

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

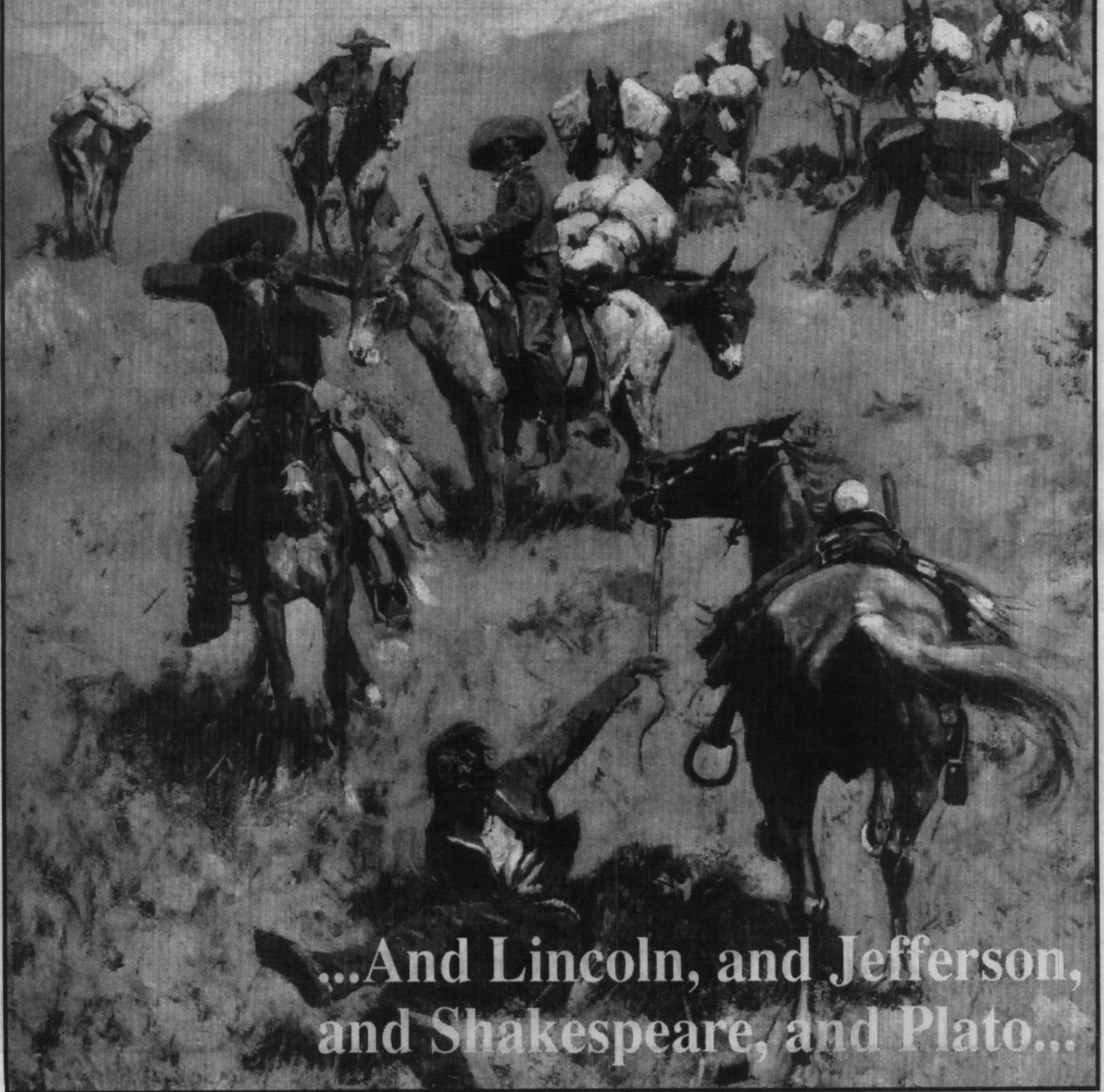
*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*

Volume XIII, Number 4

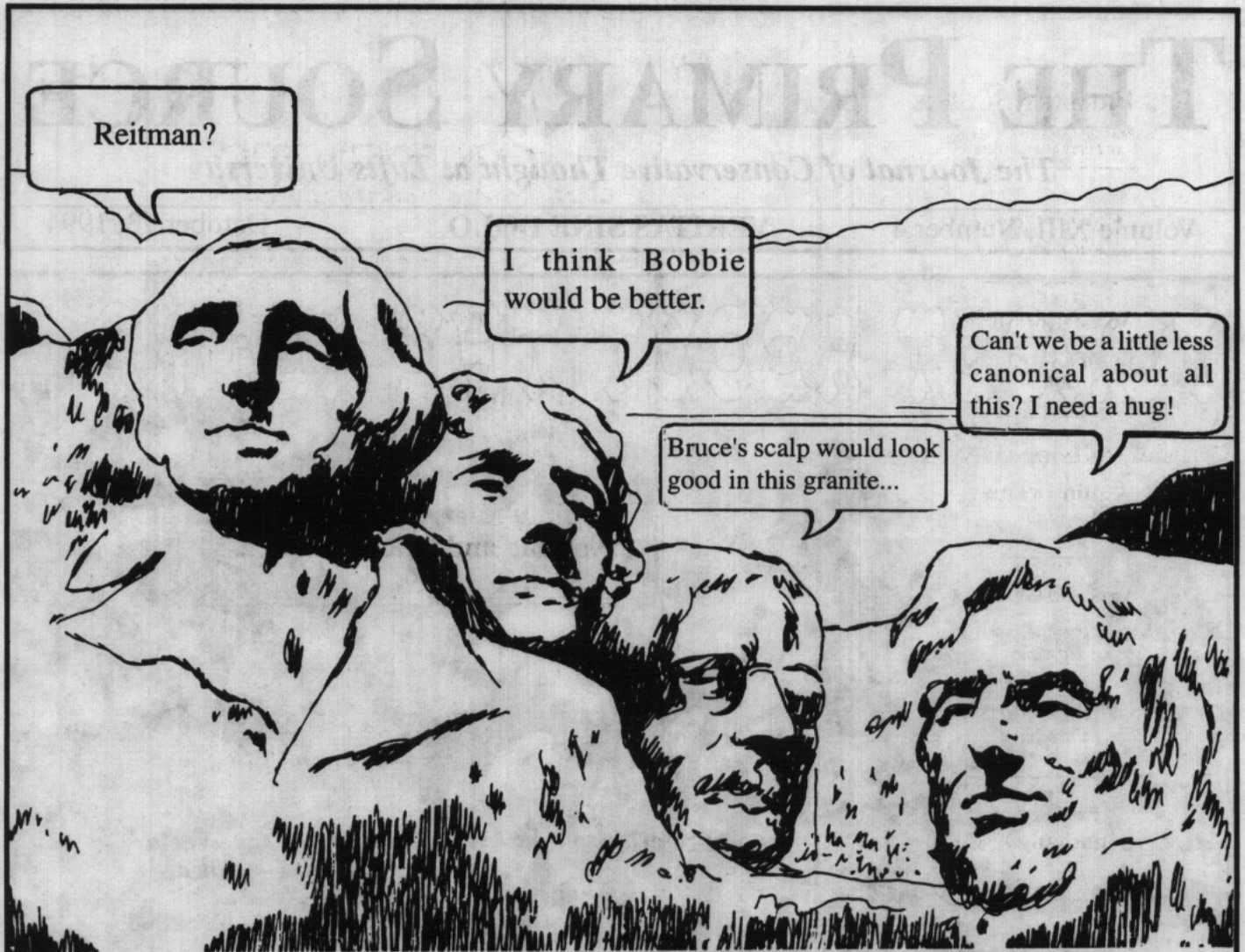
VERITAS SINE DOLO

October 13, 1994

## FORGET ABOUT THE ALAMO...



...And Lincoln, and Jefferson,  
and Shakespeare, and Plato...



Reitman?

I think Bobbie  
would be better.

Bruce's scalp would look  
good in this granite...

Can't we be a little less  
canonical about all  
this? I need a hug!

# Don't Let Civilization Crumble!

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# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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One can regard the rampant political correctness at Tufts as either a silly trend or as a serious threat to academic freedom. It is indeed difficult to refrain from chuckling at courses that emphasize "the corn-mother" and strive to find "a sense of place." In recent weeks, however, a number of students and faculty have vehemently protested the upcoming visit of former President George Bush. Their objection to his lecture on the aftermath of the Gulf War reveals a disregard for basic free speech rights and is consistent with the double-standard that the prevailing politically correct powers at Tufts employ towards guest speakers.

