

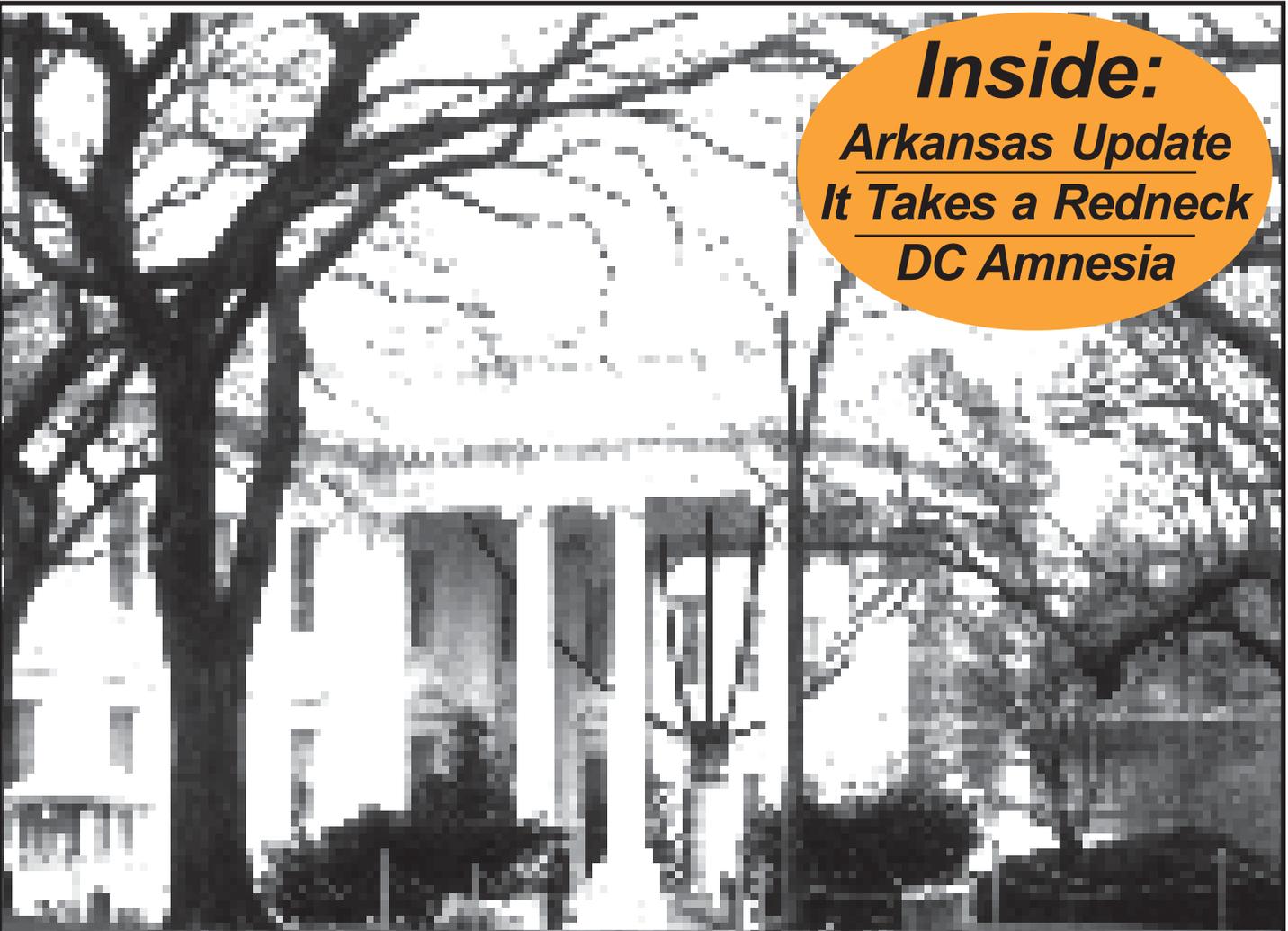
THE PRIMARY SOURCE

*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*SM

Volume XIV Number 8

VERITAS SINE DOLO

January 25, 1996



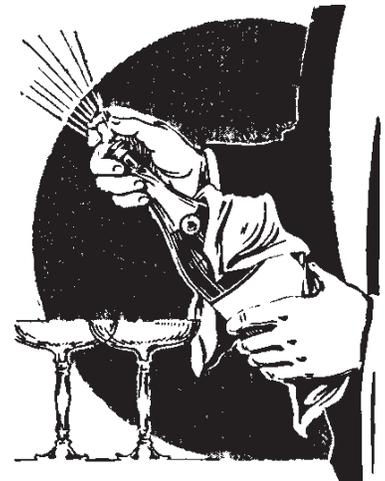
Inside:
Arkansas Update
It Takes a Redneck
DC Amnesia

Little House
on the Beltway

Happy 85th to The Gipper!



**Celebrate
Reagan's Birthday
February 6**



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*We'd like to
Forget*

Ask Hillary...

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FROM THE EDITOR

When conservative *New York Times* columnist William Safire wrote that most people have concluded that the First Lady is a “congenital liar,” he sent the jaws of most Washingtonians into the Metro. The White House, trying vainly to echo a comment by Harry Truman, said that the President would have liked to deliver a response on the bridge of Safire’s nose. Gallantly defending the embattled First Lady, Clinton noted that if everyone had character like his wife, America would be a nicer place. In retrospect, one could not reasonably have expected Clinton to react any other way. After all, a man had just insulted his wife.

Not being a fan of socialized medicine’s chief architect, the remark struck me sort of funny. Then again, had I been thrust into the national spotlight to defend a family member’s good name, I probably would have done the same. Indeed, the event set me to thinking about honor, character, and goodness. Alas, I came to the conclusion that I should put myself in the President’s shoes and defend a loved one’s character. So here goes.

If everyone had character like my bear, everybody would be a good listener and no one would be uppity or condescending. People would marry lifelong mates, and even remain faithful to them. Writers who preached about properly raising children would believe that kids should not have the freedom to sue their parents. And unlike some people, my teddy never whines about the media picking on him just because he’s smarter than the average bear.

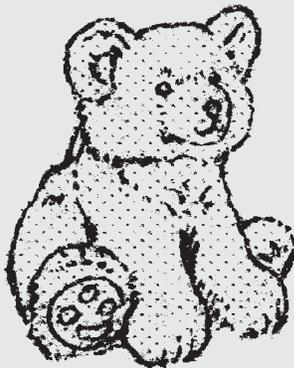
If everyone had character like my bear, politicians would serve the nation, not themselves. People would not pass

out favors to political allies or use tips from insiders to parlay a \$1000 credit line into a \$100,000 profit by trading pork bellies and cattle futures. People would choose their friends and associates carefully; cocaine smugglers and BCCI bankers would be *personae non grata* in my bear’s mansion. Nobody could get away with taking payoffs from S&L’s that the tax-payers had to bail out. And somehow I am sure that my bear would not spend much time hob-nobbing with Hollywood-types like Barbra Streisand and Sharon Stone.

If everyone had character like my bear, corruption would not run rampant in his administration. Bear friends could not jet around the world in First Class accommodations at tax-payer expense or write memos about enemy lists. Commerce secretaries would reject pay-offs from foreign governments. The highest-ranking law-enforcement bears in the land would not evade taxes or try to cover up political assassinations. And I’m sure that no friend of my bear would ever wear a condom on his head.

If everyone had character like my bear, friends and lovers would live longer. “Minimal work,” would be a lot less than 60 three-hundred-dollar hours, and billing records— a lawyer’s Bible— would never disappear. Public servants would remember the work they did and testify truthfully before investigators. Better still, no one would ever abuse the public trust by leading a long, expensive, and secretive campaign to ration health care. And when national leaders talked about human rights, they would extend those rights to all people, even the Chinese and the unborn.

Alas, if everyone had character like my bear, we would all be punching Hillary in the nose.



THE PRIMARY SOURCE

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT
AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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Letters

English Department not all bad

To the Editor:

Thank you for the issues of THE SOURCE you recently sent me. They were entertaining and I value the link with my old school. However, I must comment on a trend I find disturbing.

Strewn through the last several issues have been comments disparaging the English Department. I admit it has been several years since I last took an English class at Tufts, but when I was a student there were several professors who taught honestly and with a dedication to improving their students' understanding of the language and the literature. Surely Professors Fixler, Fyler, Cavitch, Haber, and Round cannot all have left the department? Can it be that no classes are taught on Chaucer, Milton, or Shakespeare?

While it is true that the English major lacks anything like meaningful requirements and that some professors teach subjects that are of more interest to themselves than to students of English literature, any fault with the quality of education at Tufts lies mostly with the students. Even if this were not so, there are half a dozen bookstores within walking distance of Tufts where one can pick up *The Canterbury Tales* or *Paradise Lost*.

I am sure that there are faults in the English program

Chaplain responds to criticism

To the Editor:

Regarding your November 16, 1995, comments on the Rabin memorial service at Tufts: How sad that my plea to stop demonizing and killing each other in the name of religion was perceived as "manipulating misfortune for politics' sake."

Sincerely yours,

Scotty McLennan
University Chaplain

at Tufts, but let us have a rational criticism of the particulars rather than a blanketing attack on a department which has introduced many students to at least a taste of culture.

Chuck Marks, E'92
Former Managing Editor
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You Always
Wanted to
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Tufts*

**But This Man Was Afraid to Tell You* SM



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Commentary

Not So Sharp

It puzzles conservatives, even black conservatives, why so many American blacks look to Al Sharpton for leadership. While claiming to follow Martin Luther King, Sharpton's crusades have little to do with "civil" rights and everything to do with dividing New York City, and—if he has his way—the entire nation, along racial lines. Residing in Teaneck, New Jersey, the dubious Reverend often crosses the George Washington Bridge in hopes of inciting some racial conflict or another. During the season of peace and brotherhood, Sharpton was successful in two ventures.

