing it was a real robbery, surrounded the store with guns drawn. At least they didn't act out a scene from "The Crying Game."

PS A teacher in Washington was suspended because she ordered her entire class to copy an obscene word from the blackboard. She intended to perform a handwriting analysis in order to determine which student previously wrote the four-letter word on a desk. This sounds like a job for Peggy Barrett.

PS Ten-year-old Steve Lu has become the youngest person to enroll in California State University at Dominguez Hills. Since he is too small to carry his Biology and Computer Science textbooks, his Dad constructed a cart especially for the job. He'll need another when the diversity training starts.

PS Top Ten Whitewater Alibis:

10. "The Man" did it
9. Socks ate all the paperwork
8. Lined Chelsea's room with the documents
7. A guy from UMass did it
6. Roger did it
5. Too busy socializing medicine
4. Hillary spent all her time killing Vince Foster
3. Actually, she was chipping golf balls in the backyard with Kato
2. Not enough time between quickies
1. Bill spent all his time pumping up for his big bout with Safire

PS A Los Angeles man convicted of spousal rape now seeks a new trial on the grounds that his religion, Catholicism, entitles him to demand sex from his wife under the First Amendment. Quite a broad interpretation of the Constitution.

PS An underground tank belonging to Boston University has leaked 1,000 gallons of oil into the Charles River since Superbowl weekend. That one-armed man must be at it again.

PS Midnight marauders broke into a German museum and swiped a couple of real characters. Muppets Bert and Ernie were kidnapped; Miss Piggy was found injured, but is now in stable condition. Why do we always come here? I guess we'll never know. This joke is going nowhere, so let's just start the show!

PS According to a *USA Today* poll, two thirds of Americans now think Dan Quayle was right about family values. They also watch Monday Night Football.

PS Coca Cola is looking for individuals who wish to carry the torch to the Olympics. Everyone's favorite soft drink company will choose 2,500 runners out of the 10,000 needed. They'll have to run in perfect harmony.

PS Two Phoenix parents pled guilty to pursuing a contract killer to bump off their son, Gerald Fitzgerald. They feared that his behavior would get them kicked out of their trailer park. Sounds like the first single off the new Garth Brooks record.

PS Out on the campaign trail, Pat Buchanan pledged to require voter approval of major Supreme Court decisions. Fortunately, most voters disapprove of Pat.

PS Because its top secret budget makes it difficult to keep track of finances, the CIA reports that it misplaced \$2 billion. Try asking the psychics where the money went. And make sure you talk to Jackie Stallone and Dionne Warwick.

PS Maybe someone in the Rose Law Firm has the answer.

PS State senator Howard Stephenson of Utah has proposed legislation allowing kids to drop out of school at the tender age of fourteen. He says that the measure will get troublemakers out of schools. And into the ghettos where they can do some real good.

PS In an interview with Black Entertainment Television, Janet Jackson said that her family is "no different from any other family." We never knew that most American households include an exhibitionist, a transsexual llama lover, and two has-beens.



Hillary's Idea of a Fair Trial

Grade Inflation Taketh Away

Edward Havell

Tufts' transcripts indicate that grades in the "A" and "B" range reflect, respectively, superior and meritorious work. "C" marks, according to report cards, signify that a student has performed at a satisfactory level. This system constitutes nothing unusual; colleges nationwide overstate the value of their grades. Years ago, marks honestly assessed student achievement. Today, however, universities reject the rigor of traditional grading policies by inflating grades.

Professors reward average work with a "B" while only underachievers generate "C" work. In most college graduating classes, "C" students flounder at the bottom. At Tufts, a liberal arts major with a 2.49 GPA cannot pledge a fraternity even though he has better than a "satisfactory" average. Moreover, a substantial number of students make the Dean's List by compiling GPAs of 3.40 or above. Maintaining an honors GPA should be a rare achievement; it is now commonplace.

Tufts bureaucrats have occasionally censured professors, ordering them to give higher average grades to their students. One recent case involved an Economics professor who declined to use a grading curve to assess a class that demonstrated knowledge at a level well below usual standards. However, Tufts does not stand alone in the battle to withstand accurate quantifiable measures of academic achievement. As a result, students all over the country who work hard and genuinely excel in their studies do not receive their due; it is a daunting task, on paper, to separate those who succeed through hard work and those who benefit from grade inflation.

Undergraduate institutions occasionally suggest that they inflate grades so students can compete with undergraduates from other colleges in finding employment or placement in graduate school. Faculty and administrators can conveniently point out the grading systems of other schools and claim a need to keep

pace. Sometimes, however, grade inflation may prevent students from usefully including a high GPA among their accomplishments. At Harvard University, where approximately fifteen percent of all students do not graduate with honors, resumés frequently omit GPAs. High marks may impress an out-of-touch family member, but graduate school admissions committees and potential employers are not so easily fooled.

Grade inflation only obfuscates the stratification process; schools inflate grades to increase the morale of those who lack the qualifications for admission thereby withholding a mark of excellence from truly deserving students. Unfortunately, policies such as affirmative action lead to the admission of those who do not measure up to typical academic standards. In order to continue receiving government funding, however, Tufts and other schools must graduate these underachievers. Faced with graduating classes in which the racial portrait of pre-med majors did not conform to affirmative action's quotas, Tufts even considered lightening standards for certain

achievement. The result is almost always a decline in the student body's demonstrated ability. In the game of baseball, managers play weak-hitting pitchers and shortstops because those players have defensive skills that compensate for low batting averages. Similarly, college diversity managers pri-

It is a daunting task to separate those who succeed through hard work and those who benefit from grade inflation.

oritize race and gender at the expense of other talents. However, the pitchers and shortstops have something to contribute to the team. Tufts' mission of fulfilling particular "diversity" notions has so far failed to extend any benefits to the classroom. Although all human beings are equal before God and the law, all people regardless of race, gender, and class do not possess equal capabilities.

Watering down achievement punishes those who produce the highest quality work. Students matching the rigorous academic standards have quantitative records similar to those who do not. If "C" work was truly mediocre, "A" work would occur less commonly, as many of those currently receiving A's would end up with B's. The top of the academic pyramid would become only a fraction of its former self. Even if grade inflation raises an "A-" student up to an "A," the inflated grade will not have as much value as the original grade.

In addition, an inefficient grading system not only breaks the trust of students who pay to have their work critically evaluated, but it discourages students from engaging in original intellectual thought. If a student knows exactly what sort of effort is



Professors seem to enjoy upwardly sloping graphs, especially when they depict students' grades or their own evaluations.

groups in order to produce medical school candidates 'who looked more like America.'

Scores of unqualified applicants populate top universities because admissions committees increasingly substitute an arbitrary form of diversity for aptitude and

Please see "Inflation," continued on page 18.

Another Story of Tufts Love

Jen wriggled slightly in her seat as her eyes met those of the cute frat boy sitting at the other end of Dewick. She looked down and played with her pasta.

"Jen, what's wrong with you? You haven't been yourself lately," Peggy asked. The two girls had been friends since High School.

"I don't know. My mind just keeps drifting off."