George Bush's visit certainly will not mark the first time a "controversial" speaker has visited Tufts. In 1991 Dinesh D'Souza, author of *Illiberal Education*, arrived on campus to present an analysis that was critical of affirmative action policies and their consequences. He was met with an environment so hostile that armed police were needed to ensure public safety. In fact, two students came to the lecture bound to each other in heavy metal chains, in an attempt to symbolically label D'Souza a racist. In a similar vein, the Dean of Students Office, in 1993, canceled a forum on the future of gays in the military. More than likely, the cancellation was politically motivated as one of the speakers (Mr. Terry Jeffries, a policy analyst for Patrick Buchanan) would have argued against the morality of homosexuality.

During the 1992 presidential election, when Estelle DeBates, the vice presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party spoke on campus, there were no public challenges made against her right to speak freely. Likewise, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala, was the keynote speaker at President DiBiaggio's inauguration without any major protest. Although both speakers have reputations as radical leftists, their fundamental right to express their thoughts and ideas was not challenged. One cannot help but wonder why a full-fledged socialist can speak at Tufts without any problem, but a former President of the United States cannot.

Those who oppose Bush's presence on campus are doing the rest of the Tufts community a great disservice. The function of an academic institution of Tufts' caliber is to provide its students with superior opportunities to learn. George Bush has an excellent knowledge of foreign relations, and his presence will no doubt enlighten those who are fortunate enough to attend his speech. It is a sad commentary on the state of Tufts when some of its students and faculty give politics precedence over scholarship.

Of further concern is that politically motivated students and professors are attempting to impede basic free speech rights. While freedom of speech is a debatable subject, even among conservatives, it is entirely unreasonable to demand that someone be precluded from addressing a legitimate issue because of a difference in viewpoint. Petty politics should never be employed to thwart basic freedoms.

Any legitimate university should be dedicated to encouraging a stimulating academic setting that permits reasonable thought and discourse. Tufts is doing its students a great service by obtaining George Bush as a speaker. Unfortunately, far too many Tuftonians refuse to give credit where it is due.

THE PRIMARY SOURCE welcomes all letters. We reserve the right to edit or to deny publication to any letter based on its length and content. Authors are required to include their name and phone numbers. Any letter to an individual author concerning work published in THE PRIMARY SOURCE may be published on the letters page.

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# FOOL ON THE HILL

Usually, selection of the highly-coveted Fool on the Hill prize is easy. This issue, however, our judges were presented with a difficult decision. For currently, there are two fools gallivanting about Tufts, dominating campus dialogue with general silliness and PC drivel.

Ultimately, however, we resolved this conflict through Kenobian analysis: "Who's the more foolish, the fool or the fool who follows him?" Obi Wan's question requires no answer; those who take fools seriously are the biggest dolts of the lot.

Thus this issue's Fool on the Hill prize goes to Marc Sheinkin, editor-in-chief of the illustrious *Tufts Daily*. In the past few weeks Marc has made every effort to appease the inane laments of a certain Charlene Desir, campus malcontent.

Several weeks ago at a forum for TCU senatorial candidates, Miss Desir asked one would-be sycophant what he would do for "us colored folk." A *Daily* freshman reporter, trying to outdo Miss Desir in her liberalism, paraphrased her (without naming her directly) as having "questioned the candidates's commitment to African-American issues." Foolish *Daily* neophyte— never correct the Correct.

Miss Desir, outraged by this horrendous distortion, called the *Daily* office with multiple complaints and submitted a letter accusing Tufts' *Izvestia* of printing "a pack of lies."

With the PC forces nipping at his heels, Sheinkin near wet

his pants, and printed a correction. He invited Desir to a closed-door meeting of the *Daily* politburo. Apparently the meeting quickly dissolved into a shouting match with no resolution.

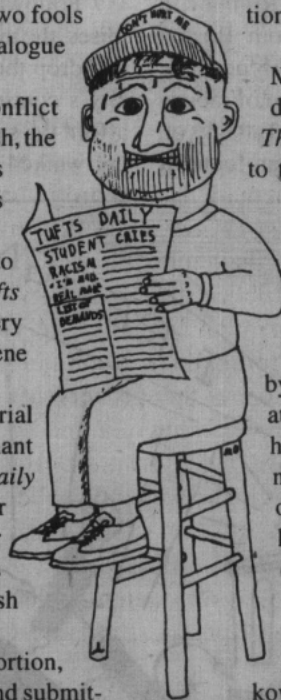
At a recent Media Advisory Board meeting, Miss Desir, with the assistance of a militant sidekick, demanded both a public and private apology from *The Daily*, and insisted that it print her damning letter to the editor. Charlene's foolishness is obvious, but Sheinkin's behavior also enters the realm of the absurd.

Confusing "colored folk" and "African-American" is hardly an egregious, let alone racist, error (Henry Louis Gates is guilty of the same sin).

Sheinkin more than made up for any wrongdoing by printing his correction; he gave Charlene undue attention and import by granting her an audience with his paper's meeting of the minds. Moreover, he has no real reason to deny Charlene's letter publication other than that it derides *The Daily*. Does he believe his paper's image to be too fragile to withstand the criticisms of one radical?

It is a poor reflection on Marc's journalistic credibility that he will not stand up against preposterous charges from rabble-rousing wannabes. His kowtowing to special interests and lack of backbone

have earned him this issue's title. Sorry Charlene, there's no prize for second place.



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# Commentary

## Teddy Lashes Out

United States Senator Edward M. Kennedy took the Bay State's hottest political race in decades to a new low with directed attacks on Mitt Romney's religion. Articles linking Romney to the beliefs of his Mormon church appeared in both Boston newspapers while Kennedy operatives (most notably his nephew, Rep. Joe Kennedy) accused the Republican candidate of racism and sexism. Clearly reeling from Romney's successful attacks on Kennedy's liberal record, the 32-year incumbent has found it necessary to make his opponent's religion the focus of mud-slinging.

The senator has apparently forgotten a lesson his brother taught America 34 years ago. John Kennedy's belief in Catholicism was a controversial issue in his 1960 campaign for the presidency; the candidate had to make repeated statements (including one before the Mormon tabernacle in Salt Lake City) concerning his belief in the separation of church and state. It is interesting to note that in a time long before Mitt Romney turned this senate race into a real contest, Senator Kennedy said that religion would not be an issue in the 1994 campaign, as the "American people settled that question in 1960."

Now that Senator Kennedy is on the verge of political disaster, the candidate is grasping at straws to find an issue that will remove the focus from his ultra-liberal voting record. If the senator truly believes that religion is not an issue, then he never should have brought it up at all. Kennedy even remarked that the 1960 campaign "was a proud moment for this country and this [religion] issue should never be raised again." Caught in his hypocrisy by editorials in *The Boston Herald* and *The Boston Globe*, Kennedy is backing away from his demands for Romney to offer an opinion on past Mormon church policies. Senator Kennedy would have been wise to have followed his own advice.

## Mayor Giuliani Takes Labor to the Cleaners

Increased state involvement in the provision of essential services often results in the employment of people who organize labor unions and hold the public hostage to their demands. Every year, at least one of America's major school districts postpones the first day of classes, turning children out onto the street because

financially strapped cities refuse to grant exorbitant pay raises. Thus, when lawyers from the Legal Aid Society (LAS) of New York City went on strike two weeks ago, Mayor Rudy Giuliani feared that the city's legal system would break down and took drastic measures.

Following a week of negotiations that yielded no compromises, the mayor told the striking attorneys to "face fiscal reality" and drop their demands for a 4.5% pay increase. In light of the city's continuing financial crisis, New York simply could not afford the salary hike. Less than ten days after the public defenders walked out of court, Giuliani fired the entire group and canceled all other contracts the city had with LAS. In a move consistent with his promises to privatize many of the services provided by the city, Giuliani announced that any new contract would allow the city to hire legal aid from sources other than the LAS. Knowing that they could either stick to their demands and remain unemployed, or give in to the mayor's demands, the "civil servants" called off the strike.

The mayor's success, reminiscent of President Reagan's breaking of the air traffic controllers' union, is a victory for all New Yorkers in that it saves money by not bowing to the unreasonable demands of a monopolistic labor force and improves the quality of attorneys in public service by allowing for competition. The mayor's victory also sends a signal to members of the city's labor unions who will surely approach the Giuliani administration with trepidation when seeking yet another pay raise. In a city where unionized school custodians are given free automobiles and are frequently paid more than teachers, any victory over organized labor is a victory for the overburdened taxpayer.