His first triumph resulted in seven deaths. In late December, the mastermind behind the deceitful Brawley debacle orchestrated a boycott of Freddy's, a Jewish-owned clothing store in Harlem. Although encouraging the residents of the predominantly black neighborhood to "buy black" is not an atrocious act, the violence that ensued was both regrettable and deplorable. Taking Sharpton's anti-Semitic feelings to heart, one follower opened fire in Freddy's and proceeded to burn the store down. Everyone lost except BigWig Al—Harlemites will no longer have the option of shopping at the decades-old establishment, the hard-working owners of the store also lost their livelihood, not to mention the families of the unfortunate seven who perished in the flames. But it was a fine day for Al Sharpton; a clothing outlet owned by oppressive whites—which, coincidentally, employed only blacks—stood no longer.

Shortly thereafter, the instigating Reverend stormed a King Day celebration at the Brooklyn Academy of Music where Mayor Giuliani was scheduled to speak. Ploughing in with a pack of militant yes-men, he and his sidekicks disrupted the memorial service with chants of "No justice, no peace." Sharpton leveled accusations of racism against the Mayor because Giuliani refused to close the Brooklyn Bridge so that Al's entourage could lead a march across it, even though they were free to use the pedestrian walkway. Claiming that the action was a violation of his civil rights, the Reverend prompted the crowd to heckle the Mayor. Sharpton later displayed satisfaction with the results of his actions. The Mayor, however, commented that children should not be taught that this sort of conduct is permissible and further added, "It turns the message of Dr. King on its head." To get the last word Sharpton filed suit against the City, comparing his march with the New York City Marathon, an event for which the Mayor shuts down the bridge annually.

Perhaps Sharpton was content with his performance because he succeeded in not only ruining a respectable service in memory of Dr. King, but also causing further racial disharmony by pitting

white Mayor Rudy Giuliani against black schools Chancellor Rudy Crew. He instructed the children in the audience to listen only to the "real Rudy." Sharpton continued that the Mayor is "not about Dr. King, [but] about the ones who tried to stop him from marching." Strangely, nobody protests when the self-anointed black leader tries to equate his imagined victimization with the real persecution and martyrdom Dr. King endured.

Mayor Giuliani correctly noted that Sharpton's exhibition was an extremely disrespectful way to celebrate a man who devoted his life to nonviolent action against racism. Just as Dr. King strove for a world where human beings are judged "not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character," blacks should not cling to Sharpton simply because they belong to the same race. Rather, if they folded the race card and examined Sharpton for who he is, the Reverend would find himself quite lonely.



Outspoken Reverend Al Sharpton

Welcome Back

Tuftonians were pleasantly surprised to find their rooms wired for cable upon their return to campus. Although Tufts Connect promised this service early last semester, the long-awaited improvement will be much appreciated by the Tufts community—provided operators do not mishandle it as they did phone and ethernet connections. Similarly, workers have partially completed work on the new library steps, eliminating the inconvenience of bothersome detours. Although months past due, students will be nonetheless grateful that they can traverse the campus faster and more safely. Hopefully, the on-going construction of Tisch Library will not experience any further delays.

A Step In The Right Direction

Currently, pregnant women caught using illegal narcotics are treated by the criminal justice system as mere drug addicts. New York City, however, may be at the vanguard of a move to handle pregnant addicts and recreational users as child abusers. Under new regulations proposed by NYC Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, mothers who test positive for drugs in the later stages of pregnancy will face criminal sanctions as well as lose custody of their children.

The move has met much approval from politicians all over the ideological spectrum. Both compassion and practicality drive the overwhelming support for the change. Children whose mothers abuse drugs during pregnancy begin life with a host of physical and mental difficulties, including crippling birth defects. In the majority of these cases, state or local governments bear the burden

of payment for treatment which often reaches into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the state cannot in good conscience turn away the truly helpless victims of such tragic neglect, it should act to deter women from committing such heinous crimes.

If implemented, this measure will be a legal landmark. Previously, the system dealt with pregnant drug users the same way as it treated those not carrying children, despite the unconscionable damage addicts inflict upon their unborn kin. The new legislation, however, acknowledges that the fetus is not an extension of the mother's body but a unique human being. The law poses serious questions about the difference between deliberate fetal abuse and unnatural fetal death. Is it not immeasurably more reprehensible to kill the child outright than to damage it with illicit substances?

This groundbreaking introduction drastically undermines the most fundamental argument of the pro-choice camp. No sensible person could oppose Giuliani's effort, a reform which will probably be mimicked across the country. Logical people who continue to support a woman's "right" to have an abortion will now have to simultaneously endorse the right of a mother to abuse drugs during pregnancy.

Establishing the Meritocracy

California Governor Pete Wilson's controversial decision to end race-based hiring and admissions in the UC system received another vote of confidence when the Board of Regents refused to rescind its 1995 decision. Several hundred students opposing the anti-affirmative action measure, disrupted the regents' January meeting in San Francisco, vociferously demanding a reversal. Meanwhile, a group of protesters wore orange stickers reading "Reclaim your education" over their mouths while waiting their turn at the podium. That these youths believe they will be harmed when affirmative action measures end indicates an unrealistic fear that they will no longer be able to earn an education. Moreover, it is ironic that these minorities seek equal treatment with the white males who, they claim, oppress them, all the while they insist upon special advantages.

In reality, the proclamation will have little effect since the gender and race considerations will be replaced with concern for extenuating circumstances and socioeconomic disadvantage. Regardless of the consequences, we should applaud a long overdue effort to eliminate preferential practices and erect a meritocracy in their place. The disgruntled students should embrace assessment based on their hard work and achievements rather than a

biological reality that they did not create. Hopefully, the Board of Regents will continue to stand by its decision and the aspiring college students will realize the inconsistency of their position, welcoming judgment based on ability and potential.

The Second Amendment in Action

A Brooklyn mugger met his match in Detective Eric Immersberger. The veteran investigator, after absorbing a brutal and sustained beating, shot his assailant, Tony Rice, twice in the chest while the attacker's accomplice escaped on foot. Here, the Second Amendment scored a victory for personal defense, as the victim succeeded in using a threat of violence to end the attack and repel one of the criminals.

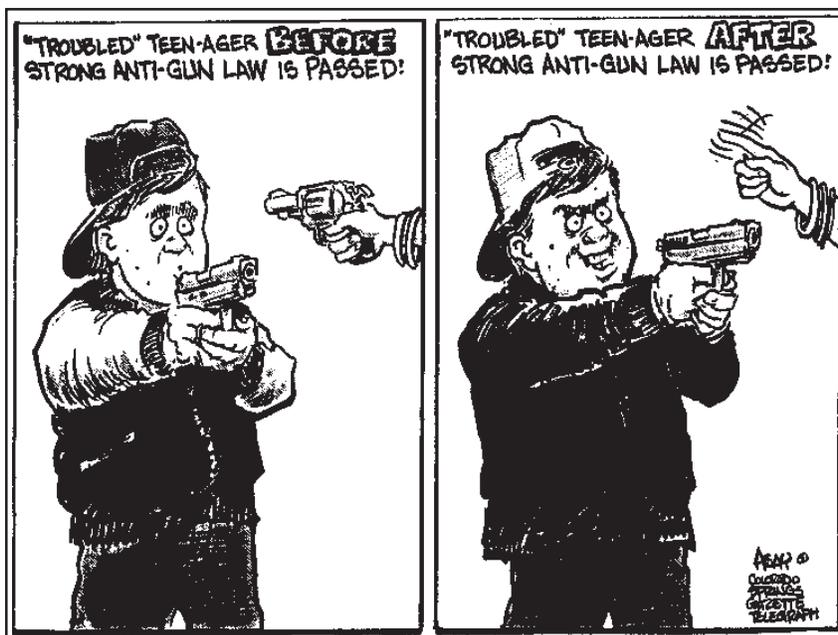
Immersberger's actions were unequivocally justified. He identified himself as a police officer three times, even as he

suffered kicks to the head and stomach. Only as a last resort did he draw and discharge his pistol. One can only wonder what would have happened had he not been carrying a weapon; he might not have been fortunate enough to walk away with just a broken nose and a concussion.

This incident illustrates that while gun control laws attempt to keep weapons out of the hands of criminals, they prevent law-abiding citizens from protecting themselves. Tony Rice

and his cowardly sidekick were not deterred from attacking the seemingly defenseless plain-clothes Immersberger (despite not being armed themselves) because they knew private citizens cannot carry concealed weapons. Moreover, Mr. Rice will surely think twice the next time he contemplates assaulting a pedestrian. Certainly, the prevalence of gun control laws (especially in New York) hardens truants' resolve to violate others because they feel that their personal safety is not threatened. The absence of these prohibitions might, however, make criminals hesitate before they act, thinking that their prospective target might be exercising his right to bear arms.

Gun control laws demand that the public place considerable blind faith in the state to protect them at all times—a complete impossibility. Uncle Sam's guardian angles are mere mortals, not omnipresent protectors. Citizens should be able to defend themselves; otherwise, they might be subjected to the full extent of the beating Immesberger was able to end with his gun. This case demonstrates how effective citizens can be at protecting themselves when the state fails to come to the rescue.



Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS Last week, Yarmouth administrators fired high school teacher “Bubba” Walenski after discovering that he had appeared in and produced more than 100 skin flicks. School officials were upset that the videos did not represent alternative sexual lifestyles.

PS The education bureaucrats further learned that the popular English teacher had solicited students to appear in his amateur-style sex tapes. If the students should decide to continue their work on the collegiate level, expect them to receive a nice, fat NEH grant.