"It's probably that guy over there you keep staring at. You know, you've always let men dictate too much of your life," Peggy said.

"I don't know, maybe you're right. He is kinda cute, though. And he's in my English class and seems really sensitive," Jen replied.

"You are so naïve. Don't you know the only reason men take English classes is to pick up women?" Peggy sneered.

Maybe Peg was right, Jen thought. She had gone to that women's discussion group earlier in the week, and all she could remember was the story that one girl told about the nice sensitive guy she had met in a French Literature class. And she did spend a lot of time thinking about men. But was that really unusual? Every guy she had ever known admitted to spending most of his time thinking about women.

"And besides," Peggy said, "he's a Greek. Probably just wants to get you drunk so he can have sex with you."

"He doesn't seem that way. Why are you so quick to judge him?" Jen asked.

"Jen, grow up. Men hurt women. Don't you know three out of five women in college will get raped by someone they know?"

Could it be true? Maybe her friend was right. Some of the girls in the discussion group had told her that she needed to get rid of all those ideas the patriarchy planted in her head about relationships. Still, all she wanted was to follow her heart, and was that really so bad?

Over at David's table, the conversation went on loudly between David and two of his brothers, Rob and Brian.

"So that's the girl you told us about," Brian said. "She's pretty cute. Freshman?"

"Yeah, but she's not like the usual dumb frosh. She seems really interesting," David said.

"Well, when are you going to ask her out?" Rob inquired.

"I don't know. I'm kind of afraid to. She's always talking about all these women's issues and that sort of thing. I think she's a big-time feminist."

"That sucks," Brian said. "I took a girl like that out to dinner once, and she just assumed that I only wanted to get her in bed. I just thought she was pretty and interesting and wanted to get to know her better. I never spoke to her again." David and Rob nodded in silent acknowledgment. They couldn't understand what they had ever done to any woman that would merit the bitterness they sometimes encountered.

"The feminists say they want equality, but what they really want is to make men and women act the same," Rob said mournfully.

Later that night, back in her room, Jen sat behind her computer writing an e-mail letter to another friend, Kim, who went to Dartmouth.

"I just feel kind of lonely," Jen wrote. "It's been a long time since I broke up with John, and I think I might be ready for another relationship. But I'm not sure. I've been hanging out with these girls from the women's issues group, and they tell me I just have to 'kick the habit.' I'm not sure which is right, my heart, or my head. I'm so confused by all this! Why can't it be simple like High School?"

Back at Dave's room in his fraternity house, talk about Jen continued late into the night, fueled half by passion and half by too many cans of Busch.

"Dave, are you really interested in this girl?" Rob wondered.

"Yeah. I mean, even with all the feminist garbage, she still seems like a really sweet girl. You know? It's like she's a little shy, but is willing to speak up, and she seems really smart."

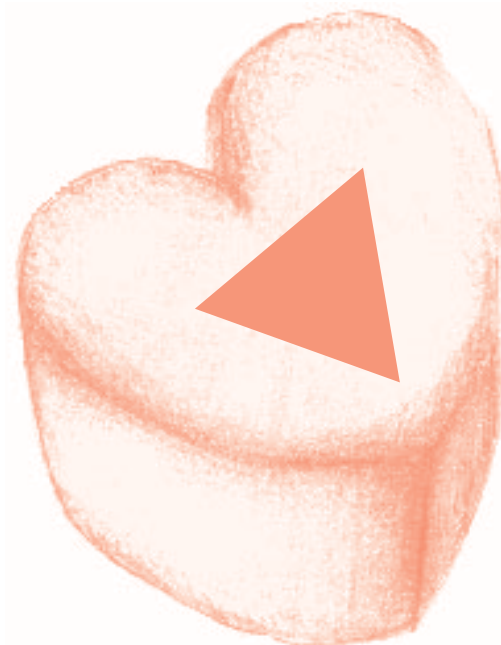
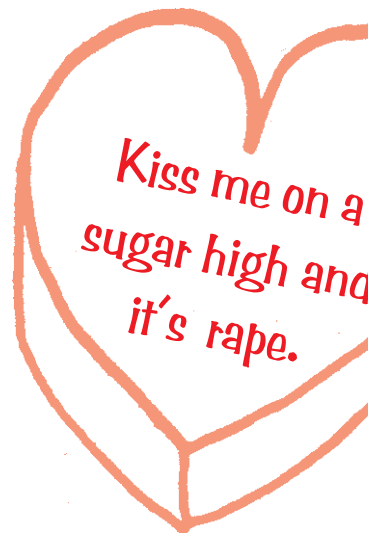
"She sounds like a real catch," Rob said. "You ought to ask her out. The worst thing she can say is 'no.'"

"Or sue me for sexual harassment," David joked.

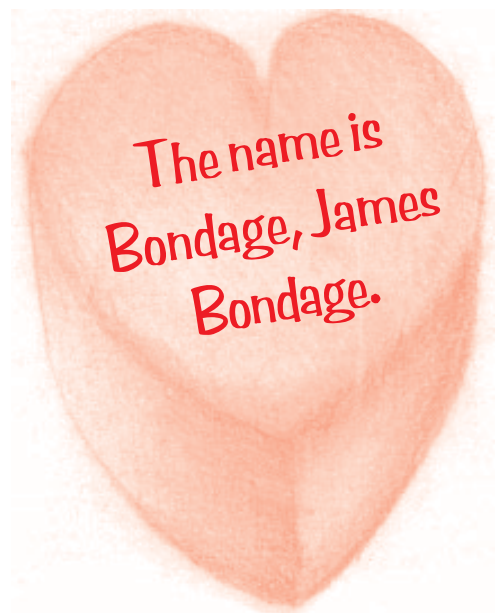
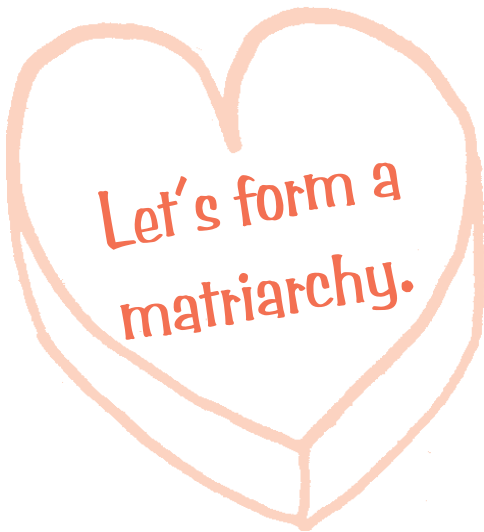
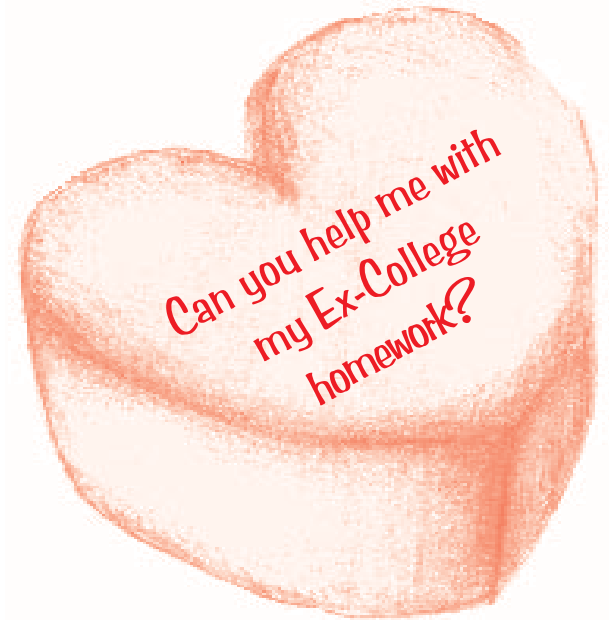
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Later that night, David felt like going out for a little air. He stepped out into the crisp, cold night and walked up toward the Tisch Library terrace, his favorite spot on campus. He didn't know it, but Jen, too, had gone to the same spot. Just as he reached the steps leading onto the roof, he saw Jen leaving. She looked up, and for an instant, their eyes met. It was just a moment, though, before both looked away, and continued along their separate ways.