## The All-American Free Trade Zone

On a recent visit to Boston, Argentine President Carlos Menem announced his intention to develop a free trade agreement between his country and the United States. In a shallow act of good faith, the Clinton administration accepted the idea on principle, but has been slow in commencing the negotiations to draft the agreement.

Argentina (like the rest of South America) has a booming economy full of consumers hungry for American products and a wealth of willing laborers who can produce goods at low cost to



American employers. The Argentines will benefit from the influx of capital and from increased access to the world's financial centers in the United States that a free trade agreement would make possible. Menem's government is more than willing to negotiate an agreement and even went as far as asking to be made part of the NAFTA, but Congress refused to open the talks to a fourth nation.

Still in want of an agreement to better his economy, Menem warned that any prolonged delays in the negotiations would cause his government to concentrate its efforts on establishing closer ties to the European community. In Menem's words, Argentina is a source of "enormous wealth that has not been taken advantage of yet." If President Clinton and Congress fail to act to incorporate another nation into the All-Americas Free Trade Zone, the United States will have missed an opportunity to help its neighbor while strengthening its own economy.

### God Rest Ye Merry, Democrats

When Bill Clinton captured the White House, every interest group in the Democratic party saw its opportunity to jump on the legislative bandwagon. With the help of solid majorities in both houses of Congress, the Democrats' first president in more than a decade had his opportunity to pass their legislative agenda. But the "party of the people," lead by Senator George Mitchell of Maine was unable to pass a major reform policy and succeeded only in taxing the economy into low-gear.

Senator Mitchell heralded Bill Clinton's victory as the end of gridlock in Congress and promised to help the new president pass his legislative agenda. The liberal tide was, however, ebbing even before Clinton took the oath of office as there were a host of legislative failures. The Majority Leader was unable to prevent Sam Nunn (D-GA) from halting Clinton's first initiative (Gays-in-the-Military), saw the president's economic stimulus package go down in flames, and lost Lloyd Bentsen's seat to Kay Bailey Hutchinson, all in just four months.

More recently, Mitchell turned down a Supreme Court appointment so that he could concentrate on prodding health care reform through the Senate before his retirement at the end of this term. Mitchell organized and presided over closed door meetings of party liberals and policy wonks to build a health care package that could survive Republican attacks, but failed miserably in his

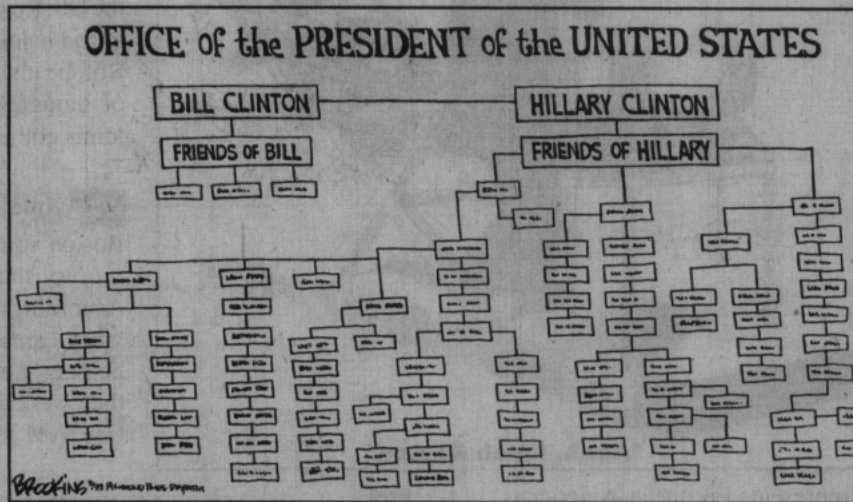
attempts to bring a passable bill to the floor. With health care and welfare reform dead for the year, his Senate seat all but in the hands of Republican Representative Olympia Snowe, and his party and president in severe trouble with voters, Senator Mitchell is leaving politics to become the commissioner of Major League Baseball. For the Senator, his string of legislative defeats in the 103rd Congress are surely a disappointing end to his long career in the Senate. The American people should not be so disheartened.

### Chicken-Fried Clinton

Last week, the White House found itself in the midst of two more ethical scandals that raised questions about the Clinton Administration's abuse of its power. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy stepped down as further evidence of influence-peddling came to light; HUD Secretary Henry Cisneros came under fire for buying the silence of a former lover, and the Clintons themselves were attacked by the press for their irresponsible selection of top aides.

It was revealed that Espy had accepted a Tyson Foundation scholarship on behalf of a female acquaintance. This, added to evidence that he had accepted travel and sports tickets from Don Tyson, chairman of a corporation which he regulated, forced Espy to bow to the wave of public and Congressional criticism. Similarly, Henry Cisneros has reportedly offered to step down in the wake of a Jennifer Flowers-esque sex scandal in which the secretary paid off a former lover so that she would remain silent.

As mid-term elections near and the American public is preparing to cast its referendum vote on the Clinton presidency, further reports of corruption and mismanagement are exactly what the president does not need.



Clinton's track record of surrounding himself with the likes of Mike Espy, Roger Altman, and Les Aspin, indicates that he is not the crusader "to clean up Washington" that candidate Clinton claimed to be. The president appears to be just another run-of-the-mill politician more concerned with paying political debts, keeping his head above water in the polls and using his authority for his own ends. It is an administration without morals and standards of decency that governs its populace in a manner obviously devoid of integrity.

# Fortnight in Review

*Comedy is allied to Justice.*  
--Aristophanes

**PS** In New York City it is illegal to transport camera tripods or open containers on the subway. Rifles or shotguns are legal, provided that they are licensed and unloaded. Authorities are now considering implementing a seven day waiting period for purchasing coffee.

**PS** Martin Ciccone, brother of entertainer Madonna, has been in a Michigan jail on drunk-driving charges for eleven weeks, unable to post \$2,500 bail. Martin should learn from his sister's example and raise a few dollars by selling pictures of himself masturbating in public places.

**PS** According to a London tabloid, the First Lady is pregnant and expects to deliver in April. And all this time, we thought she had had a vasectomy.

**PS** That's funny, Vince Foster has been dead for more than a year now...

**PS** Boston City Hall worker and former comedian Kevin Chapman is currently in hot water due to a comment he made to the Codham Square Neighborhood Council. When the Mayor's aide was introduced to the Council he stood up and said "I represent all white people." He should have used the PC terminology— he represents European-Americans.

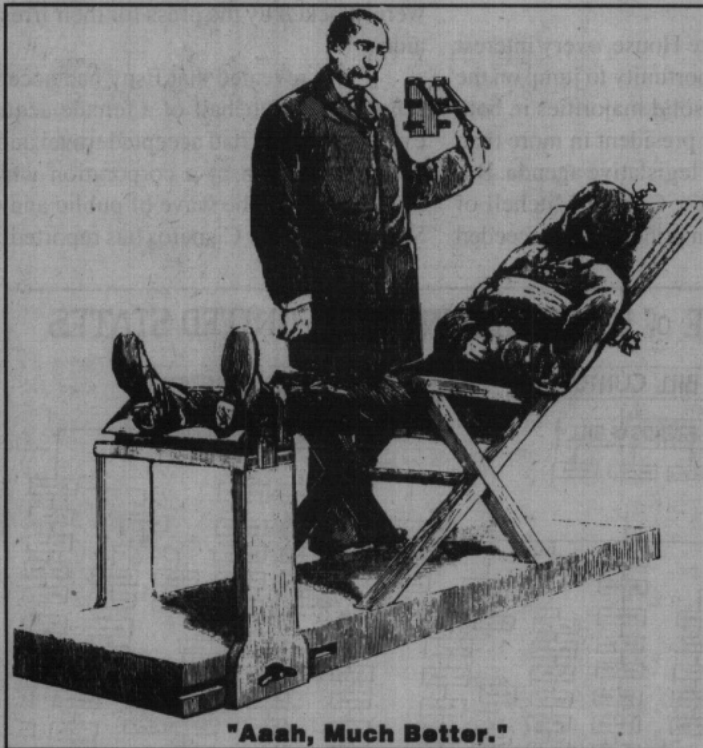
**PS** Maureen McCormick, best known as Marcia Brady from TV's *The Brady Bunch*, recently spoke at Northeastern University on the topics of safe sex and contraception. Apparently she looks back at her childhood with five siblings unfavorably.

**PS** That Girl, Marlo Thomas, wife of bleeding heart TV talk show host Phil Donahue, recently held a New York fundraiser for the Women's Campaign fund, which honored femi-liar Anita Hill. The party included hair-free coke and Long Don Silver jumping out of a cake.