PS In Cookeville, Tennessee, a vacuum cleaner exploded aboard a boat in Edgar Evins State Park marina destroying 16 other ships and causing \$1 million in damage. At least this Hoover didn’t cross-dress.

PS Alas, all good things must come to an end. The thrilling marriage of Lisa Marie Presley and Michael Jackson will soon be history. The King’s little princess complained that Michael kept stealing her make-up. And he spent too much time with Emmanuel Lewis hanging out at K-Mart because he heard that boys’ pants were half off.

PS So she told him to beat it.

PS For those not in the know, Tufts has a mailroom in both West and Lewis Halls. One lies and the other one swears to it.

PS Hillary Clinton stated last Monday that she would do “whatever it takes” to clarify her role in the Whitewater controversy. Try telling the truth.

PS The Humane Society is offering \$100 to anyone who can find the snowmobilers who killed 65 ducks. What a bunch of quacks.

PS The Stuttering Foundation of America is offering a free brochure to parents, entitled *If You Think Your Child is Stuttering*. What, they can’t t-t-t-t-tell?

PS An 85-year old retired minister refused to move when he tried to wave off an oncoming train that was about to hit his Oldsmobile Cutlass which had stalled on the tracks. He shouldn’t have a license anyway.

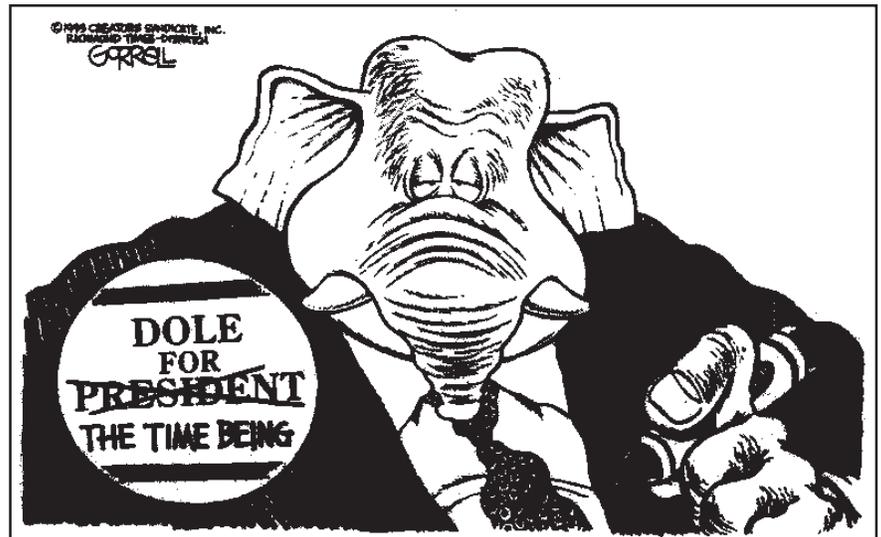
PS Leave it to that ever-shining beacon of journalism, *The Boston Globe*, to publish a feature titled “Liberalism Lives!” Good journalism, however, does not.

PS General Mills will combine seventy-five “ethnically diverse” faces to create a more-PC version of the Betty Crocker logo. Bet it won’t look anything like Hillary.

PS A national recall was issued for Nature Valley granola bars which mistakenly contained peanut butter. The manufacturer feared that peanut-allergic types would consume the munchies. So what if you lose a crunchy here and there?

PS A bus traveling through Peru was attacked three times by highwaymen. The first bunch took everyone’s money, the second all their luggage, and the third got nothing but the radio and a set of hubcaps.

PS A pair of Boston meter maids were caught double-parking their van in front of a fire hydrant for half an hour while dining in a deli. Student Activities aren’t the only ones lunching on someone else’s tab.



PS George Burns celebrated his one hundredth birthday last week. Who said smoking can’t be good for you?

PS Talk about China Syndrome. Government officials in the People’s Republic discovered that restaurants have been adding opium seeds to their food, causing customers to become addicted. Guess dog isn’t scrumptious on its own.

PS An Australian boy burned down a homestead when he used a match and an aerosol can to kill a large spider. The itchy bitsy spider got burnt to a char, so did the house, the neighbors and the car....

PS Funny man Dick Gregory joked with President Bill that all of Newt’s problems began when “You made him a Negro for a day,” referring to the Air Force One seating fiasco. It wasn’t really intentional— Bubba just took up all the room in the front.

PS Top Ten Tufts Lightbulb jokes: How many _____ does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

10. B&G workers: Nobody knows; it's never been done before.
9. TLGBC-ers: Five. One to screw it in and four to discuss whether the bulb is ready to come out of its box.
8. Pan-African Alliance members: None. They refuse to submit to the tyranny of white light.
7. Womyn's Studies teachers: What were they doing out of the kitchen in the first place?
6. Frat boys: Just one, but only if he's sober.
5. Registrars: Listen, we sent someone out with the light bulb already. If you want it replaced sooner, you'll have to come and get it yourself.
4. Academic Deans: Do you honestly believe they know how? That's what secretaries are for.
3. Department secretaries: Six. One to send for coffee and Danish, one to get the ladder, one to screw in the bulb, and three to stand around looking busy.
2. Hotung Employees: Sorry, we're out of light bulbs.
1. SOURCE staffers: None. If the light bulb needed changing, the market would have done it already.

PS Raymond Mitchell of Nashville, Tennessee, had an interesting hobby. Late at night, he'd call up women and tell them to disrobe, blindfold themselves, and wait for him. Most hung up, but a few fell for it, thinking he was their boyfriend. Must have been blondes.

PS Unable to attract job-seekers in the usual manner, a Norwegian company ran an ad reading, "Tiresome and boring company seeks indolent people... for a job that is completely without challenge." The ad brought in 130 responses. Inquire within Ballou.

PS Students at a Texas elementary school will get a lesson in snowmyn-building after a shipment of snow arrives from Buffalo. Next week, the President will visit and teach them about a different kind of snow job.

PS Claudia Garcia swam across the Rio Grande from Mexico in order to give birth to her boy in a ditch on the American side. She wanted her son to grow up in a country where he would learn his mother tongue.

PS The Montana State Prison and county jails are seeking cells to rent in other states in order to move two hundred crunched inmates. They don't even have room to bend over.

PS The company responsible for that Mexican amnesia juice, José Cuervo, has bought an island in the Caribbean and will seek UN recognition as the world's 192nd country. It seems Hillary has been hitting the tequila lately.

PS The Clintons have said that they do not know how the First Liar's billing records mysteriously appeared inside the White House. She thought she took care of those when she iced Vince.

PS Tisk, tisk. Due to poor service, NYNEX will be forced to compensate Queens residents ten dollars per household. Too bad Tuftonians don't have it that good.

PS Sanitation authorities in our capitol expect a "full load of garbage" when collection resumes this week in the wake of two large snowstorms. Re-opening the government doesn't hurt either.

PS According to a prominent British tabloid, a topless video of Princess Di will soon appear on the boob tube. For once, the limeys will drop their tea and crumpets to watch the BBC.

PS Or maybe not.

PS Several NFL players were caught saying sweet little four-letter nothings on live TV last weekend. How 'bout them Cowboys!

PS The hottest movie among bisexuals? According to a *Newsweek* article, *Anything That Moves* wins the honor. Take note Film Series.

THE PRIMARY SOURCE:
Read it. Breathe it. Love it.
Roll it up and smoke it.
But don't recycle it.
Thank you.

PS The Gay and Lesbian Animal Rights Caucus of the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals protested the Atlantic States Gay Rodeo Association's annual soiree. There's some alphabet soup for you.

PS West Virginia's legislature is considering a bill which would give Genesis and evolution theory the same weight in science classes. We're sure Billy-Bob and his brothers/uncles will give a damn.

PS The Anglican bishop of Edinburgh advocates that the Church permit adultery, citing the need for humanity to go out and "sow our seeds." Sounds pretty seedy to us.

PS For a change Hillary's hands won't hurt— she has been using a pen machine for her book signings. And an automatic feeder for the shredder.

A Walk on the Wild Side

Steve Seltzer

Most people store rubbish and other useless material in their basements. Tufts University apparently adheres to this practice. The curators of Eaton Hall have, fittingly, designated the building's basement the Pseudo-studies headquarters. Since the cellar dwellers seemingly believe that their brazen politicking amounts to serious scholarship, then perhaps Eaton's bottom level requires a safety inspection with a fumigation follow-up.

Having learned of the locale's radical reputation, I embarked upon a self-guided tour of the academic bargain basement. The floor's rich display of left-leaning literature created a revolutionary, rather than an intellectual, atmosphere. Prominently displayed brochures and professors' doors adorned with posters containing 'disinterested' information about such atrocities as welfare cuts reminded all visitors of non-

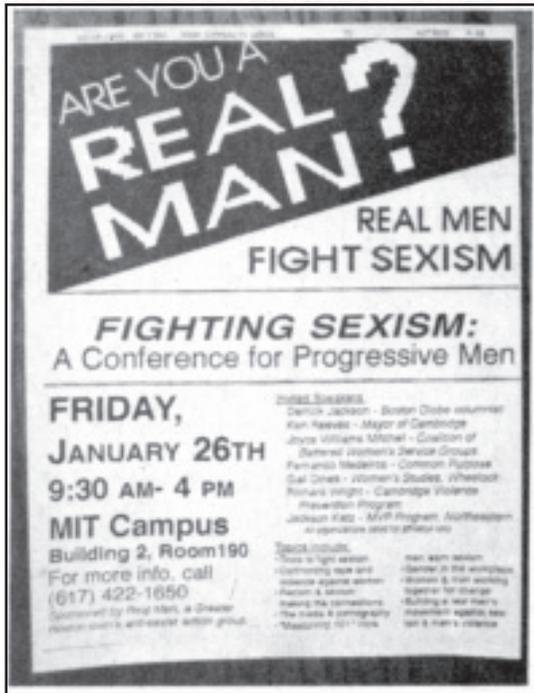
traditional scholarship's commitment to partisan prattling. The departments of Sociology and Anthropology (a legitimate discipline whose Eaton incarnation sadly champions politics at the expense of knowledge) along with the Women's, American, Asian, Africa and the New World, and Peace and Justice Studies interdisciplinary programs have erected an educational concentration camp of sorts—the prevailing underground orthodoxy vilifies all dissenting viewpoints.