Jumbo CONVO

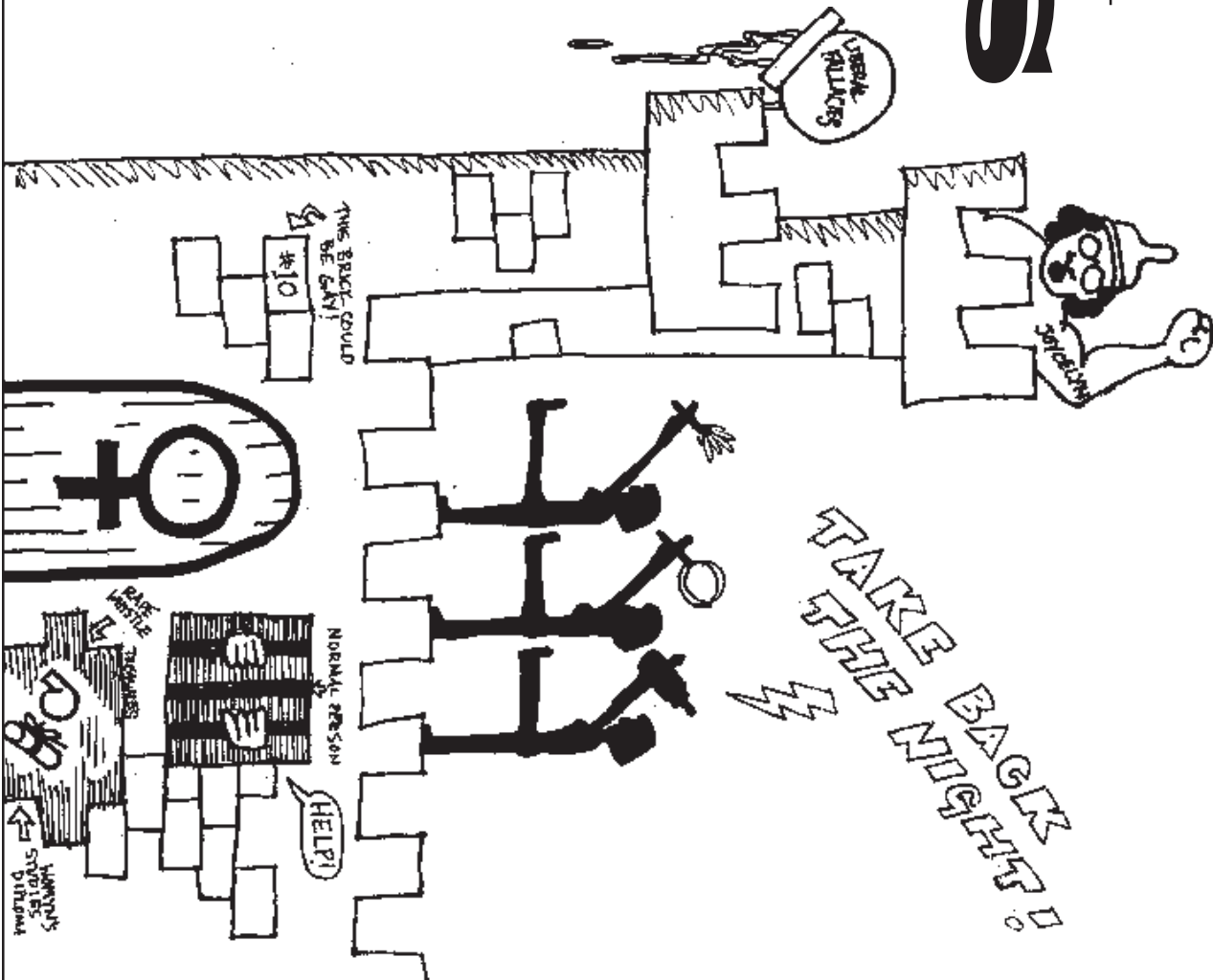
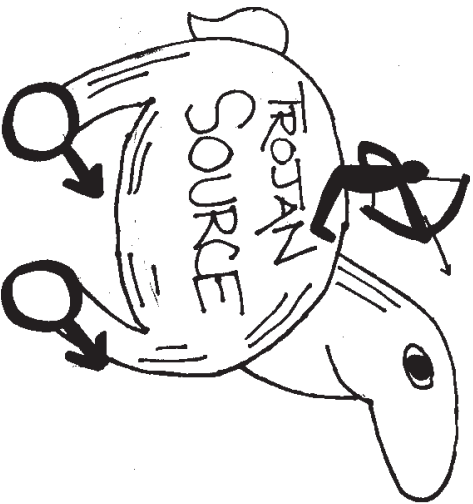


Innovation Pieces



Battle of the Sexes

The arrows fly and the oil boils as the battle of the sexes continues. The Shory Tower, once home to society's most enlightened, was long ago captured by the forces of feminism. With a rhetoric of misanthropy and creed of division, the evil usurpers have truly brought an age of darkness upon the land. But brave men and women have laid siege to the Tower, in hopes that one day all men and women may enjoy true equality.



A Right to Know

Colin Kingsbury

The founder of the fashionable Barneys chain of department stores once said, "Our best customer is an informed customer." It is a shame that Tufts University does not share this sentiment. Though a Tufts degree reflects every aspect of the school, the primary component of our education remains the classes we take. Unfortunately, various policies force us to choose the most important, and most expensive, components of our education based on incomplete information. Though the course catalog, TCU Senate Course Evaluation Guide, and word-of-mouth all provide indications of classes' true nature, each has critical shortcomings. More importantly, all have flaws which could be addressed by the University— if it chose to do so.

The course catalog is not intended to serve any greater function than describing the content of classes, a job it performs sufficiently. It does not, however, offer insight into many important characteristics of a given course, such as the professor's proficiency or the workload assigned. The TCU Guide, which seeks to ameliorate some of those problems, is an admirable effort under difficult circumstances. While the TCU deserves praise for performing a function which the University abrogated, the Course Evaluation Guide, with its interminable rows of disconnected numbers, fails to give any useful impression of class's content or quality. Gossip, the most popular course-selection tool, provides the greatest quantity of information, but of varying quality, from excellent to potentially harmful.