**PS** Top Ten Campaign Slogans for Ted Kennedy

10. Vote Teddy, Because 32 Years in Not Enough
9. Help Pay Teddy's Alimony Checks, Vote Kennedy
8. He Supports Midnight Basketball, and 3 AM Swimming Lessons
7. Keep Rose Alive — Vote for Teddy
6. Kennedy — He'll Make Waves in Washington
5. He's no Jack, he's no Bobby, He's Alive
4. Teddy's Big on Women's Movements
3. Are You as Dumb as Victoria Reggie? Then Vote for Ted
2. If Teddy Died, *He* Wouldn't Leave LBJ to Run Things
1. Are you better off today than you were 32 years ago?

**PS** A federal Judge has barred California from carrying out the death penalty through the use of the gas chamber, ruling that it is cruel and unusual punishment. The state still has the ability to continue executions through the use of lethal injections. Don't think there will be a lot of needle sharing there.



**PS** President Clinton committed a *faux pas* in front of the United Nations General Assembly, when he said that the US, Russia, and Germany had "engaged in joint terrorist training." Poor Bill, he always seems to lose his train of thought whenever the subject of joints comes up.

**PS** While The Grateful Dead were in Boston some of the Deadheads went grocery shoplifting at a local market. According to an employee of the store, "they came in around 11 and started helping themselves to the fruit. Like they were at a buffet." Free love and free food could be easily mistaken.

**PS** At the Dead Show, Michael Kennedy, nephew and campaign manager for the deadest head around, Senator Teddy, ran into GOP challenger Mitt Romney's two sons, Matt and Josh. No word on whether the toking Michael drowned anyone in his bongwater.

**PS** Melissa Rogers of Martinsburg, West Virginia, went on TV last year trying to raise 80,000 for her infant son's heart transplant. After collecting the money, however, the mother neglected her child and used the cash to purchase vehicles, furniture, and stereo equipment. Seems the mother was the only one who had a change of heart.



**PS** Sylvanus "Hambone" Smith, who used to weigh 1000 pounds, has slimmed down to a mere 700, and will be married later this year. Hambone is now trying to raise \$3000 to pay for a specially built bed for two— more like three or four.

**PS** One Italian postal worker is in a bit of trouble. She failed to deliver any of the mail on her route, for ten years. Upon entering her Sienna home, police found 1,320 pounds of mail. Now we know why no one has claimed their Publisher's Clearing House awards.

**PS** An attempted kidnapping of a University of New Mexico student ended in tragedy, for the kidnapper. After forcing the eighteen year old coed to drive over 400 miles to the Grand Canyon, the kidnapper got out, and while trying to rip the girl's watch off her arm, slipped and fell into the canyon. Shame, he was such a nice boy.

**PS** Top Ten Reasons why President Bush will love Tufts:

10. Dewick fare will remind him of that famous dinner in Tokyo
9. Subsequent trip to Health Services will reaffirm his opposition to national health care
8. Millie could teach Professor Eichenberg a few things about foreign policy
7. Jumbo II looks just like the GOP mascot
6. He could station Patriot Missiles outside of Hillel to prevent future rocket attacks
5. TCU gridlock would remind him of his Capitol Hill days
4. Tufts' faculty can't wait to meet him
3. All three members of Tufts Republicans are turning out to greet him upon arrival
2. DiBiaggio makes him look decisive
1. He'll appreciate the insightful commentary and objective reporting by *The Tufts Daily*

**PS** Tyra Ann Veltri, convicted of buying goods with a stolen credit card, was handed more of a sentence than she was bargaining for. The judge, David Ryan, wanted to give Veltri a taste of her own medicine, and told the victim, Sarah Lang, to go to Veltri's house and help herself to the rogue's belongings. It's now Lang's turn to master the possibilities.

**PS** Tom Leopard, a retired British soldier, recently joined in the festivities to launch the 1995 edition of *The Guinness Book of World Records*. Mr. Leopard is mentioned in the book for being the most tattooed human, with over 99 percent of his body

covered (he has yet to tattoo the insides of his ears and the area between his toes). We at THE PRIMARY SOURCE would have expected that a man would choose a different one percent of his body to keep tattoo-free.

**PS** *The New York Post* reports that most people living in Manhattan would rather see their doctor than do their taxes. Even Dr. Kevorkian's patients agreed.

**PS** Boston City officials are currently meeting to determine whether The Safari Club, located in the South End, is actually a gay sex hangout. The occupancy permit for the premises only permits conventional physical exercise, thus making sexual activity illegal. We always considered the two one in the same.

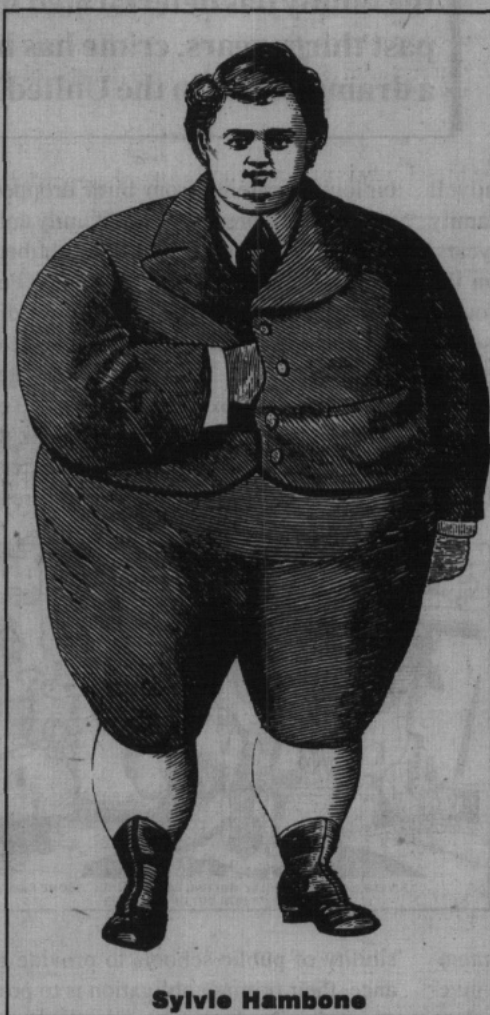
**PS** Duke University freshman Heather Sue Mercer recently failed in her attempt to become the first woman to play Division I NCAA football, after trying out for place kicker. That's what she gets for trying out for such a wussy position.

**PS** Michael Chapman of Southbridge was recently sentenced to 33 months in prison for e-mailing child pornography to a man in Detroit. No mooning people on the information super-highway.

**PS** A \$150,000 dollar settlement agreement has been reached in the case of the "Texas Cheerleader Mom." Wanda Holloway allegedly hired a hit man to kill Verna Heath, her daughter's com-

petition for the high school cheerleading team. Which just goes to show that a Texas Cheerleader comes cheaper than a California four-year old.

**PS** Apparently, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, during his exile in America, has become a fan of high fashion. The former priest is reported to have been a big spender at Giorgio Armani. According to one Armani employee, Aristide could have financed his own invasion with the money he has been spending. When the *coup* gets tough, the tough go shopping.



**Sylvie Hambone**

# Criminally Dysfunctional

Jessica Schupak

“A community that allows a large number of young men to grow up in broken families, dominated by women, never acquiring any stable relationship to male authority, never acquiring any rational expectations about the future—that community asks for and gets chaos...[In such a society] crime, violence, unrest, unrestrained lashing out at the whole social structure—these are not only to be expected, they are very nearly inevitable,” remarked Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan on the deterioration of the American family. It is an unfortunate reality that as the family has deteriorated over the past thirty years, crime has been on a dramatic rise in the United States. Although the depletion of morals in this country can not be held solely accountable for the upswing in crime, it is among the greatest contributors.

The United States has the worst crime rate of any industrialized nation. Since 1960, violent crime has increased over 300 percent. Americans live in fear as it has now become a frightful reality that eight out of ten people can expect to be a victim of a violent crime at least once in their lifetime. There are very few places where people can safely leave their doors unlocked as was commonplace in the 1950s. The homicide rate of the U.S. is four times greater than that of Australia, Canada and New Zealand and the rate of rape is seven times that of Europe.

Juveniles are quickly emerging as the largest and fastest growing members of today's criminal element. The juvenile arrest rate has more than tripled since 1965; most of these arrests are the result of aggravated assault, murder and rape. When teachers were asked to identify the problems in American public schools in 1940, they mentioned transgressions such as gum chewing and running in the halls. When asked the same question in 1990 however, teachers cited problems such as drug use, robbery and assault.