By defying the principles of erudition to advance an ideological agenda, the bottom level departments have failed to up-

hold the qualities of legitimate scholarship. Their propagandizing posters, flyers, and information packets hardly attempt to convey even a semblance of dispassionate analysis. The dishonest crusade against narrow-mindedness has engendered what truly qualifies as a politics of malice.

The Land Down Under

Almost all professors decorated their office doors with left-wing political statements, an immediate indicator of their priorities. A prominent Sociology professor displayed a poster titled "Get the Facts," which decried reductions in welfare assistance. Another series of posters advertised a convention called "Fighting Sexism: A Conference for Progressive Men." One professor's door even sported a sign that read "Stop American



A professor posted the above flyer on his door in the basement of Eaton Hall.

Apartheid," seemingly ignoring the Constitutional provisions for equality under the law, universal suffrage, and property rights.

While faculty members certainly have a right to the political ideals of their choosing, they must not use their positions to influence or intimidate students. A professor's post should not act as a forum for political propaganda. Students with differing opinions will, in all likelihood, refrain from voicing their disagreement for fear of jeopardizing their grades. The abundance of like-minded propaganda has an intimidating effect; conservative students would

understandably want no part of disciplines which demonize their opinions.

More disturbingly, the leaflets displayed in the basement tainted their respective departments by presenting, and often advocating, extremist politics. A listing of Peace and Justice Studies electives included

The curators of Eaton Hall have, fittingly, designated the building's basement the Pseudo-studies headquarters.

courses on "Feminist Philosophy," and "Dress Through History: Sex, Repression and Taboos." The Asian Studies Program, which does offer a number of valid courses, cheapened its own academic worth by offering "Gender and Sexuality in Japanese History," which investigated Japan's "ruling-class 'deployment' of sexuality, and the appeal of androgyny in theater and other arts."

Courses which focus on gender and sexuality lack intellectual vitality and academic merit because they express a single, pointed ideological perspective. Women's Studies requires that professors teach from a feminist perspective, while courses on sexuality cling to the notion of a "straight-white-male power structure." True learning can only occur if competing ideas have an equal opportunity to surface.

Eaton's bottom dwellers, however, do not seem to value intellectual and ideological diversity. A pamphlet for PJS 99, "Internships in Social Change Organizations," offers a list of organizations approved by the program. "Cooperative Economics for Women," "Health Care for All," and "Mass. Choice" were all included on the list, but "Operation Rescue" and other conservative (or even moderate) groups did not appear. If Peace and Justice Studies does approve internships at right-leaning organizations, it has made no effort to release that information to the Tufts Community.

Please see "Eaton," continued on page 18.

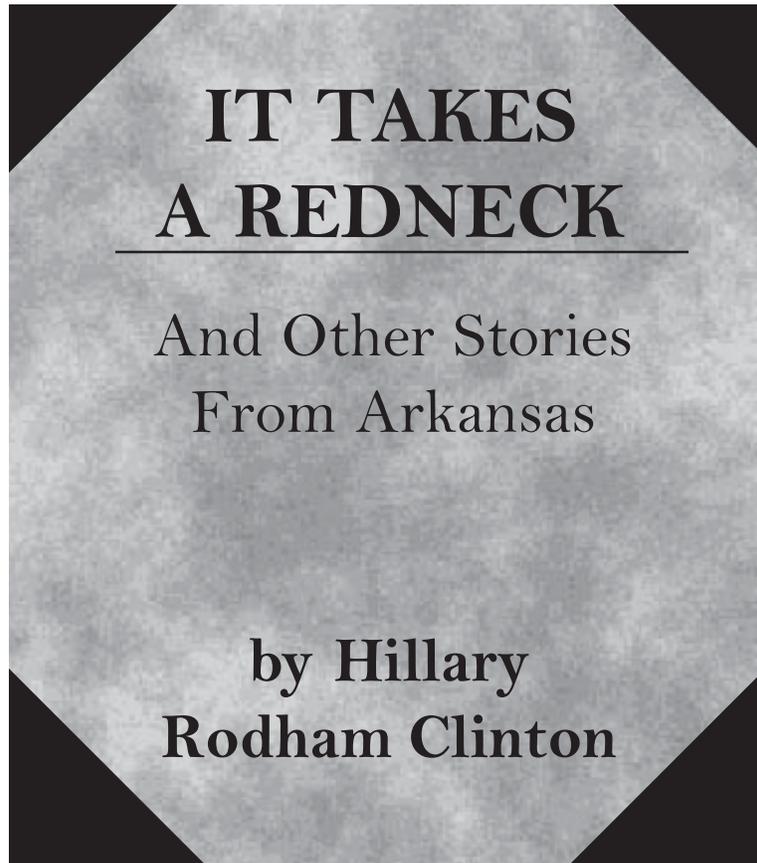
The most courageous First Lady since Eleanor Roosevelt finally tells her story in "It Takes A Redneck." From the swamps of Arkansas, where she watched her husband's star rise and her personal records sink, to the smoke-filled rooms of Capitol Hill where she is maligned for her superior feminine intellect, this book offers an enduring statement by one of the hottest women to hit politics since Donna Rice.

"It Takes A Redneck shows that Mrs. Clinton can not only scheme with the boys, but out-scheme those dullards as well.... This will make those mean-spirited Republicans cringe."

—The New Republic

"Exhilarating... in both breadth and depth of vision."

—Time



"The First Lady's ghost writer speaks, with eloquence, on the need for stronger families, more old-fashioned values, AFDC, and single-payer health care. Her voice is a sober one, indeed, in these trying times."

—The New York Times Book Review

From "It Takes A Redneck"

"The trick is to stage two cover-ups. The first, a simple one that Congress can find and make a stink about. Then, while they're investigating, you go out and shred everything. They'll know you did something wrong, but they'll never make the charges stick...."

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With selective amnesia running rampant in Washington these days, there are a few things that

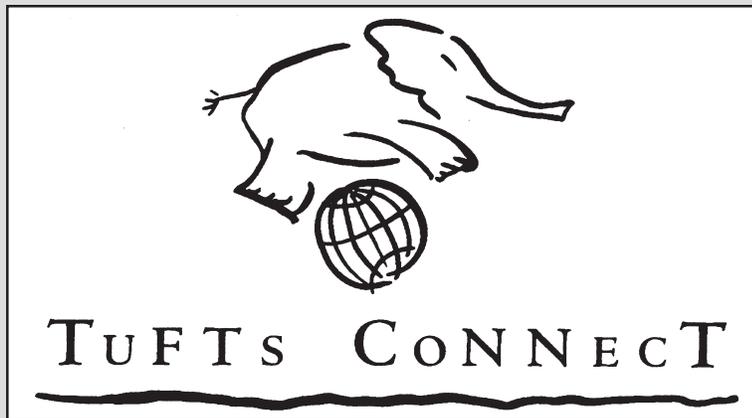
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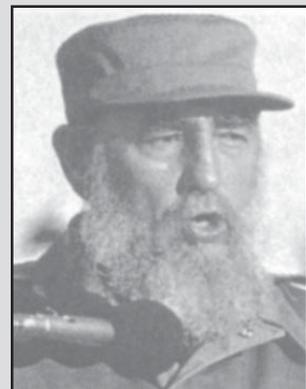
The list is long, the page far too short



No justice for Black men



Dial Tufts for a ripoff



Not arresting Fidel



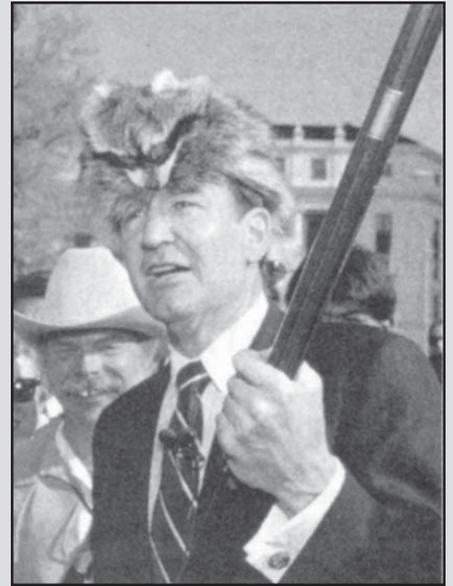
The

Want

TO FORGET



Lame limeys airing dirty laundry



Pseudo-conservatives



An (Ex)College of Clowns



Beijing Womyn's Love-in



Ask Hillary...

Dear Mrs. Clinton,

I also have trouble keeping track of important papers and records. Do you have any advice as to how I can get away with it?

—Reggie Strarr

Dear Reg,

Just get in their faces. Tell everyone that you've better things to do than listen to them whine. They'll have to comply. If that fails, start lying about the whole affair.

—The Big H

Dear Mom,

When will you give us Daddy's papers? Without his Will, we can't get any money from the Madison people. By the way, where's Uncle Webb?