Clearly Tufts students deserve better, and in this case, the University has the means to provide it. At the end of each semester, students submit thousands of pages of written comments, in addition to the TCU-published numerical evaluations, on the Uniform Course Evaluation Form. Despite the potential value of these comments, they are currently used for internal purposes only. Whether this reflects a fear

of the truth, lack of forethought, or arrogance toward the wants of the student body remains unclear, cloaked behind tight-lipped bureaucrats and neatly-worded resolutions.

The faculty of Arts and Sciences set the policy regarding course evaluations at a series of meetings during the 1988-89 academic year, in which three important decisions were made. First, professors created the orange course evaluation form familiar to all for use "in all courses." Second, it was resolved that "it is the intent of an Arts and Sciences Faculty vote to provide the TCU Senate with each course's aggregate statistics for the purposes of a University-wide student course booklet." Lastly, they resolved to leave the decision about releasing written comments on the evaluations "to the discretion of the individual department and instructor."



These three resolutions, taken together, suggest the University's true intentions. For whatever reason, the faculty felt a need to create and use a common form for evaluating all classes. There must also have been some compelling reason which prompted the faculty to release statistical information. While it is possible that it was done merely to appease students unhappy with a pre-existing situation, most instructors welcomed the idea of a guide loosely based

upon the student evaluations. Thus the last of the three major provisions proves most puzzling. While professors demonstrated a willingness to make the statistics available, they placed the potentially more useful written information out of reach.

Though the policy does leave the door

Various policies force us to choose our courses based on incomplete information. The University could address that— if it chose to do so.

open for voluntary release of written comments, it also virtually guarantees that such a move will never occur. No instructor would take it upon himself to simply open his evaluations to public scrutiny. David Garman, chairman of the Economics Department, said that he would not have a problem with a system designed to release information from the written evaluations. However, he would not take it upon himself to make public his own evaluations because the criticisms would "be out of context" in the absence of other professors' evaluations. Whether by accident or design, this policy guarantees that written remarks remain inside the locked archives of academic departments.

It also deserves mention that the English Department, as many students know, does not use the Uniform Course Evaluation sheet, and consequently, does not provide any statistical information to the TCU Senate. When THE SOURCE asked Department Chair John Fyler about this anomaly, he responded that it was a departmental decision, and that "We didn't think tabulated responses were useful." Instead, all English students receive a photocopied form with a series of specific questions on it. Though the faculty resolution to use the Uniform Course Evaluation and provide information to the TCU is apparently non-binding, it seems a violation of the initiative's spirit not to do so. According to

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Fyler, "We're not afraid that we'll come off badly in an evaluation." Moreover, he indicated that he cares about students' feelings regarding the courses offered by the department. The failure to provide information to the TCU Senate was not, according to Fyler, done purposely, rather was

As has been the case too many times before, the impossible at Tufts poses little problem elsewhere.

simply a question left unsettled, "Unfinished business," as he described it.

Ironically, unfinished business happens to be a good way to describe Tufts' approach to the course evaluation system. During interviews with responsible officials, two issues repeatedly came up which ostensibly stand in the way of a more comprehensive guide for students. The first was concern over the content of the written evaluations, particularly "Professor X is a hog"-type comments, which do occur. Additionally, Garman voiced concern that students who perform poorly often give negative evaluations which reflect neither the course nor teacher, but the student's feelings. This argument does not hold up, however, when one considers the possibility of poor teaching leading to poor student performance. And rudeness notwithstanding, if a teacher practices poor personal hygiene, it is a reflection on his professionalism. However, unusual comments did not seem the greatest concern. All professors asked saw potential in a guide which would somehow summarize written criticisms, leaving out all valueless commentary. Nonetheless such a guide seemed to pose such great logistical problems that it was simply out of the question.

Perhaps the closest thing Tufts has to a comprehensive written evaluation guide is the annual Senior Survey, which consists of close to fifteen pages and ninety questions. The Institutional Research Department collects and processes these surveys, and estimates the time to collect, type, and

classify the responses at over three man-months. Officials guessed that it would take "hundreds of hours" to process written comments in a similar fashion, and the tone of their answers reinforced the notion that such a process was simply beyond Tufts' capabilities. Then, in a surprising turn of events, the bureaucrats realized that an internal mistake had led them to believe they were speaking not with THE SOURCE,

but with a department of the University. They immediately became furious and, after carefully restating their belief that instructors had told us "in good faith" that the burden of publishing written comments was tremendous, accused me of "misrepresenting" myself. In true bureaucratic style, the only substantive charge levied was that I had not made an appointment, to which I gleefully plead "one-hundred percent guilty."



The significance of this encounter is not so much the important information it revealed about the course evaluation system; instead it illustrated Tufts' loathsome internal culture. Institutional Research, an office which employs at least a half-dozen people, is but one cog in a very large, expensive, and slow-turning wheel. The first concern of these tame paper-pushers was not what they might do to improve Tufts, but making sure that they did not stir the brew. Perhaps if Tufts employees, and that includes faculty and administrators, had a more dynamic attitude, this would be a better university.

As has been the case too many times before, the impossible at Tufts poses little problem elsewhere. We need only look down the street to Harvard University to discover what can be done when students' interests are put first. There, the Undergraduate Dean's office publishes a guide, the CUE Guide, which contains summaries of students' written comments about Harvard's classes. Questionnaires are mailed to all students at the end of the academic year. As the forms return to Cambridge, a group of paid students, under the auspices of a student-faculty committee, summarize the comments, taking care to indicate both positive and negative sentiments. These summaries appear in the CUE Guide, which the committee publishes before freshman arrive on campus in the fall. The total bill, including forms, mailing, processing, and printing comes to sixty thousand dollars.

To translate this into Tufts terms, one must consider the cost of the current evaluation system, including the price of distributing and processing the Uniform Course Evaluation sheets, and the cost of publishing the TCU guide. The somewhat smaller size of Tufts would significantly lower the bill. All in all, forty, or even thirty thousand dollars looks much closer to the price of a Tuftonian guide similar to Harvard's. Surely, the entire forty thousand dollars could be saved through personnel cuts in Ballou, where Dean Glater's office was unable to find five minutes in a period of eight days to speak with us and Dean Ammons' office failed to return repeated calls. Failing that, Walnut Hill is packed with cannon fodder for cutbacks, whether one looks to the Registrar, Institutional Research, or other offices for bureaucratic largesse.

No one needs to be reminded that Tufts is one of the most expensive schools in the world to attend. At the same time, we are reminded daily that Tufts University fails to provide the level of customer service that schools charging similar tuition willfully supply. In this one instance, Tufts cannot claim that any obstacles other than bureaucratic intransigence stand in the way of helping students select how to best spend their tuition money.

Mr. Kingsbury is a sophomore majoring in International Relations.

Love on the Rocks

Colin Delaney

Saint Valentine's Day brings to almost everyone's mind a number of images, including wine, roses, candy, cupid, and Chicagoland massacres. Here at Tufts, the powers that be have conspired to make the love/crime association last all year.