As crime rates have skyrocketed, the family unit and the values that have been

traditionally instilled in the home have seemingly been exterminated. As the divorce rate has doubled since 1960, the percentage of single parent households has tripled, and the percentage of children living with both

**It is an unfortunate reality that as the family has deteriorated over the past thirty years, crime has been on a dramatic rise in the United States.**

biological parents from birth dropped 22 percent. This break-up of the family unit has led to the destruction of the moral fiber that once held this country together. People were once taught in their homes the difference between right and wrong and the definition of respect. They were encouraged by their parents to exemplify civility. Today, this no longer occurs as parents look to the school system to carry out their duties. Although some may argue that it is the respon-



sibility of public schools to provide guidance, their primary obligation is to provide an academic education.

It is no coincidence that as the family unit has broken apart, crime has taken a turn for the worse. Today's youth lacks the fundamental lessons in humanity and civility that used to be taught within the home. Children of single parent households are two to three times as likely to exhibit behavioral disorders under which criminal behavior is included. Statistics of this nature do not indicate rising criminal element results solely from single parent households. Rather,

it indicates that the increased number of single parent households will improve the likelihood of youths becoming embroiled in criminal activity.

In 1965, Lyndon Johnson was quoted as saying, “The family is the cornerstone of our society. More than any other force it shapes the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child. And when the family collapses, it is the children that are usually damaged. When it happens on a massive scale the community itself is crippled.” It is indeed ironic

that one of the foremost perpetrators of the welfare state admitted the correlation between the deterioration of family values and social decline. The welfare state is key to the breakdown of the family which in turn has played a large role in crime increases. In order for a single mother to collect welfare benefits she must not work and she must not marry an employed male. In the 1950s prior to Johnson's war on poverty, one third of all poor families were headed by adults who worked full-time and in 1990 this statistic was more than halved.

The government can not act as a substitute for the family as a fortifier of the American moral fiber. It is the responsibility of the family to instill such values as discipline, self-control, compassion, honesty, civility and respect into their children. The government can not possibly instill values and morals in the heads of Americans. The only thing that the government can do to aid the repair process is stop subsidizing its demise through welfare programs.

The left does not place much of a value on the importance of a strong, two-parent family. There are absolute standards of morality and decency that must be adhered to; a stable family is the best means of communicating values to children. Until family values are taken seriously, American society will continue to decay.

*Miss Schupak is a freshman majoring in History.*

# THE TUFTONIAN VIEW OF THE WORLD

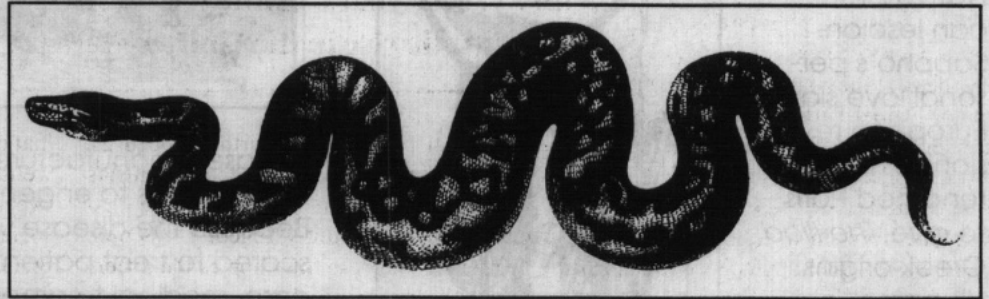
"Western Civilization As Seen from Walnut Hill"

**Lee Edelman**

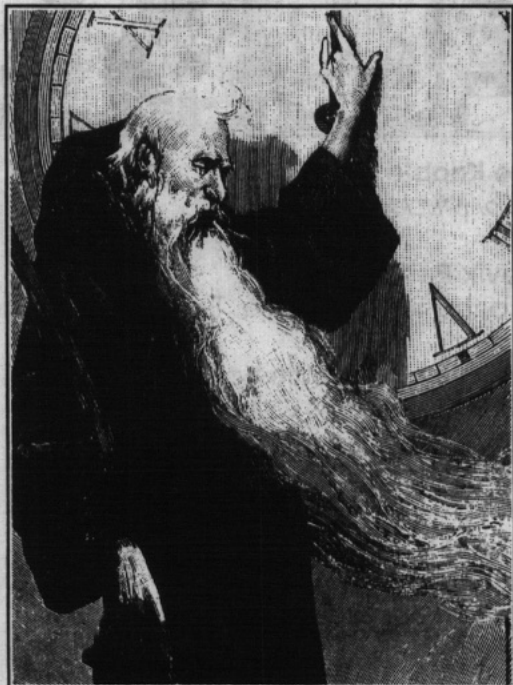
*Department of English*

## Creation

The men who pretended to create god were racist, sexist, and homophobic. In light of these predispositions, it is crucial to



evaluate the creation myth in the contexts of race, class, sexuality, and gender. Note that when god created light and darkness he separated them, thus endorsing Jim Crow laws. Moreover, he calls light "good," thus begetting institutional racism. Eve's creation from Adam's rib sets the framework for misogyny, and her succumbing to the temptations of a phallogocentric snake is the foundation of the patriarchy. Cain and Abel were humanity's first homosexuals, the latter's death signifying the authors' heterosexism. Note that Adam and Eve only wear clothing *after* gaining knowledge, indicating that those too poor to afford clothes are stupid and inferior.



**Sol Gittleman**

*Provost*

## Hebrew Exile from Egypt

The Jews fled from their Egyptian employers, depriving them of their labor. They followed a bearded coot named Moses around the hot desert for a while, because they weren't smart enough to go to a beach instead. They ate off the ground and burned bushes to demonstrate their hatred for the planet. Moses was a religious fanatic-- he tried to impose his morality on everyone else in the tribe, and destroyed his peers' sacred idols. Proof that religion and government must be kept separate.

**Steven Hirsch***Department of Classical Studies***Homeric Poetry**

Homeric poetry is ok, but we must not forget that it was influenced heavily by Eskimo Hieroglyphics. The tale of Great Odysseus is actually a Eurocentric rendition of the legendary Mobu Moffata of the Sahara. Homer,

in fact, was really an earth-worshipping Native American lesbian, Sappho's personal love slave. European revisionists have renamed Paris to give *The Iliad* Greek origins. His name, in earlier versions, was Addis Ababa.

**Bradbury Seasholes***Department of Political Science***Civil War**

The Civil War, given its name after the Honda Civil, a popular Japanese car of the era, was fought between the Nords and the Sloths. The Nords, led by Mercury Lincoln, favored the apprehension of senility, but the Sloths, lead by George Jefferson, didn't. I'm not sure what side Weesie took. At the end, Mercury Lincoln delivered the Immaculate Conception, some time after his Hamburg Dress, when the score was twenty to seven, in favor of the Forefathers. Government gave out money in the form of Ulysses grants. Robert E. Lee was a good fighter, but he had a hablt of moving his lips after he finished speaking. Some people liked Custard, but I prefer pudding myself.

**Saul Slapikoff***Department of Biology***Bubonic Plague**

Canonical textbooks attribute the Bubonic Plague to infectious bacterials. LIES, SHEER LIES. Fearing a Marxist uprising, feudalists created the virus to wipe out the underclasses. Being speciists, the



disease's manufactures made rats the primary carrier, so as to engender inter-species bigotry. Because the disease was airborne, doctors were scared to treat patients. Without national health care, medical treatment became too expensive, and only the rich could survive. Sure the bacterials had something to do with it, but we would be more accurate to attribute the Bubonic Plague to wealthy people.

**Bobbie Knable***Dean of Students***Bolshevik Revolution**

sung to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star"

Twinkle, twinkle little sickle  
Those darn Czars were awfully fickle.  
Trotsky, Bucharin, Lenin and all  
Were there to make the mighty fall.  
But then they got into a fix,  
Picking fights with Mensheviks.  
In the end the Bolshies won,  
Peace and freedom for everyone!  
Life was really really nice  
In the workers' paradise.

**Heather Wishik**

*Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Resource Center  
Coordinator*

**Columbus' Discovery of His True Identity, and America**

Imagine traveling on a trip with only people of your gender. The salty air and the boat's rhythmic rocking turn your heart to love. Your ship, masculine and bold, has a woman's name. It's the most basic form of role reversal—a gender-bender ball on the high seas. It was on



those Atlantic voyages that Christopher and his mates discovered "the new world." The planet, they found, is round—not straight. To travel across the globe, you can go "both ways." Columbus didn't liberate America, he liberated himself. The Nina, Pinta,

and Santa Maria sailed straight out of the closet and right into his/herstory. Since then, one in ten ships has floated the same way.