—The Kiddies Foster

Dear Brats,

Keep your mouths shut and watch your step. I'll send you a nice, big check from your Uncle Sam as soon as I take care of Uncle Bernie and Aunt Maggie.

—Regards, Mom

O Captain, My Captain,

I thought you should now that I've incorporated your wonderful new tome into the Freshman Writing Seminar here at Tufts. Your musings on the struggle of womyn in a misogynistic society will be forever useful in reconfiguring America's social hierarchy. Although I have not yet read your book, my building's receptionist is already raving. I wholeheartedly invite you to visit our campus and perform a reading of your classic work. With admiration,

—Dean Liz

Dear Sister,

Sorry, Tufts admits men. Catch you at Wellesley.

—Your *Alma Mater*

Dear Hillary,

You may think you're pretty smart but I've got good fellas on to you. I'll knock you out of the picture when you least expect it. That's the way we handle things in the old neighborhood.

—Don D'Amato

Dear Don,

Back in Arkansas, I used to eat guys like you for breakfast. Vinny was lunch. Watch yourself, there's a new order in town and you're gonna end up at the bottom of it.

—Hill in Charge

Dear Hillary,

I know you don't love Bill anymore. Can I please have a piece of him? I can only satisfy myself for so long by heaping praise on your husband in my articles and on TV. I want action!

—Eleanor Clift

Dear Eleanor,

He'll be all yours in four years. And we thank you for your support.

—Hill

Dear Congenital Liar,

You tell Bill that I'll break his stinkin' neck. That sorry SOB should never have opened his fat mouth. And when I'm done with him, I'll take on Big Al.

—The other Bill

Dear Mr. Safire,

Keep your genitals to yourself.

—Mrs. Bubba

Dear Bitch,

Newtie said it all, but I'm always happy to reiterate.

—Mrs. G.

Dear Mrs. G.,

Tell your son he's a fat slob. Give my best to Candy.

—HRC

Scandal Revisited

Colin Kingsbury

A little less than a quarter of a century ago, a little-known Arkansas attorney served as assistant counsel to Democrats on the Senate Watergate Committee. Now, that same woman and her husband face similar accusations of malfeasance about their own administration. Investigations into issues known popularly as Whitewater and Travelgate are just beginning to yield results, and the next few months will almost surely see Mrs. Clinton testify before Congress. Although the scandal has developed slowly, an overabundance of information rather than a lack of it confounded many examiners. Swamped by thousands of pages of documents and an almost indecipherable web of events, investigators are only just beginning to make sense of the First Couple's affairs. Indeed, the trail of utter confusion they left behind has been the Clintons' greatest ally. But as Congressional committees discern the true nature of government Arkansas-style, the public will surely show the appropriate level of concern.

A Place Called Whitewater

The Whitewater scandal, which first surfaced during the 1992 campaign, initially appeared to be nothing more than a risky Real Estate venture organized by James McDougal, one of the Clintons' closest personal friends from Little Rock. It has since blossomed into a much larger affair involving political cronyism, corruption, a failed S&L, and possibly the suicide of White House Counsel Vince Foster.

Whitewater Land Development Corp. began as a fast-money Real Estate clearinghouse under the auspices of Jim McDougal, head of the now-defunct Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan. The Clintons and McDougals started out as full partners, but when Whitewater went south and Arkansas' First Family could not afford the loss, McDougal had Madison extend funds to cover loans which Bill and Hillary had signed. Later, when regulators began examining Madison Guaranty's busi-

ness dealings, Governor Clinton pulled strings to hold them at bay. Hillary, then a partner at Little Rock's Rose Law Firm, performed legal work for Madison and another suspicious Real Estate project undertaken by Seth Ward, father-in-law of Rose partner Webb Hubbell. The would-be Assistant Attorney General and convicted felon also joined the action; Hubbell himself served as the Resolution Trust Corporation's outside counsel on the Madison Guaranty case. Authorities believe that, with Rose help, Ward set up his project as a front operation, thereby allowing Madison to circumvent rules which prevent S&L's from directly investing in Real Estate. Of course, no one at Rose thought it necessary to mention the many conflicts of interest to the RTC, which bailed out Madison to the tune of \$60 million.

Clinton declared that her "records were just such a mess;" this coming from the woman who organized over four hundred people to produce a one thousand page document detailing the nationalization of the entire health care system.

Whitewater took on new significance

Mrs. Clinton should tell investigators everything she knows, lest the White House again devolves into the den of liars and thieves it represented during the Nixon Administration.

with the release of the late Vince Foster's files. Though he blamed everything from the dog-eat-dog Beltway lifestyle to the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page in his suicide letter, available notes indicate that he feared an IRS audit of the Clintons' tax returns. Other missing documents and whatever shreds of truth may have resided in Foster's files, however, are likely gone for good. The night of Foster's suicide, Hillary placed a series of telephone calls to three people, the last of which being her aide and long-time friend, Susan Thomases. Shortly thereafter, a Secret Service officer saw Mrs. Thomases hurriedly removing files from Foster's office before Justice Department officials could arrive to seal it. Although Thomases testified under oath that no such thing ever happened, she could not explain

why so many records vanished or offer a reason why agents would lie about her actions.

Travelgate Redux

At the time of Foster's suicide, Whitewater was hardly the only liability the Clintons had to worry about. The second person Hillary contacted that night was Harry Thomasson, a television producer and Clinton bankroller from Arkansas. Though Hillary described her calls to Thomasson and Chief of Staff Maggie



Mrs. Clinton had until recently claimed that she performed only minimal supervisory work for Madison, that Rose simply considered her the billing partner. Hillary's records, which the White House released just a few weeks ago, contradict her assertion, noting that both she and an associate worked extensively for Madison. And while numerous investigative bodies subpoenaed these records two years ago, Mrs. Clinton claimed that they had been lost. Just two weeks ago, however, they suddenly appeared in a box of papers taken from a table in the Clinton's personal quarters, rooms to which only they and invited guests have access. Apologizing for the oversight, Mrs.

Continued on the next page.

Continued from the previous page.

Williams (the first call) as outpourings of grief, her statements seem difficult to believe, as Thomasson hardly knew Foster. The producer was, however, intimately involved in another brewing scandal which the White House Counsel tried to manage before his death.

The Thomassons represented themselves merely as friends and supporters, but they did become personal beneficiaries of Clinton's high office. Several months after his inauguration, President Clinton fired seven White House Travel Office workers and turned the office over to none other than Harry Thomasson. Although Washington certainly knows patronage well, the Clintons followed the workers' dismissals with an FBI investigation and trumped-up federal corruption charges. The employees have since been exonerated, but the ordeal left them with million-dollar legal bills and continued hounding from Clinton operatives.

The Clintons tried to clear the air by arguing that travel office positions would not significantly benefit the wealthy producer. Compared to their television productions the travel office salaries are small potatoes, or so went the White House's argument. The press corps parroted the line and Travelgate went away. Nonetheless, the media attention prevented Clinton from following through with a much larger plan—also involving Harry Thomasson—which promised much more than the income of seven civil servants.

Besides his Hollywood investments, Harry Thomasson owns a share in an aviation consulting firm named TRM. Among its many services, the company provides fleet management for corporations with private aircraft. From the travel office, Thomasson saw an opportunity for TRM to help the government "manage" its 1,800-aircraft-fleet, and perhaps even privatize it. But strict rules about how the executive branch awards contracts for such things stood in his way. The Office of Management and Budget examined TRM's proposal to conduct an audit of the fleet—for a fee of \$499,000 dollars—and placed the offer at the bottom of the priorities list. When the President wants to lavish a half-million-dollar-contract on a friend, however, softly-worded notes from OMB bu-

reaucrats hardly deter him. Just as the White House planned to authorize the expenditure from discretionary funds, the Travelgate scandal broke and TRM could do nothing. Had the Clinton's ploy to disgrace the Travel Office workers not blown up in their face, Harry Thomasson might have been the recipient of a great deal of tax-payer funds simply because he knew Bill and Hill.

The most difficult question now hounding 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue ponders the role Hillary Clinton played in the firings. Though she denied taking any action, a memo left behind by David Watkins—who was fired for misuse of government aircraft—indicates that Hillary would raise hell if he did not dismiss the employees. That Mrs. Clinton may be responsible the firings, probably had a role in the cover-up that ruined the lives of seven staffers, and advanced the ploy to install TRM indicates an environment of wanton deception unbecoming national office. At the very least, Mrs. Clinton should tell investigators everything she knows, lest the White House again devolves into the den of liars and thieves it represented during the Nixon Administration.

What Next?

While Watergate's gravity should not be downplayed, it has taken on an almost mythic quality in our political debates, one that automatically places it above the trespasses of Democratic administrations. But the level of patronage, the growing mountain of lies, and the blizzard of deception found in Whitewater and Travelgate makes comparison reasonable. Evidence now indicates that the Clintons may have behaved illegally and unethically and that they have acted in bad faith to obscure the facts surrounding their wrongdoings.

The latest argument supporting the Clintons' behavior holds that if they had

not tried so hard to cover up these relatively minor scandals, there would be no great suspicion: Vince Foster's death only looks suspicious because the White House handled it so delicately, Whitewater only suggests Watergate because the Clintons have dodged questions so much. But the situation begs the question: why dig a hole unless you have a body to bury in it? For over three years investigators have been finding holes, but nothing else. Now, the situation is changing.

Current events leave one wondering whether Hillary Clinton's work on Watergate taught her how a cover-up should be handled. While Republicans and federal investigators tried to subpoena relevant documents, the Clintons may have been hiding, shredding, or refabricating their records. Two years is a very long time, more than enough for people as clever as the Clintons to eliminate evidence detailing wrongdoing. Investigators can try and secure information, but when they run into a Nixonesque

brick wall of executive privilege, justice and faith in government loses.