For some reason, good times constitute a capital offense on Walnut Hill. Mountainous social policies, incredible constrictions on the Greek system, over-zealous Residential Life employees, and outrageous lies regularly told by "concerned" administrators combine to create a negative attitude toward campus living. None can deny that students have a generally poor view of social life here; perennial complaints about sinking school spirit and the begrudged acceptance of our 292nd place (out of the top 300 party schools) ranking indicate resignation to dullery.

Like almost everything else, there can be no quick fix for Tufts' quality-of-life problems. But the University's niggling policies with regard to the social milieu are a significant part of the problem. If the responsible parties eliminated these unnecessary by-laws, students would be free to fully pursue activities of interest during their time on the Hill.

For some, nothing beats an evening with friends discussing life's great challenges over a couple glasses of bourbon and a mellow cigar. Naturally, others enjoy a raucous night of head-banging and keg stands. And plenty more prefer to toss back a couple of wine coolers while they watch the world go by their doorstep. To each his own, such is the way of the world.

Tufts, on the other hand, searches for ways to interfere in even the most mundane personal enjoyments. Rather than allow the State of Massachusetts to assure execution of its own regulations, the University long ago decided to take a proactive role in enforcing laws which many

students and even President John DiBiaggio consider unjust. While the State does require schools to have a program for preventing illegal activities, that agenda need not include extensive invasions of privacy.

For some reason, good times constitute a capital offense on Walnut Hill.

Yet the Residential Life office mandates that its agents—dormitory Resident Assistants—document illegal use of alcohol and penalize offenders. Similarly, Tufts Police officers have a reputation for stopping individuals with packages (that may or may not contain alcohol), compelling such pedestrians to produce identification in a manner reminiscent of Nazi stormtroopers demanding "papers." And the organizers of Homecoming weekend notoriously furnish incredible policy papers about alcohol consumption and possession by those *over* twenty-one.



In some of these cases, the police can make a legitimate case against allowing people to roam the streets with open bottles of whiskey, for such individuals usually generate all kinds of noise and disturb the peace. Nevertheless, social policies reach

beyond public events, intruding upon the sanctity of students' private rooms and houses. Residents of cooperative suites and fraternity houses—even those fully owned by the brotherhood—cannot possess "common source" containers such as kegs, and no one may consume alcohol in a dormitory common area.

Granted, large quantities of readily available alcohol facilitate abuse, but students and friends must learn responsibility for themselves rather than rely on an easily violated University rule. Tufts has spent far too much time and money drafting and attempting to enforce policies that serve no real purpose except frustrating students' efforts to gather and enjoy each others' company in whatever manner they see fit.

Still, if I somehow managed to assemble a group of companions and a bottle of bourbon, Tufts stands in the way of me and my cigar. Hyper-sensitive smoke detectors and RA's with "First Alert" noses join the liberal cause of the day, clamping down hard on residents who smoke in hallways, living rooms, and private residences with open doors. Even if an entire dorm agreed that everyone should feel free to smoke in hallways and general-use areas, Tufts' needless commitment to execute Somerville's anti-smoking ordinance and Massachusetts' "Clean Indoor Air Act" on its own private property would prevent such an action.

So now, forced to abide by Tufts' anti-vice rules, I, my bourbon, my cigar, and my friends pondering the great mysteries of life are all locked in closets with a group of headbanging keg-standers and a crew of strangers drinking wine coolers while they watch the world go by their locked dorm-room doors. Fear not, anti-bacchanalians; if, by the time the dust

*Please see "Love,"
continued on page 18.*

“Inflation,” continued from page 10.

necessary to receive an increasingly achievable “A,” then he has little motivation to further pursue his studies. Moreover, inflation increases personal pandering to instructors since grading standards lose their objectivity. Professors inflate students’ grades while the sycophants reward them with rosy evaluation forms. Not coincidentally, most professors receive above average ratings, making it difficult to differentiate between the instructors.

Liberals detest a hierarchical system and seek to eliminate stratification even at the expense of achievement. Professors frequently demonstrate such an attitude by grading class participation solely through attendance. However, silent attendance is meaningless. A policy of replacing contri-

bution with attendance aids those with less knowledge and ability, while others have a mitigated incentive to put down their crosswords and speak out. As Tufts decreases motivated pupils’ rewards for hard work, these students lose their intellectual vigor. If grades supposedly function to quantify academic achievement, they must accurately reflect standards of excellence. Although academia comes close, we are not living in La La Land.

The battle against differentiation extends to criticism of standardized tests, recently resulting in the Educational Testing Service’s decision to inflate SAT scores. Aptitude tests are not prejudiced against select groups; they discriminate only against the dim-witted and lazy. Although these examinations are unpopular because they quantify aptitude, character— not intelli-

gence— reflects an individual’s worth as a person. However, society must have yardsticks to measure various talents. Ironically, the more effective these tests are, the more liberals bemoan them. An inefficient test is unclear and can be dismissed while an effective exam demonstrates that not everyone can reach the exact same level of achievement.

Grade inflation is entirely inconsistent with the University’s stated goal of preparing students for the real world. Students quickly learn that lesson upon leaving the safety and silliness of academia. Unfortunately, the young scholars and their families come to that realization only after paying their inflated bursar’s bills.

Mr. Havell is a junior majoring in International Relations.

“Love,” continued from page 17.

settles, I am so fortunate as to be left home alone with a female companion, Tufts counts on the specters of Peggy Barrett and Bruce Reitman to preclude any further social activities.

For years, the skit and discussion presented to freshmen during Orientation— known popularly as the Date Rape Seminar— has included serious and extended discourse on the matter of a woman’s ability to give consent. And for good reason, most freshmen of both sexes only recently reached legal maturity and have little experience with criminal justice. Each September, Barrett and other panel members inform the assembled group that women must grant affirmative consent to sexual intercourse, lest the University and the State consider a love-making session the commission of rape.

Moreover, panelists caution freshmen about the meaning and consequences of acquaintance rape. While providing important information about ways to avoid regrettable situations, Barrett also deliberately deceives students about the legal definition of rape. Year after year, she tells peer-advising groups that women who have ingested any amount of alcohol cannot give consent. By extension, any logical person would take that to mean that a man having sex with a woman who drank as little as a single beer is committing rape.

In fact, the Criminal Code of Massachusetts indicates nothing of the sort. The laws describing non-consensual relations of this nature declare that “A male who has sexual intercourse with a female not his wife is guilty of rape if: ...(b) he has substantially impaired her power to appraise or control her conduct by administering or employing without her knowledge drugs,



intoxicants or other means for the purpose of preventing resistance; or (c) the female is unconscious... [Com. of Mass. Criminal Code Ch. 10 §223].” Hence, for whatever reason, the University has decided to interject itself— by means of deception— in the

private affairs of students. And in this unnecessary deceit, it has helped create the depressing anti-social atmosphere which Tuftonians so often bemoan.