**John DiBiaggio**

*President*

**World War II**

The problem with World War II is that it was so confrontational, so my advisors tell me. Sure the Nazis had some bad sides, but there's a little good to be found in everyone. The Axis should definitely be commended for their commitment to multiculturalism: Italians, Aryans, and Asians, fought side-by-side like brothers. On the other hand, I'm really not prepared to pick sides at this juncture. Let's just say that both sides fought real hard and gave it their best. What else could we ask for? They're all winners in my book.

**Peggy Barret**

*Womyn's Center  
Director*

**American Revolution**

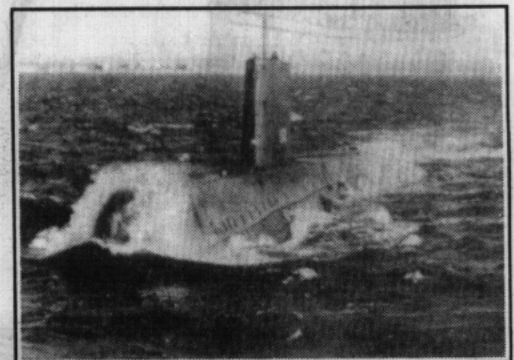
It is crucial that womyn's roles in the American Revolution not be overlooked. The founding mothers' war cry, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Breasts," inspired colonialists to shirk British rule. The Boston Tupperware Party set the trend in nonviolent protest and put an end to annoying freezer burn. The Declaration of Independence is really a call for the abolition of marriage. And abortion is an inalienable right.

**Hugo Bedau**

*Department of Philosophy*

**The Cold War**

What is red? Is pink red? Purple? Can we even say, with any confidence that red is red? Or is that just how we have been socialized? Maybe red isn't red at all. The Cold War, thus was not really a war at all. How can there be a war against the reds when there is really no red, or if we're all red, maybe even the same shade? It wasn't even cold. What is cold? Colder than what? Ice? I think not. Room temperature, maybe. But that would make it tepid. The Tepid War? Isn't temperature location dependent? Would people on Pluto consider tepid tepid? Of course not. The Cold War is a fallacy, unless, of course, it really happened, which is always possible.



THE PRIMARY SOURCE, as a service to Tufts University, presents this handy quiz on Western Civilization. When finished, check your answers on the bottom of the page. 1-4 correct, you must be an American Studies Major. 5-8, you know enough to be a Tufts Professor. 9+, wow! You know your stuff; you obviously never took World Civ!

1. Antiquity is:

- a. a shop where people buy old stuff
- b. a car with more than 100,000 miles on it
- c. the era of Jean Mayer
- d. whatever you want it to be

2. Aristotle was:

- a. Espresso's delivery boy
- b. Jackie O's second husband
- c. rich people
- d. some Greek dude

3. Define Homer:

- a. a blind guy who never shut up
- b. when you score
- c. a shot over the Green Monster
- d. Marge's husband

4. What is the Spanish Inquisition?

- a. a 976 number that lets you talk dirty with Torquemada for just \$3.99 a minute
- b. the cross examination of the Menendez boys
- c. A spectacular revue featuring sharp heretics and the fabulous girls of the guillotine
- d. Pretty hard, but if you pass it you place out of a culture requirement

5. George Washington is:

- a. a guy who stole his name from the nation's capital
- b. a safety school for Tufts' rejects
- c. The best way to get to Jersey
- d. A guy with wooden teeth

6. The War of the Roses was:

- a. the divorce case of the century
- b. what resulted from deregulation of the flower industry
- c. Danny Devito's best gig since "Taxi"
- d. something that happened in England

7. The Declaration of Independence is:

- a. ink-stained parchment
- b. the form you fill out when you declare "undecided" as your major
- c. a document that must be completed at the customs gate
- d. the theme song of most Democratic congressional candidates

8. Abraham Lincoln was:

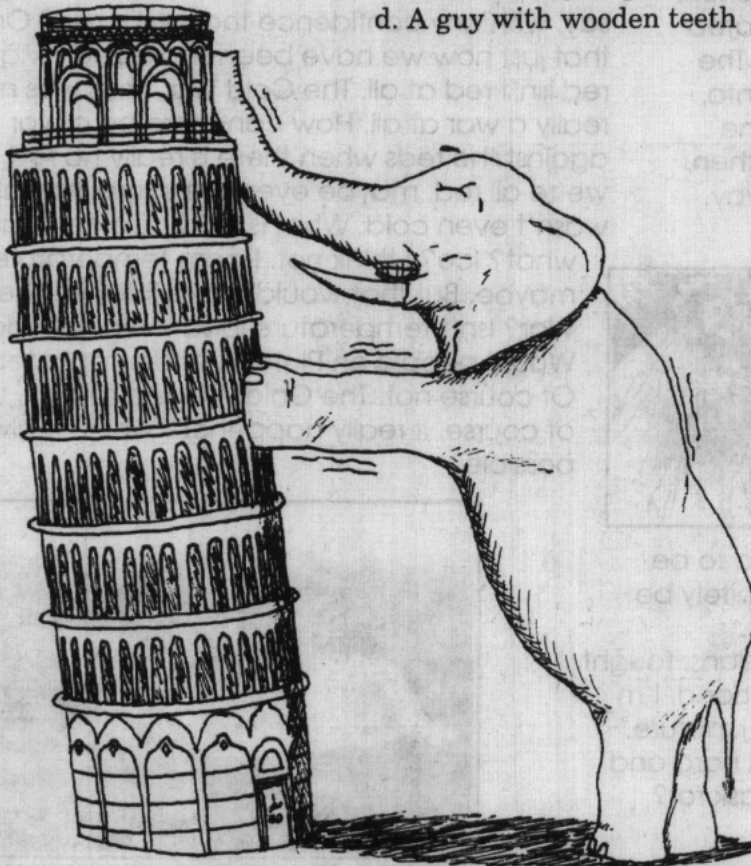
- a. the inventor of Lincoln logs
- b. a would-be child murderer
- c. a founder of Abraham & Strauss
- d. Giantman's ancestor

9. Define V.I. Lenin:

- a. the sequel to V.I. Warshawski
- b. the prequel to V.I.I. Lenin
- c. Bruce Reitman's favorite ancestor
- d. Yoko Ono's main squeeze

10. Which of the following is a William Shakespeare play?

- a. *Heather has Two Mommies*
- b. *The Bluest Eye*
- c. *Othello* (not Parcheesi)
- d. *Natural Born Killers*



Answers: 1)c 2)d 3)a 4)c 5)d  
6)d 7)a 8)a 9)c 10)c

# Public Knowledge

Steve Seltzer

“Education must increase its ‘productivity’; we must get more education for the dollar. Not just to squeeze more out of the system—although that is not unimportant—but to demonstrate that good education is worth paying for,” says David Kearns, Chairman of Xerox Corporation. Kearns is correct in asserting that education must become a more productive enterprise. Unfortunately, the quality of American public schools has declined (on the elementary and secondary levels). Increasing public spending on education has proven to be ineffective. The only worthwhile course of action is to reduce significantly the role of the state in education while allowing parents to work directly with schools to maintain a high standard of education for their children.

## State of Mind

Horace Mann, the first secretary of the Massachusetts state Board of Education was the initial leader in the campaign for a school system financed by the government and controlled by professional educators. He argued that education was important enough that the government should have the responsibility of providing it for every child. Schools should be secular; universal free schooling would enable poor children to overcome their unfortunate circumstances. “And the greater the proportion of minds in any community which are educated, and [the] more thorough and complete the education which is given them, the more rapidly, through these sublime stages of progress, will that community advance in all the means of enjoyment and elevation; and the more it will outstrip and outshine its less educated neighbors,” argued Mann in 1848.

Mann’s reasoning for a public education system only scratches the surface; there are more sophisticated economic rationalizations for government-run education. Supporters of state intervention

in economic matters point to the notion of “neighborhood effects.” This idea refers to circumstances under which the action of one individual places a significant cost on

**Instead of continuing to waste time and money by increasing government spending on education, government should reduce its control over schools...**

others for which compensation is not feasible. “Neighborhood effects” also occur when the activity of one individual provides significant benefit to others; again, private compensation is unfeasible.

The gains that a child receives from education accrue to other members of society in that an educated child will contribute to the general welfare by promoting stability and straightening the democratic process. It is impractical to identify the particular groups that benefit from a given individual’s education in order to render charges for the service. Therefore, liberals often argue, the government should address

minimal role for the state. Charles Finn of Vanderbilt University argues that “All Americans would benefit from an education system that produced informed citizens. Education isn’t just a service we obtain for our daughters and sons and grandchildren. It is a public good, after defense perhaps our most important form of common provision and, in a sense, itself a defense against the ills that plague us at home.”