The past six weeks have witnessed at least one former friend of the First Family come forward and tell her story. As the Clintons'



ship begins to sink, the rats will surely start to flee. It is now only a matter of time before Hillary must answer questions regarding many of these scandals. Interestingly, President Clinton's defense of the First Lady has changed from wanting to punch Bill Safire in the nose to saying that he believes his wife will confront her accusers. Perhaps the first rat to leave will be the biggest of them all.

Mr. Kingsbury is a sophomore majoring in International Relations.

Infernal Revenue

Keith Levenberg

Americans are historically familiar with taxation's ability to tyrannize the populace, but rarely does a candidate for national office propose any substantive means for curtailing such authority. Since the passage of the 16th Amendment, high income tax rates have permitted government expansion at the expense of economic freedom. Though many politicians endorse tax cuts, few denounce the current code as systemically corrupt. Republican presidential candidate Steve Forbes, however, has challenged convention, proposing to replace the IRS's convoluted code with a simple, flat rate.

The flat tax's ability to control Washington's powermongering is uncertain, but the measure will nevertheless deliver tangible economic benefits to the people. The revenue code subjects each dollar to federal taxation four different times. First, Washington taxes corporate profits at rates as high as 39 percent. Corporations pass these taxes on to consumers through higher product prices and then pay worker salaries from this shrunken pool of cash. Personal income rates approaching 39.6% further reduce these already low salaries. In addition, the IRS effectively penalizes efficient investment of personal earnings through a 28% capital gains tax. Finally, the government exacts another tax (rates start at 50%) on inheritances.

Apparently, Washington does not believe that it taxes each dollar enough. After an earned dollar has passed through each stage of taxation, a mere fraction of its original value remains. Even tax dollars reinvested into the economy by government spending programs suffer from eroded value; maintenance of the federal bureaucracy costs billions each year. The flat tax proposals offered by Steve Forbes and Congressman Dick Armey would abolish duplicitous taxation, leaving only the personal income tax in place.

Whereas the flat tax would provide an increased incentive to invest, the *status quo* dissuades such practices by penalizing successful entrepreneurs. The current tax code assumes that taxation operates in a

vacuum, having no effect on individual behavior. As Forbes noted, it foolishly supposes that an individual who is taxed 100% on Monday and 0% on Tuesday will

Whereas the flat tax would provide an increased incentive to invest, the *status quo* penalizes successful entrepreneurs.

still show up for work on Monday. Abolishing the capital gains tax would promote investment, resulting in more wealth created across the board. Because this would increase the amount of taxable income nationwide, Forbes believes that a lower tax rate could generate the same amount of revenue as the IRS presently collects.

Liberal critics of the flat tax claim that it cripples lower and middle income individuals by substantially lessening the share of taxes paid by the wealthy. While this is certainly a valid concern, the Forbes and Armey proposals protect the poor and middle class by awarding substantial personal and dependent exemptions. Under the Forbes plan, taxable income begins at \$36,000 for a family of four. A family with earnings at or below that mark pays 0% of its income in taxes. One making more pays 17% on only the portion above \$36,000.

With income of \$40,000 a year, a family pays 17% of the \$4,000 difference, which amounts to \$680, a mere 1.7% of its income. A family earning \$60,000 still pays 17% of the taxable \$24,000, which amounts to \$4,080, 6.8% of its income. Such a flat tax would maintain reasonable progressivity while applying a uniform rate to all non-exempt income.

Unfortunately, a flat tax alone cannot correct the myriad problems inherent in the income tax. Even the simplified procedure fails to make tax collection simple, honest, or fair. Reducing the complex calculations of tax rates serves little purpose if it still involves excessive documentation for an individual to determine his income.

Moreover, Congress could conceivably pass a flat tax and still leave the IRS intact. Only taxation of consumption rather than production (income)

would end the IRS as we know it. Unfortunately, the proposals for a national sales tax (including the repeal of the 16th Amendment) have receive little attention by the media or presidential candidates.

Taxing purchases eliminates the need for an individual to determine his income in order to pay taxes. Thus, the IRS could be abolished because there would be no reason to police income calculation. No federal agency could exert strongarm pressure on its enemies through audits. A consumption tax would also enable the state to

tax illegally obtained income and the super-rich who have no income. Such a change also removes real potentials for fraud and falsification; even under a flat income tax, individuals can still dodge the IRS by disguising their income. Best of all, a national sales tax would make the cost of collecting taxes cheaper by requiring significantly fewer administrative expenses than even a flat income tax.

More importantly, the sales tax would increase the array of financial choices available to taxpayers. Rather than having a small portion of their income deducted from each paycheck, Americans would see



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

“Eaton,” continued from page 10.

Perhaps the most revealing and damning piece of political propaganda discovered in Eaton’s basement is a booklet titled “The Right Facts: Helping You Understand the Right-Wing Threat to Democracy and Diversity.” The pamphlet’s authors refer to conservatives as “racist, religious, sexist and anti-gay and lesbian.” Additionally, the writers compare the religious right with Neo-nazis. A document so clearly political has absolutely no scholarly value. Moreover, conservatives who believe in limited government, personal responsibility, strong families, and an almighty Creator are not at all similar to Nazis. The decision to display the pamphlet amounts to an insidious attempt to demean and defile conservatives.

Valueless Education

If Eaton’s basement residents offer any scholarship of educational value, they prefer to instead champion their political beliefs. Meaningful knowledge cannot rely upon unproved and controversial “facts .” Although the University should act as a

marketplace for ideas, politics cannot masquerade as academics. The dishonesty demonstrated by Eaton’s “cutting edge faculty” precludes their departments from achieving legitimacy.

Indeed, illegitimate courses and programs reflect an arrogance on the part of their disseminators and proponents. It is nothing less than condescending for professors to assume that students at an allegedly first-rate college cannot distinguish between knowledge and politics. If the subterranean scholars believe that their students are beyond such deception, then they would no reason to display propaganda. Clearly, the basement contingent seeks to perpetuate a very one-sided perspective.

Ironically, Eaton’s below-ground inhabitants have engaged in the close-mindedness and intolerance that they claim to work against. Their outright lies about decent conservative-minded individuals and far-fetched comparisons between the right and Nazism sufficiently expose the truly tyrannical tendencies of Eaton’s bottom dwellers. Their search for fascism should remain closer to home.

Perhaps, though, the entire Tufts Community would be better served by the diffusion of the basement radicalism throughout the entire campus. For the interdisciplinarians and their ilk will reveal their own foolhardiness by exposing their fanatical ideas to outsiders. The last time American Studies Chair Saul Slapikoff issued a public statement of any consequence, he launched a campaign to introduce affirmative action to Tufts’ highly respectable and competitive pre-med program. Professors Dewald and Elmore easily explained the problematic nature of such a policy. Slapikoff and his cronies would be wise to shield their deranged prescriptions from rational minds.

Tufts students and their families, regrettably, finance Eaton’s tunnels of academic abomination. The underground extremists enjoy the luxury of indoctrinating the individuals who provide for their existence. Hopefully, the benefactors will someday command the open-mindedness that their investments so glaringly lack.

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

“Invisible,” continued from the next page.

per year as they would for \$600. Furthermore, as the currency weakens, the original investor may receive a 5% return in name but real value of that money suffers because the purchasing power of the \$500 he receives each year has declined.

Corporations hoping to compete with foreign producers frequently ask the government to devalue the currency in order to help balance the trade deficit. These interested sophists claim that weakening the dollar makes American products more competitive and provides economic growth and jobs. Such a policy can benefit the targeted domestic corporations in the short run by altering exchange rates to make foreign goods cost more in this country. However, once the devaluation stops or equals that of trading partners, the exchange benefits disappear. While imported goods may cost more than they did previously, production costs for the domestic company will also increase as a result of inflation.

While certain domestic industries may benefit from a weakened dollar, consumers lacking corporate lobbying power and the country as a whole inevitably suffer. When

foreign products become more expensive to purchase, domestic producers follow suit by raising their prices. For example, if compact disc players sell at \$200, and currency devaluation alters exchange rates so that foreign compact disc players sell for \$300, American producers could raise prices to \$250 without losing a significant share of the market. Thus, Americans must pay more for goods regardless of the product’s origin. And since foreign products are artificially expensive, American companies have little incentive to improve the quality of their goods.

The benefits of currency devaluation serve only to lower efficiency and deter innovation. It is appropriate to devalue currency in certain instances, but only if other governments interfere with exchange rates through techniques such as imposition of regulatory controls or intervention by a central bank. If exchange rates are left to float freely in response to market forces of supply and demand— as opposed to manipulated by changes in the money supply— a productive economy will ensue due to a lack of artificially created inefficiency.

Mr. Havell is a junior majoring in International Relations.

“Infernal,” continued from the previous page.

every penny they earn. They could choose to invest it without penalty, or spend it and pay a highly visible tax at the cash register. This prominence would constantly remind consumers of the price of maintaining a costly government and massive wealth-redistribution programs. The income tax does not have this advantage because the particulars of collection are delegated to the IRS, an agency with great incentive to disguise taxation’s magnitude. Withholding taxes from paychecks prevents individuals from calculating how much they pay by obscuring their real salaries.

Steve Forbes’ intention to eliminate the federal tax monolith is admirable, whether it be done with a flat tax or the less corruptible sales tax. Any reform that limits the government’s coercive economic practices benefits the people and the economy. The IRS’s usurpation of freedom is the central source of corruption in Washington, and should be the primary focus of the upcoming campaign.

Mr. Levenberg is a freshman majoring in Political Science.