In each of these cases, Tufts has gone above and beyond its call of duty to— as a responsible institution— execute society’s will. Considering these issues’ similarities, one can conclude that politics drives the University’s superfluous enforcement procedures. The politically correct rarely embrace such debauchery as drinking, smoking, and sex. Here, liberal administrators have taken that preclusion a step further to encompass pursuing and punishing offenders in the name of government. In fact, Tufts has a social obligation to stop only flagrant lawlessness, not to organize a thoroughly policed campus.


By refraining from helping local governments enforce meddling anti-vice laws, Tufts can lift the depressing pall it has cast on social life. The University need not police the personal activities of students, and no state can legitimately compel a private institution to act on its behalf. So, the school once ranked 292nd can actually, with little inconvenience, improve the quality of life on its campus. Given the sorry state of affairs Tufts’ officials have conspired to create, they certainly have a duty to act soon.


Mr. Delaney is a junior majoring in History, Classics, and Political Science.


A Dialogue on Abortion


Ananda Gupta & Micaela Dawson


 **AG:** I noticed that the judge in the John Salvi trial decided to bar television cameras from the courtroom. What a shame; it would benefit the media to substitute something important for its usual sensationalism and hysterics. A high-profile trial where the defense will almost certainly address the morality of abortion would foster some healthy controversy.


 **MD:** I'm not sure that there will even be much controversy, given that the media seems to think that the American people have already made up their minds on abortion.


 **AG:** Legally, the issue does appear decided. *Roe v. Wade* leaves little latitude in that respect.


 **MD:** But to claim that uniform scientific opinion supports the conditions for viability enumerated in *Roe* defies reality. In fact, there are a number of opinions on the issue of when life begins, and arbitrary political maneuvering should not determine individuals' attitudes. As Robert Bork argues, the Constitution does not clearly outline a "right to privacy."

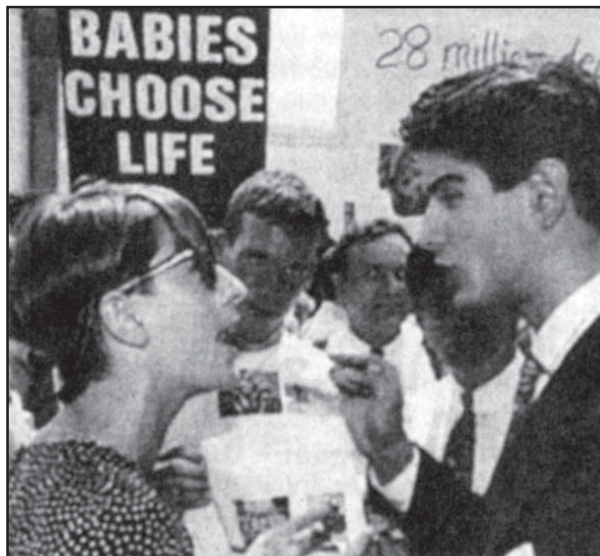
 **AG:** The Founding Fathers seemed pretty set on protecting citizens' rights from government intrusion; just look at the Bill of Rights. So it makes little difference whether you appeal to "original intent" or "the spirit of the Constitution." But your criticism of the bizarre timetable set down by Harry Blackmun is well taken. Now, I grant that there is no scientific consensus as to the beginning of life, and further agree that it cannot depend on the vagaries of technology. Unfortunately, I don't see an objective way to decide the issue.

 **MD:** Well, we do not want to err when answering that question, thereby soiling our hands with the blood of millions of children. My position, that life begins at conception, spares the nation that onus.


 **AG: In what sense are we to distinguish the fetus from a child, then? Moreover, how does that distinction matter?**

 **MD: The fetus must be allowed the chance to exercise rights in the future which it now lacks the faculties to advocate.**


 **AG:** True; it would be hard to argue for taking such a risk. However, by criminalizing abortion, you jeopardize the lives of thousands of grown women who cannot safely bring a child to term. Also, I find the idea that a fetus, who has neither life experiences nor self-awareness, ought have its right to life valued more than its mother's pretty hard to swallow.





The seemingly endless debates over abortion reach from the Supreme Court steps to Tufts' campus.


 **MD:** I'll get to the thrust of your point in a moment, but I want to clarify something. You mention the difficulty of balancing a mother's rights against those of


her fetus. Are you conceding that the fetus does, indeed, have rights?

 **AG:** Okay, for the sake of argument. We've already decided that fetal rights are controversial if nothing else; any productive discussion depends upon one of us giving a little ground.

 **MD:** I grant that a woman whose health is being endangered by her unborn child has the right to abort. But that is the only circumstance under which society should accept abortion.

 **AG:** So you don't think that a woman whose condition has been forced upon her, either through her own inability to legally consent or through actual physical force, ought to be permitted an abortion?


 **MD:** No. The fetus has committed no wrong. It ought not be punished for the sins of its father, if indeed you refer here to rape. Furthermore, if the mother's life is not in danger, there are other options besides abortion: adoption, for example.


 **AG:** So if there's no opportunity to put the child up for adoption— as is the case in many countries today— abortion is somehow more permissible in your view? That makes little sense. However, letting that pass, something else needs straightening out. In neither situation has the fetus committed a wrong. But you allow abortion in one, and prohibit it in the other. Thus, the fetus' rights seem dependent upon its immediate circumstances. How is it consistent for abortion to be permissible if the randomness of nature endangers the mother's life, but not if the randomness of a passing criminal inflicts an unwanted pregnancy?


Continued on the next page.


Libertarian vs. Conservative


Continued from the previous page.


 **MD:** It is consistent in that when a mother's life is at risk, two lives hang in the balance. But in all other cases, only one life remains at stake. Thus, we should save as many lives as possible.


 **AG:** I have a couple of problems with that approach. Your "calculus of life" seems arbitrary. It follows from your argument that a mother with twins, whose life is in danger, ought not be able to abort. You also see how this can recurse forever, with rights constantly changing value and priority, devoid of an objective standard.


 **MD:** But I am not varying the degree of seriousness with which we approach the fetus' rights. Clearly, the mother's right to life, when imperiled, supersedes her child's.


 **AG:** Why does whether the mother's life is at stake matter?


 **MD:** If the mother's life is endangered, then the matter has passed beyond mere convenience on her part. But in the case of rape, the fetus' life is subordinate to the mother's convenience. It then becomes a question of the mother's liberty versus her responsibility to protect her child.


 **AG:** Mere "convenience," I agree, is not a good reason to sacrifice a life— although I question your characterization of a forced pregnancy as a matter of convenience. But I still do not understand why you allow the mother the authority to choose her life over the fetus', if indeed the fetus has an equivalent right to life. Unless you want to concede that the mother can make sweeping judgments about the fetus' welfare, which I imagine you won't, it seemingly follows from your argument that flipping a coin would be a perfectly fair way of making this decision.


 **MD:** The mother has lived a significant part of her life, accrued certain life experiences, and usually has extensive familial and social obligations.


 **MD: I grant that a woman whose health is being endangered by her unborn child has the right to abort. But that is the only circumstance under which society should accept abortion.**

 **AG:** Your introduction of "life experience" as a criterion for valuing rights allows us to consider the fetus' life experience; which is to say, none. Also, since we are still regarding the fetus as fully human, your distinction becomes downright chilling when applied to two full-born people. It follows that a person sheltered and deprived of life experience is somehow less worthy of life than someone more sophisticated.