Liberals demand an increased state role in education by arguing that private schools exacerbate class distinctions. They maintain that if parents have greater freedom to choose education for their children, then all of the wealthier parents will flock together and prevent a healthy mixture of children from different backgrounds. In actuality, the left’s line of reasoning points to substantially decreasing the government’s involvement in education.

Under the current alignment, residents of different backgrounds are stratified. Excellent public schools are located in wealthier areas. The worst scenario is in the large

cities where the inhabitants have little say about the nature of their children’s education. The amount of spending per student is the same as it is in the wealthy suburbs, but the quality of education is much lower. Parents in the suburbs get far more value for the dollar spent on their children’s education than do parents in the inner-cities. Poor families with bright children might want to spend some additional money on better education for their child,

in order for him to attend a superior public



“neighborhood effects” by mandating that each child receive a minimal amount of schooling. The advocates of public education are, predictably, not content with a

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school. But due to districting, the family would have to move to a wealthier area. Their only course of action is to try to influence political authorities, which is usually a fruitless task. Thus, the public school system prevents lower-income households from having access to better education facilities by limiting choices.

### Government Figures

Liberal demands for public education have been met. In 1920, local funds made up 83 percent of public school revenues, by 1940 that amount dropped to 68 percent. Currently, that number is below 50 percent. At the same time, funding for education by states has been on the increase; 16 percent of public school revenues came from the states in 1920, 30 percent in 1940, and well over 40 percent today.

The funding for public elementary and secondary schools has gone up by over 200 percent since 1960. The United States spends more annually (in consistent 1989 dollars) on public elementary and secondary education than Canada, Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Since 1960, average teacher salaries have increased by more than one quarter. In 1960, 64.8% of full-time school staff were classroom teachers, while 35.2% were non-teaching staff. In 1991, 53.3% were teachers, and 46.7% percent were non-teaching staff.

Despite excessive government funding, Scholastic Aptitude Test scores have declined by 73 points since 1960. According to Eric Hanushek of the University of Rochester, "Since the mid-sixties there have been around 200 studies looking at the relationship between the inputs to schools, the resources spent on schools, and the performance of students. These studies tell a consistent and rather dramatic story... Result one is that there is no systematic relationship between the major ingredients of instructional expenditures per student—chiefly teacher education and teacher experience, which informally drive teacher salaries, and class size—and stu-

dent performance." The answer to improving the American educational system lies not in furthering the role of the state but in maximizing consumer choice.

### A Case for Vouchers

The quality of American education has declined to the extent that it has under state

**The quality of American education has declined to the extent that it has under state control because consumer choice is limited...**

control because consumer choice is limited; the producer is the lone authority. Consumer choice makes it possible for an enterprise to grow only if it produces an item that the consumer prefers because of its price or quality. As schooling has become more centralized, the power of the producers increases, while that of the parents decreases. The interests of teachers, administrators, and unions have supplanted their interests as parents of children involved in the public schools system. Their professional interests are better served by increased centralization and bureaucracy, conflicting with the interests of the parents—indeed, they believe they should reconcile those conflicts by further decreasing parental involvement.

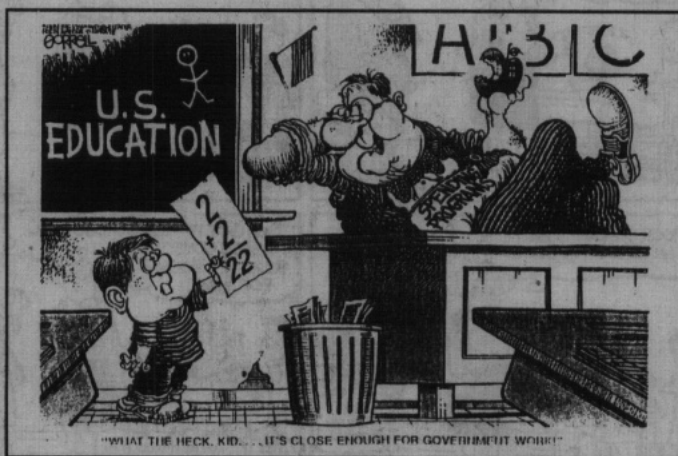
A school voucher program would al-

low parents to play a more active role in their children's education. Parents would receive vouchers from the government, redeemable for a sum of money that would provide the cost of a child's schooling. It would remove at least a part of the financial penalty that now limits the freedom of parents to choose. The vouchers would be used at private and public schools; these schools would not have to necessarily be in the same district, city, or even state. Parents would be able to remove their children from schools that they are not satisfied with, and move them into better ones. A plan very much similar to the school voucher program was implemented after World War II in which the United States financed an educational program for veterans. Each qualified veteran received a maximum annual sum to be spent at the institution of his choice.

The implementation of a school voucher program would also prove beneficial to public schools, in that their efficiency would be increased. Public schools would have the opportunity to finance themselves by charging a tuition, giving them the option of competing with private schools. In fact, parochial schools would probably be hurt the most by a voucher program, as their stature would likely decline. The parents of parochial school students would be in the position of having to subsidize public school expenditures through their tax dollars, while continuing to pay tuition for parochial schools. And by collecting government money, independent schools would chance government intrusion.

Competition, consumer choice, and a school system directly responsive to the needs of parents are the elements that will bring about a significant improvement in American education. Instead of continuing to waste time and money by increasing government spending on education, government should reduce its control over schools, and allow for the introduction of market forces. School vouchers will not eliminate all government from the educational system, but they will give parents the ability to choose their children's education from a variety of competitive sources. Educational decision-making must be transferred from the hands of self-serving bureaucrats to parents who have a genuine regard and concern for their children.

*Mr. Seltzer is a junior majoring in Political Science and minoring in Economics.*





# The Racial Politics of Medicine

Colin Delaney

For the first few weeks of the semester, Tufts University was a truly enjoyable place to live and learn. Reasonable students were not subjected to the leftist politics of politically correct movements to attract homosexual professors and over-pay unproductive janitors. But the blue skies and sunshine of early fall were once again chased away by the liberal faculty. The Equal Educational Opportunity Committee (EEOC) recently called for a restructuring of introductory pre-med courses and a thorough examination of Tufts' teaching and advising practices because the university is allegedly "failing to support adequately minority students and women in realizing all of their potential as undergraduates." And so Tufts' PC movement set its intrusive agenda for the year.

## Saul's Deception

Director of the American Studies program and three-time EEOC Chairman Saul Slapikoff argues that classes such as BIO 13 and CHEM 1 are inherently discriminatory and require a major overhaul. The professor contends that there is a great statistical divide between the proportion of white and minority students who enroll in and complete these 'weeder' courses. Slapikoff asserts that blacks fail or drop out of BIO 13 and CHEM 1 at much higher rates than do white students. When asked to produce data that support his claim, Slapikoff refused, saying that it would be "grossly irresponsible to publish [the data]."

Either unwilling or unable to support his position with the facts that he claims are irrefutable, Slapikoff broadened the attack on his own department and profession and complained that too many students of all races are "cooled out of being pre-meds." He suggests that the current method of teaching works against good performance and encourages passive learning. However, when questioned about Slapikoff's comments, his

biology department colleague, Professor George Ellmore, asserted that his BIO 13 courses "emphasize improvement... in a highly competitive environment." Ellmore

**Most Americans would probably feel more comfortable with a doctor better versed in human anatomy than the "broader philosophical underpinnings" of the spleen and aorta.**

says that his courses stress the importance of one-on-one learning in the laboratory and in directed study programs. Given that the various members of the Biology Department disagree on whether a problem even exists, it is unwise to rush to a hasty "solution."