The Invisible Tax

Edward Havell

Even if Republican leaders and President Clinton settle the federal budget impasse, high taxes and excessive spending will continue to plague the nation. The GOP calls for deep budget cuts in order to lower tax rates just as President Clinton insists upon funding programs like AmeriCorps, federal financial aid, and Medicare. Thus, the current budget dispute revisits the eternal government dilemma of revenues and expenditures. Income taxes, the single greatest component of government income, force Americans to sacrifice large portions of their wages to the IRS with every paycheck. Unbeknownst to many, there exists a less conspicuous yet equally pernicious tax: inflation.

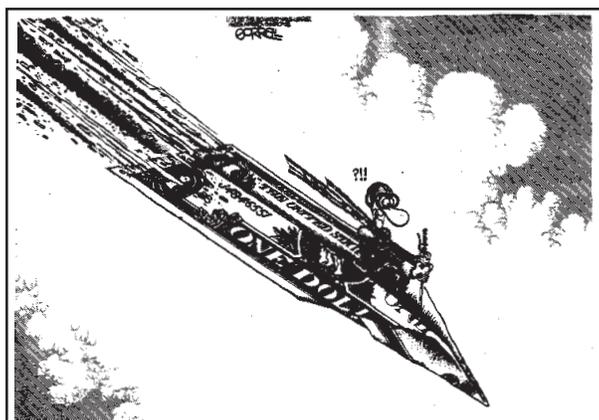
Many economists hold that an overheated economy creates inflation. They argue that rapid, excessive economic growth results in too much money chasing too few goods and services, thereby causing prices to rise. Unfortunately, these individuals either fail to recognize basic truths about economics or deliberately conspire to deceive the public.

Economic analysts use the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the quantitative dollar amount of goods and services produced in America each year, to measure growth. An increase in the supply of all goods and services produced therefore defines growth. Consequently, the argument that economic expansion results in a lower supply of products does not make sense. In fact, the more productive the economy, the greater the amount of goods and services on the market which money can purchase. Inflation may create the illusion of an expanding economy if rising prices increase the numerical value of GDP, but inflation cannot affect the real value of goods and services sold. Therefore, while inflation and growth may coexist, the relationship between them cannot be termed causal.

Several countries provide examples of sustained extensive economic growth without increased inflation; the recent history of Chile is a perfect model. Beginning in 1976, Chile relinquished statist controls,

implementing a sound money policy and privatizing most major state-owned industries. Although it encountered hard times during the transition to the market, in the past 20 years Chile has doubled its Gross Domestic Product and overcome serious problems with unemployment. In addition, the Chilean currency has appreciated—rather than depreciated—substantially against leading foreign currencies as a direct result of the expanding economy.

Inflation is nothing more than the result of the Federal Reserve printing new currency and increasing the money supply, as many capital market professionals will attest. If economic productivity remains level and the money supply increases, the relative worth of currency declines—more money in the system equals more money per good or service. Therefore, the real



value of dollar bills (the amount of goods and services they can purchase) declines.

In this way, increasing the money supply affects citizens in a manner similar to the income tax. The value of the money printed by the government comes from its purchasing power. That is, the amount of work a citizen will trade for his paycheck defines a dollar's worth. And since all currency released by the mint into the economy stakes a claim against work individual actors perform, the government has the power to lower the perceived value of labor by increasing the money supply. An individual will then have less purchasing power as retailers raise prices to maintain a balance between the value of the products they sell and the worth of the money they accept in trade. Workers can only recoup

their loss by charging more for labor and can only get ahead if wages rise faster than inflation.

As a result, workers victimized by inflation have little incentive to be productive. A person is less likely to work hard to earn more nominal dollars if time can render negligible the real value of the currency he is paid. Still, it is common knowledge that prices rise over time. Unfortunately most Americans do not realize that the government can, indeed does, diminish their purchasing power even though almost everybody is acutely aware of being taxed.

Inflation has a deleterious effect on the economy as a whole. As the dollar weakens, nominal interest rates rise. Investors would not be willing to lend a depreciating currency at low interest rates; they may wind up with more nominal dollars, but because of the declining value of money, the lenders will ultimately take a loss. To compensate, they demand a higher rate of return in the form of higher interest rates.

This, in turn, adversely affects other financial markets. The real values (not necessarily nominal prices) of stocks almost invariably move in the opposite direction of interest rates. As the currency depreciates and interest rates rise, corporations find it harder to pay the cost of borrowing money. This lack of working capital makes innovation difficult and companies become less competitive in the world economy.

Bondholders are hit particularly hard by rising interest rates. If an investor purchased a \$10,000 bond paying 5% interest, he would receive 5% of \$10,000 each year, or \$500. Subsequent changes in interest rate levels would not affect this investor's nominal return; he is locked in at a 5% rate. If interest rates rise, newly issued bonds costing \$10,000 might yield 6% or \$600 per year. The original investor suffers because his bond is worth less—no one would lay out as much money to make \$500

*Please see "Invisible,"
continued on the previous page.*

The Money Pit

Colin Delaney

When consumers agree to purchase a service, they expect consistently satisfactory performance over the life of the product. Universities, however, are an exception. The unique nature of higher education—a service performed gradually over four years—enables admissions officers to make promises to prospective freshmen on which administrators never deliver. In fact, staff assistance leaves so much to be desired that it degrades the quality of life and makes the Hill a generally unpleasant place to live.

Employees such as the seemingly purposeless Ballou Hall receptionist can be unfriendly and downright nasty, only reluctantly looking up from a newspaper to answer questions. After-hours student employees in the Office of Student Activities frequently hold court before a gaggle of friends while refusing to leave the comforts of a couch to help students in need. Similarly, Deans and their secretaries will stand around all morning over bagels and lox, but if an outsider walks into the office, everybody disappears behind closed doors.

Naturally, Tufts' customer relations problems run deeper than these superficialities. Academic departments regularly work at their own pace, consistently failing to answer calls for service. The Registrar, too, has a nonchalant attitude toward her duties, as illustrated by the inexplicably long delays we all experienced over winter break. Long-time employees and managers all over campus furnish slow mail delivery and serve up a nasty disposition at Dining Halls. The sluggish nature of student services at Tufts indicates a supreme arrogance of tenure with which the consumers of a \$120,000 education should not have to deal.

The sluggish nature of student services at Tufts indicates a supreme arrogance of tenure with which the consumers of a \$120,000 education should not have to deal.

Incompetence Rampant in Academic Departments

Everybody values convenience. As students, we assemble class schedules compatible with social and sleep routines. It should come as no surprise, then, that the University's employees enjoy similarly favorable work patterns. Unfortunately, their routines are largely discordant with student needs.

Anyone who has ever walked past Ballou Hall before a 3:50 class knows that droves of secretaries and student employees hover over their desks, waiting for the proverbial whistle to blow. The process begins long before we wake, though, as the vast majority of department office assistants, deans, and receptionists adhere to grade-school schedules, arriving before nine o'clock and departing at roughly four. That most students avoid early classes

and need services until at least five on a given day apparently escapes personnel managers.

Such inconveniences provide only a glimpse into the laziness that animates many academic department offices. The Political Science Department, home to a score of professors, teaching assistants, and hundreds of majors, regularly disregards student needs for the sake of administrative convenience. In an incredible statement of bureaucratic arrogance, the Department posted a sign on its door informing undergraduates that they had to sign-up in order to receive last semester's finals. In fact, Political Science exams may only be obtained between two and five in the afternoon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of this week. It seems "overwhelming" demand for papers interfered with more pressing departmental matters. And this administrative laziness

comes only two months after the Department inexplicably delayed publishing Spring course listings by more than a week. Here, edification of students—supposedly academia's primary goal—takes a back seat to office order and employee comfort.

Slow Days and Snow Days

The disjunction between students' needs and employee indolence is even more clear during semester breaks. Office workers' early in/early out mentality makes deans and other officials difficult to locate during "regular" business hours. Additionally, this bizarre schedule squeezes Jumbos west of the Mississippi between extended lunches and early departures: they have just a two-hour window to contact Tufts on any given day.

Not surprisingly, administrative convenience goes beyond these illogical daily schedules and contorts the academic calendar. A year ago, Registrar Linda Gabrielle worked herself into an unseemly fit, unabashedly blaming faculty for the slow processing of grades and lamenting the tight deadlines winter break imposes upon her staff. These complaints, however, do not stand up to scrutiny. After all, the reason we sat at home alone for the last week of break while friends at most other schools returned to classes is not that Tufts

awards students with a generous vacation. Rather, Gabrielle needs seven full working days to process grade reports and academic standing committees need still more time to review students on probation. That it takes the University an equal amount of time to produce grade reports for the summer term—when just a tiny fraction of the usual number of students take classes—demonstrates inexcusable ineptitude.

Even with this lethargic timetable, we should receive grades and classroom listings long before the final days of winter break. Nonetheless, a majority of students found themselves back in



Medford without this information. When concerned undergraduates inquired about the delay, employees told one student that grades would be mailed on January tenth and a recorded message later indicated that they had been sent on the eleventh. More than a week later, however, parents from across the nation reported that they never received a single mailing from Tufts. Instead of taking responsibility for their own inadequate performance, employees lied and quickly disposed of callers. Although this cannot be called a major malfeasance of office, it was certainly a notable inconvenience for those paying the bills.



Registrar Linda Gabrielle

The explanation for the delay should not surprise. The blizzard which hit the Northeast precipitated a marked relaxation of the work schedule and even prompted Tufts to declare a “snow day.” Given the length and the severity of the storm, such a decision may have been warranted, but it still took extraordinarily long for the Registrar and Bursar to finish their appointed tasks. More to the point, the University jumped to call a snow day for staffers just three weeks after refusing to do so during the similarly severe December 20-21 storm. And with the administration unwilling to officially close Tufts, academic departments left many students in the dark with regard to final examinations scheduled for the following day. A number of sources reported instructions to expect an exam and study for one, but to call the department in the morning and see if it had been canceled. Apparently, Tufts makes decisions only when convenient for employees.