 **MD:** I think you fail to adequately consider the special circumstances in this admittedly unique proposition. You misrepresent the situation by assuming that saving the mother's life rather than the fetus' implies a refusal to take the fetus' right to life seriously. Further, it seems absurd to formulate policy based on exceptions to general rules.


 **AG:** And I think that your characterization of this "either-or" situation is arbitrary, although you do defend it well. We just disagree about the acceptability of that defense. Further, it seems nonsensical to dismiss out-of-hand troublesome cases as "exceptions" and move on. But let's do so anyway.


 **MD:** I take it, then, that we are clearing out the old assumptions?


 **AG:** Yes; now that the discussion of comparative rights is over, I certainly don't


intend to hold that fetuses are moral agents equivalent to born children.

 **MD:** Well, I do hold that view, with reservations. For example, fetuses are directly and physically affected by the mother's maintenance of her own health, whereas children are not. The sheer magnitude of the fetus' dependence on the mother dictates that it must be considered in a different light than a child. Yet the unborn's right to life still deserves the same weight.


 **AG:** In what sense are we to distinguish the fetus from a child, then? Moreover, how does that distinction matter?

 **MD:** The fetus must be allowed the chance to exercise rights in the future which it now lacks the faculties to advocate.


 **AG:** I'll grant you that, for now. But it seems to me that the legal consequences of giving a fetus' right to life the same weight as a born child's might end up quite bizarre. In fact, your heightened consideration of the fetus' dependence on its mother would exacerbate such strangeness. Case in point: the intake of drugs, even legal ones, and


 **AG: So you don't think that a woman whose condition has been forced upon her, either through her own inability to legally consent or through actual physical force, ought to be permitted an abortion?**


alcohol or nicotine might very well be child abuse. The authorities would have to investigate all miscarriages.


 **MD:** Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, while it would have been possible for the government to prohibit those practices and examine miscarriages, that was not the case. The mother's responsibility to her child was never policed, but certainly was expected.


Pro-Choice vs. Pro-Life

 **AG:** That may be, but I'm not about to claim that the pre-*Roe* laws banning abortion were consistent. What the government did or did not do is irrelevant. The force it could have exercised, but refused to for some reason, is important. By offering the lack of consistent pre-*Roe* law, you appeal to politicians' judgment, which, I think, is a mistake.


 **MD:** Then I would have to agree with what you've stated would be the case. The government would in fact be justified in taking such measures. The idea that the state should not implicitly encourage abortion through its silence transcends the question of enforcement.


 **AG:** Best that you don't bring up enforcement, given the historical inability of police to prevent illegal abortions. Of course, whether government ought to sanction abortion hopefully depends on the philosophical cases for and against it. I fear, though, that politics-as-usual will decide the matter.


 **MD:** Given that a handful of Republicans are battling over the right to challenge the President, it seems likely that this long-contested GOP position will undergo renewed discussion. Hopefully, this discussion will lead to a new prominence for the abortion issue.


 **AG:** It will certainly provide some golden opportunities for Republicans and religious people to see the candidates' true colors. Also, the moral high ground—always a useful place to be during an election year—becomes easy prey for a candidate


familiar with abortion and the passions it evokes among voters. But other than esoteric questions of political strategy, why should abortion take on such significance?


 **MD: Given that a handful of Republicans are battling over the right to challenge the President, it seems likely that this long-contested GOP position will undergo renewed discussion. Hopefully, this discussion will lead to a new prominence for the abortion issue.**


 **MD:** True conservatives believe in personal responsibility and the sanctity of all human life. Basic freedoms and natural rights are contingent upon the protection of life. To this end, a federal law prohibiting abortion must become a key element of the Republican platform. This is the most efficient way to ensure reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. All lawmakers must take action to redress the constitutional injustice of 1973. Those powers not explicitly bestowed on the federal government are reserved for the states or the people.


 **AG:** I'm confused. Since abortion is not explicitly addressed in the Constitution, I would assume you endorse state jurisdiction over abortion law, yet you say that the Republicans ought to support federal legislation banning it.


 **MD:** To grant the states the power to determine the legality of abortion has proven problematic. States' rights on the matter of abortion not only provokes confusion, but also sidesteps *the* fundamental issue. That is, that no authority on any level should sanction the destruction of life. Therefore, it follows that the only effective method of preventing this atrocity is the passage of federal legislation.

 **AG:** My view takes an opposite tack. Precisely because the consequences for personal freedom are so extensive, neither federal nor state authorities should make abortion decisions. Essentially, it is one of the many instances where the power should rest not with government at all, but with the people.

 **MD:** It is indeed shameful that the Republican effort is becoming bogged down in crowd-pleasing economic issues, rather than grappling with truly crucial problems. Fundamentally, economic issues are peripheral to the more far-reaching moral issues of today, such as abortion's contribution to the breakdown of the family.

 **AG:** Well, issues of economic liberty are far-reaching moral issues in my opinion. But I agree with you in that the wealth of debate and the revelation of the candidates' true characters, which a high-profile discussion of abortion would bring, will prove invaluable.

 **MD:** Let's hope 1996 realizes these high aspirations.

 **AG: It will certainly provide some golden opportunities for Republicans and religious people to see the candidates' true colors. Also, the moral high ground—always a useful place to be during an election year—becomes easy prey for a candidate familiar with the abortion issue and the passions it evokes among voters.**

Mr. Gupta is a sophomore majoring in Economics and Philosophy.

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For the President

Tuesday, February 6th, began the eighty-sixth year of Ronald Wilson Reagan's inspiring American life. Even today, more than seven years after his final moments as president, Mr. Reagan maintains a profound influence on his country's political and social conscience. While Bob Dole, Pat Buchanan, and Phil Gramm futilely struggle to inherit the beloved statesman's legacy, the conservative void created by Ronald Reagan's retirement remains unfilled. The man's uniqueness and irreplaceability emanate from his honesty, dignity, and completeness of conviction.

A noble and loyal adherent to the principles of limited government, economic freedom, and moral rectitude, The Gipper bravely battled the world's evils throughout his two terms. Never before had America experienced such immense peacetime economic growth. His commitment to national security and the destruction of communism brought an end to totalitarianism in such countries as Nicaragua and Afghanistan; his greatest victory would come at the expense of the Evil Empire. Ronald Reagan was equally persistent in his struggle to free the American people from the social and moral decay engendered by an intrusive and paternalistic government.

Mr. Reagan developed an enviable presidential record through his genuine devotion to conservative precepts. But the fortieth president earned his status as an exceptional leader because he is a remarkable human being. Ronald Reagan's love for his family and country not only embodied, but rejuvenated, the American spirit. His strength in the face of adversity did not falter when First Lady Nancy underwent breast cancer surgery, during which the President revealed that he was a "leg man." Ten years after six astronauts and a social studies teacher "slipped the surly bonds of earth to touch the face of God," The Great Communicator's uplifting remarks during a national tragedy resonate in minds and souls across America.