Considering the amount of money students pay to attend, these delays and non-committal responses are simply unacceptable. Administrators should treat students with the same consideration they so readily grant employees. Moreover, the University could prevent labor-related delays by automating the grade-reporting process, all the while saving money by reducing staff size. By having professors electronically transmit grades to the Registrar, she

can eliminate duplicitous mistake-prevention steps and dispose of antiquated ScanTron technology. And while these changes would eliminate some jobs, administrators should not allow complacency to impinge efficiency and service improvements.

Worse Than the Post Office

Duplicity and delay may be the hallmarks of Tufts’ Registrar, but Linda Gabrielle does not hold the patent on Hill-bound inefficiency. For a reason unfathomable to rational people, the University has complete control over on-campus

mail delivery. With their monopoly, they levy a fee on outgoing mail, dispose or steal student-addressed magazines during breaks, and fail to monitor adequately the student employees who deliver letters to mailboxes. Rather than provide a service to the community, the University Mail Room simply complicates life for students who, when they have a complaint, cannot turn to anyone. The uncaring attitude of those involved in mail delivery demonstrates a complete reluctance to render satisfactory service.

Since all letters and parcels bound for students actually bear Tufts’ address and ZIP code, the Mail Room takes over responsibility from the government, promising to deliver parcels. Thus, the University adds an extra step to the process— an addition which increases door-to-door timetables by at least a full day. Moreover, the student employees who actually put letters in mailboxes regularly do so late at night and never work on Saturdays. In fact, those responsible for a number of dorms did not deliver any mail during the first week of classes this semester.



Thus, the Mail Room— designed to facilitate mail delivery on campus— actually impedes it. It even levies a hefty fee (20%) to meter out-going parcels and charges ten dollars to forward magazines to students’ home addresses. And since all packages must travel through the slow duplicitous hands of West Hall, “next day air” is meaningless on the Hill. But if a student wants to express his displeasure, he has nowhere to turn. Just as Mail Room supervisors do not ensure that the students they contract to deliver mail perform satisfactorily, no one keeps an eye on the entire operation.

If Tufts organized its mail-delivery system as other schools do, most of these problems could be solved. By having the Postal Service complete the job a stamp promises, students would benefit from expanded and timely service. It is a sad commentary that a government monopoly can deliver better service than the University, but the dismal quality of services here means that any such change would be an improvement.

Someone Else’s Problem

The little things in life make all the difference between happiness and displeasure. And at Tufts, where staffers have little incentive to respond to complaints or answer criticisms, a host of annoying problems and frustrating situations confronts students every day. The University’s record cannot be more clear. If bureaucrats and entrenched employees— including student workers— find it convenient to do their jobs, or answer questions, or keep the campus informed about scheduling, they will do so. But when parents are far away or the clock is coming up on 3:45, all the rules change. Customer satisfaction seems to be last on the list of priorities for administrators even though many families struggle to afford the exorbitant cost of a Tufts degree. When alumni fund-raisers and admissions officers finish informing graduates and prospective freshmen that Tufts is a student-centered university, they should tell Ballou-dwellers to make current students feel that way.

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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University

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At THE PRIMARY SOURCE we strive to engage our readers while investigating Tufts, the nation, and the world from a conservative viewpoint. To that end, our writers and editors endeavor to offer insightful commentary, revealing cartoons, and provocative humor. We enjoy few things more than a spirited intellectual discussion with ideological friends and foes alike. We welcome divergent viewpoints, as they yield animated discourse which enriches the human experience. We have set a lofty goal, perhaps, but one we consider worth our efforts.

Our pursuit of this noble end, however, meets with a great deal of opposition. Mostly, SOURCERS find themselves the targets of liberal vitriol. Last year a capacity crowd in Cabot Auditorium saw fit to cheer when several editors left during Joycelyn Elders' lecture, and had themselves targets of amorphous "ism" charges: racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and elitism. While campus pundits whine about student apathy, they label us reactionaries who seek only to spread bile across Tufts' campus simply because we dare to express unconventional ideas in a dynamic manner. Unfortunately this loathing of our publication has spread to the private lives of SOURCE members. During a party, one editor ran into an acquaintance who asked, "Do you still work for that magazine?" When our colleague responded in the affirmative, the woman said, "Well, stop."

But stopping could not be further from our minds. We see no need to refute baseless and uninformed charges. We would rather rely on the intelligence of informed readers to see the intellectual bankruptcy of the vast majority of our detractors. Having set high standards for our own writing and analysis, we expect treatment of equal dignity. The left, however, rarely rises to our level. Moreover, while THE SOURCE respects those who would stand up and argue eloquently for the liberal cause, few on the left today seem willing to show us the same decency. Strident opponents can more easily defame the conservative viewpoint with broad based epithets and unfounded accusations than with thoughtful criticism or reasoned responses.

In a polarized environment, especially one where the field slopes so steeply to one side, individuals who dare to hold conservative opinions have a duty to speak out. As God blessed us with a freedom of the mind and our forefathers prohibited the state from taking away that autonomy, we all have a responsibility express ourselves. Failing to do so because one's opinions are not in vogue tacitly permits the tyranny of a noisy few to continue without challenge.

No one need fear liberalism's malicious smear tactics. Try as the left might, it cannot defeat steadfast conservatives. The just ideals of self-government, family values, individualism, and rigid morality will ultimately triumph over deceitful statism. Conservatism precludes acquiescence. After all, those who know the truth need not fear speaking it.

—Members of the Staff

Have fun with THE PRIMARY SOURCE



We're having a dart throwing contest. We supply the darts—you supply the picture of the liberal. The contestant who puts the most holes in Hillary wins a luxurious SOURCE T-Shirt.



WEEKLY MEETING:
Wednesday Nights, 8 PM
Zamparelli Room
(112 Campus Center)
or call 627-3240



NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Socrates was a faggot... We are tired of blond-haired, pale-skinned, blue-eyed, buttermilk-complexioned cracker Christ or peckerwood Jesus.

—Khalid Abdul Muhammad

Hitler was a great man and a leader of his people. I am a leader of my people.

—Louis Farrakhan

I don't think there's anything wrong with saying I hate [white people]. They have caused me harm over and over, and I wish they were dead.

—Sharod Baker, Columbia University student and Nation of Islam member

The US Constitution may be flawed, but it's a whole lot better than what we have now.

—Unknown

The usual road to slavery is that first they take away your guns, then they take away your property, then, last of all, they tell you to shut up and say you are enjoying it.

—James A. Donald

No man has ever ruled other men for their own good.

—George D. Herron

Every man has a property in his own person. This nobody has any right to but himself. The labor of his body and the work of his hands are properly his.

—John Locke

Supporting the Equal Rights Amendment is like trying to kill a fly with a sledge hammer. You don't kill the fly, but you end up breaking the furniture.... We cannot reduce women to equality. Equality is a step down for most women.

—Phyllis Schlafly

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

—William Pitt

Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns; why should we let them have ideas?

—Joseph Stalin

Poverty doesn't cause crime. Crime causes poverty— or more precisely, crime makes it harder to break out of poverty. The vast majority of poor people are honest, law-abiding citizens whose opportunities for advancement are stunted by the drug dealers, muggers, thieves, rapists, and murderers who terrorize their neighborhoods.

—James K. Stewart

Tyrrellism... the technique of blackening an opponent's reputation by quoting him. Viewed as vulgar.

—R. Emmett Tyrrell

The First Amendment is about how we govern ourselves—not about how we titillate ourselves sexually.

—Robert Bork

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

—Barry Goldwater

Be wary of strong spirits. It can make you shoot at tax collectors... and miss.

—Robert A. Heinlein

If you put the federal government in charge of the Sahara Desert, in five years there'd be a shortage of sand.

—Milton Friedman

Politics would be a helluva good business if it weren't for the Goddamned people.

—Richard Nixon

What is a Communist? One who hath yearnings For equal division of unequal earnings. Idler or bungler, or both, he is willing, To fork out his copper and pocket your shilling.

—Ebenezer Elliott

Real freedom means good wages, short hours, security in employment, good homes, opportunity for leisure and recreation with family and friends.

—Oswald Mosely, in Fascism

I have no fear that the result of our experiment will be that men may be trusted to govern themselves without a master.

—Thomas Jefferson

Governments need armies to protect them against their enslaved and oppressed subjects.

—Leo Tolstoy

Socialism is Communism without the firing squad.

—Unknown

Where the sole employer is the State, opposition means death by slow starvation.

—Friedrich A. Hayek

The issue of race could benefit from a period of benign neglect.

—Daniel Patrick Moynihan

At the core of liberalism is a spoiled child—miserable, as all spoiled children are, unsatisfied, demanding, ill-disciplined, despotic, and useless. Liberalism is a philosophy of sniveling brats.

—P.J. O'Rourke

Nowhere on the planet, nowhere in history, was there a regime more vicious, more bloodthirsty, and at the same time more cunning than the Bolshevik, the self-styled Soviet regime.

—Alexander Solzhenitsyn

They have the usual socialist disease— they have run out of other people's money.

—Margaret Thatcher

Socialize the individual's surplus and you socialize his spirit and creativity; you cannot paint the Mona Lisa by assigning one dab of paint to a thousand painters.

—William F. Buckley, Jr.

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

—Ronald Reagan

There is no art which one government sooner learns from another than that of draining money from the pockets of the people.

—Adam Smith

Society in every state is a blessing, but government, even in its best state, is but a necessary evil.

—Thomas Paine