Ronald Reagan, to this day, endures as an exemplary American. The harsh realities of time and illness have brought our great leader closer to his family. Nancy, as always, stands faithfully by her husband's side. After years of silence and antagonism, Patti Davis returned home to comfort her mother and step-father. Michael Reagan, too, developed a closeness with his father and now articulates their shared conservative beliefs on the radio. And millions of admirers have sent the President their well wishes.

America clearly misses Ronald Reagan. The nation's search for suitable heroes and role models should turn toward the great Cold warrior. Contemporary cultural icons, such as Craps-happy Michael Jordan and an all-too-promiscuous Madonna, lack the former President's sincerity, integrity, and consistency. Although Reagan suffers from Alzheimer's Disease, he hopes that his illness will raise national consciousness about the affliction. Even as his time on earth nears an end, Mr. Reagan cares for and tries to help others.

His tenure as leader of the free world did not allow Ronald Reagan enough time to execute his vision to the fullest. His presidency, however, gave America a small taste of its own vast potential. Sadly, Mr. Reagan cannot escape the limits imposed by his own mortality. But he does deserve our eternal gratitude.

Happy Birthday, Mr. President.

—Steve Seltzer

Four more years of Chelsea ☆ One Ruth Bader-Ginsburg just isn't enough ☆ The most exciting VP since Spiro Agnew ☆ Give socialized health care a chance ☆ He feels your pain ☆ Makes a giant sucking sound ☆ Promises to eliminate teen pregnancy ☆ Will contribute to teen pregnancy ☆ Hillary promises to tell all ☆ Hillary promises to shut up and get back in the kitchen ☆ Because he comes from a place called Hope ☆ Single-handedly reunited Fleetwood Mac ☆ He's not Bob Dole ☆ He wears briefs ☆ And drops them, too ☆ At least he didn't smoke crack ☆ And got women without paying for them ☆ Makes Newt sit in the back of Air Force One ☆ Call it "Jimmy Carter Unplugged, Part Deux" ☆ Hillary has more opportunities to reduce the federal payroll ☆ Because "The era of big government is over." ☆ Wants to super-size it instead ☆ A Big Mac in every pot ☆ An El Camino on blocks in every yard ☆ Because you've actually read this far ☆ Rocks the vote ☆ Threatened to punch Safire in the nose ☆ Smokes up with Reno ☆ Cigars, that is ☆ Yet another Clinton-Gore bus tour ☆ Promises to kill the two remaining Branch Davidians ☆ Hubba Bubba ☆ Because we won't get bogged down in Bosnia ☆ Another book from Hillary ☆ Thinks we should all respect the OJ jury's decision ☆ Prez might get to father Madonna's child ☆ Al Gore can re-reinvent government ☆ We need something to write about ☆ Has a crazy old aunt living in the White House basement ☆ He's no Jack Kennedy ☆ Waffles even more than DiBiaggio and Eggo combined ☆ Made the presidency "relevant" again ☆ Love those jogging shorts ☆ We'll see more of the Gore daughters ☆ Hopefully much more ☆ MTV appearances easily confused with Beavis and Butt-head ☆ Will renovate White House: "Make it look like America" ☆ Has the memory if not the experience of an older man ☆ If Air Force One crashes in water, he can float ☆ Will cheer up Tufts professors ☆ Will raise minimum wage for buddies working at McDonald's ☆ His *Alma Mater* has a sports team to cheer about ☆ He's a good storyteller ☆ Because we look more like Arkansas every day ☆ Which reminds us, we need our Rickets shot.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Our Declaration of Independence was 1,300 words, the Bible 773,000 words, and the tax code, 7 million words and rising.

—Steve Forbes

We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much.

—Ronald Reagan

To believe that no one was ever corrupted by a book, you almost have to believe that no one was ever improved by a book (or play, or movie)... No one, not even a university professor, really believes that.

—Irving Kristol

Men have become the tools of their tools.

—Henry David Thoreau

By all means marry: If you get a good wife, you'll be happy; If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher.

—Socrates

The real community of man, in the midst of all the self-contradictory simulacra of community, is the community of those who seek the truth.

—Allan Bloom

Superstition is the religion of feeble minds.

—Edmund Burke

It [government] cannot provide values to persons who have none, or who have lost those they had. It cannot provide inner peace. It can provide outlets for moral energies, but it cannot create those energies.

—Daniel Patrick Moynihan

Public life is the paradise of voluble windbags.

—George Bernard Shaw

We cannot allow the American flag to be shot at anywhere on earth if we are to retain our respect and prestige.

—Barry Goldwater

One, on God's side, is a majority.

—Wendell Phillips

When I was a kid, I was so poor that in my neighborhood, the rainbow was in black and white.

—Rodney Dangerfield

Capitalism is a social order favorable to alertness, inventiveness, discovery, and creativity. This means a social order based upon education, research, the freedom to create, and the right to enjoy the fruits of one's own creativity.

—Michael Novak

I regret to say that we of the FBI are powerless to act in cases of oral-genital intimacy, unless it has in some way obstructed interstate commerce.

—J. Edgar Hoover

Few great men could pass Personnel.

—Paul Goodman

Education is, after all, a serious business. Its lifeblood is standards. If there are no standards, how do we call something higher education.

—William Bennett

We refused to assume one of the central obligations of parenthood: to make ourselves the final authority on good and bad, right and wrong, and to take the consequences of what might turn out to be a lifetime battle.

—Midge Decter

Part of the loot went for gambling, part for horses, and part for women. The rest I spent foolishly.

—George Raft

Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom.

—Albert Einstein

Liberal relativism has its roots in the natural right tradition of tolerance or in the notion that everyone has a natural right to the pursuit of happiness as he understands happiness; but in itself it is a seminary of intolerance.

—Leo Strauss

There is no gravity. The earth sucks.

—Graffito

Conservatives have an affection for the proliferating variety and mystery of human existence, as opposed to the narrowing uniformity, egalitarianism, and utilitarian aims of most radical systems.

—Russell Kirk

Our forefathers made one mistake. What they should have fought for was representation without taxation.

—Fletcher Knebel

Personal freedom is best maintained when it is ingrained in a people's habits and not enforced against popular policy by the coercion of adjudicated law.

—Felix Frankfurter

Most of the energy of political work is devoted to correcting the effects of mismanagement of government.

—Milton Friedman

I think the terror most people are concerned with is the IRS.

—Malcolm Forbes

Freedom is not synonymous with an easy life... There are many difficult things about freedom: It does not give you safety; it creates moral dilemmas for you; it requires self-discipline; it imposes great responsibilities; but such is the nature of Man and in such consists his glory and salvation.

—Margaret Thatcher

When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out all right.

—Thomas Edison

The argument that the West was somehow to blame for world poverty was itself a Western invention. Like decolonization, it was a product of guilt, the prime dissolvent of order and justice.

—Paul Johnson

I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury.

—George Burns

Long before the invention of low-fat blueberry yogurt, pre-nuptial agreements, and poodle psychology, a man was a man.

—Anonymous

The man has the gradually sinking feeling that his role as provider, the definitive male activity from the primal days of the hunt through the industrial revolution and on into modern life, has been largely seized from him; he has been cuckolded by the compassionate state.

—George Gilder