Unhappy with the results of introductory-level chemistry and biology courses, Slapikoff suggests an overhaul of the pedagogy. He supports moving away from the study of the widely-accepted tenets of sci-

Apparently engulfed in the I'm-okay-you're-okay good feelings movement, Prof. Slapikoff has lost sight of the mission of the department of biology in a liberal arts institution. According to the department, "Biology is the *scientific* study of living organisms." (emphasis added) Students enroll in biology courses because they want to study science, not philosophy or even broader cultural contexts, as the professor claims they should. It is the anthropology major that "enables students to view contemporary social and

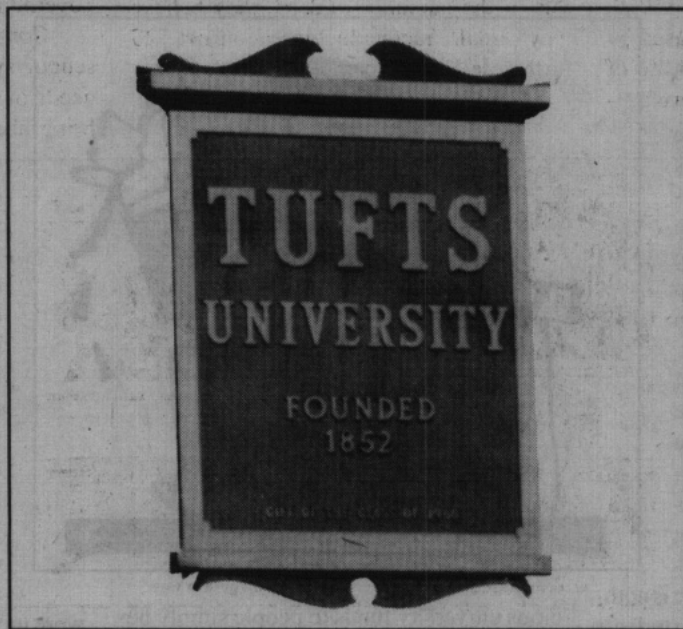
biological problems from an anthropological perspective." Professor Slapikoff should be reminded that physicians study medicine and leftist academics study anthropology. Most Americans would probably feel more comfortable with a doctor better versed in human anatomy than the "broader philosophical underpinnings" of the spleen and aorta.

## In Search of Truth

Slapikoff's distorted view of Tufts and his politically-loaded notions of how to prepare students to be productive members of society are in direct conflict with the beliefs of his colleagues both at Tufts and throughout the scientific community. While "understanding American life and its multicultural nature," as a student of American Studies would, may sound interesting, there is no substitute for the search for scientific truths. It may be fashionable to create 'feelings' courses sensitive to fragmented portions of the student body, but substituting these programs for disciplines that are intended to examine facts is academically and intellectually dishonest.

Professors Ellmore (BIO 13) and Dewald (CHEM 1) believe that Slapikoff is dead wrong in his opinion that

*Continued on next page.*



ence and wants to examine biology in the context of changing human relations. "We're focusing on facts... but need to look at the broader philosophical underpinnings [of biology]," he said.

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their courses are discriminatory. "The faculty always backs students no matter what their background. There is absolutely no active discouragement of any student," commented Ellmore; "Grading is completely person-blind." He went on to dispel the notion that BIO 13 is Tufts' weeder course for pre-meds, noting that only seven percent of all students who attempt to pass the class withdraw before the final.

Concerned that Slapikoff's proposals are designed to see to it that more students pass with better grades and are more personally satisfied with their education, Professor Dewald stated that changing standards and methods for teaching is "absolutely the wrong way" to help students. "You can't make a physician in modern times by lowering your standards, we should raise them."

#### Separate But Equal

The EEOC report notes that departments "have made some attempts to address" the drop/failure rate issue, but that "the outcomes for minority students have not appreciably improved." Prof. Slapikoff, Dean Knable, and Vice President Bernstein all expressed concern that an adequate support structure had not been fully developed for minority students. Although Tufts may be falling short of the administration's goal of grade equality, the university already provides race-specific counseling, tutoring, and advising that suggest that helping one group of students is more important than helping another.

Tutoring for BIO 13 and CHEM 1 is available to all students at the Academic Resource Center, but the departments, having been encouraged to help black students specifically, have offered special tutoring sessions at Capen House (the African-American Center). Though there is nothing wrong with offering help to students who need it, making the decision about who the beneficiaries of special attention will be solely on the basis of race is discriminatory. The administration and the academic departments are doing their best to make certain that some students are more equal than

others.

Unbeknownst to much of the community, Tufts has jumped on the bandwagon of giving remedial help to minority high school students. Like programs at other top colleges and universities, Summer SCOPE brings minority high school students to Tufts, "with the broad goal of getting students excited about education and Tufts in particular," according to Carol Baffi Dugan of

**Though there is nothing wrong with offering help to students who need it, making the decision...solely on the basis of race is discriminatory.**

the Career Planning Center. The program attempts to compensate for inadequate preparation at the high school and junior high school level by exposing students to professors in a collegiate setting.

Although helping underprivileged students is undoubtedly noble, choosing students by skin color is racist. Children of all races are subject to the failings of our public school system and need Tufts' help to become better students, but allocating pre-



cious university funds to people simply because of their skin color discriminates against poor white students and reinforces the notion that achievement is somehow linked to race.

Dean Knable and others who support Summer SCOPE point to successes of simi-

lar programs at other universities. But their belief in the Ivy League's academic infallibility colors their appraisal of these programs, many of which have recently become the targets of popular criticism. MIT has accepted minority high school juniors into its intensive summer study program designed to attract the best among them to the college and help make them better students. But as *The Wall Street Journal* pointed out, the vast majority of successful summer study students are from affluent families and are not underprivileged at all. The inner-city teens who beat seemingly insurmountable odds are still unable to perform at MIT's level. The administrators of such projects are practicing the politics of self-deception if they believe that a

few weeks in Cambridge can undo the damage of a lifetime of the nation's worst public schools. Moreover, the condescending nature of these programs, run by once racially exclusive institutions, is insulting to the intellect of the students whom they aim to help.

#### Quotas for Success

If, for the sake of argument, one were to accept Prof. Slapikoff's premise that black students as a whole do less well in introductory biology courses than do white students, there can be only two explanations: the professors and course work discriminate against minorities, or the minority students who do fail out of these courses are not as well prepared as are the whites who pass.

As for the first explanation—the one Slapikoff professes—the teachers of those courses deny that any racial problem exists. Prof. Ellmore noted that he is always careful not to make insensitive comments to any race and that no student has ever expressed dissatisfaction with the material or professors' behavior in BIO 13. When pressed to cite specific examples of the alleged lack of sensitivity, committee members were unwilling and most likely unable to do so. Furthermore, since science deals with objective facts and truths, it is unlikely that coursework is more discouraging for

*Please see "Race," on page 20.*

# Health Care and Freedom

Chris Weinkopf

“Our bill,” says Congressman Dick Gephardt of Missouri, “allows for real freedom of choice. The Republican plans keep people shackled with the cost of the people who decide not to have health care. We free the vast majority of our population from paying for those people.”

Tricky Dick would appear to have mastered the art of euphemism. Making uninsured Americans wards of the state hardly seems a feasible way to keep others from “paying for those people.” And only statist sycophants like Gephardt could commit the tremendous act of doublethink necessary to believe that forcing the voluntarily uninsured to enroll in Uncle Sam’s super-HMO is a boon for “freedom of choice.”

Fortunately Dick and his cronies have failed, at least for now, in their efforts to socialize American medicine. Lovers of big government, however, seldom accept “no” for an answer. The health care collectivists will surely be back in future congresses, demanding once again that government take over the finest medical system in the world.

Health reform 1994 failed for financial reasons. Absent from the debate, however, was meaningful discussion of the threat socialized medicine poses to individual liberty. Although one should not overlook the economic liabilities of national health care, medicine must be viewed as more than a simple issue of dollars and cents. It is incumbent upon the next Congress to consider socialism’s affect on personal freedom, lest it pass an intrusive plan that, on paper, may appear fiscally solvent.

## “Choice”

President Clinton insists that health reform include “universal coverage.” He demands a program under which all Americans, rich and poor, old and young, would

be enrolled. Different people, however, have different needs, wants, and priorities. Uniformity in health care is neither advantageous nor desirable.

**If Americans today compromise additional freedom in the name of “fairness,” the equity police will soon return to demand greater sacrifice...**

Under Mrs. Clinton’s proposal, all Americans would have equal health benefits. Supplemental insurance would be illegal, and obtaining or providing medical care privately would be punishable by imprisonment. Wealthier Americans, or those who prioritize health over other expenditures, would be barred from voluntarily purchasing additional coverage.

Benefits, instead of being chosen by the individual, would be dictated by a federal agency or congressional committee.



Americans would be prevented from spending their own money for additional precautionary measures or personalized treatment. Under national health care, the infirm senior citizen could face jail time for opting to spend his money on the doctor of his choice. It is ironic that the left champions a woman’s right to “control her body,” but wants the government to select her physician.

As universality imposes a maximum on the individual’s level of health care, it also enforces a minimum which, for many, is unnecessary and costly. Thirty-seven percent of those currently uninsured are younger than 25. For many of them, the decision to go without coverage is voluntary. Because of their youth, the risk of major illness is slight; health insurance is an unwise investment. With compulsory coverage they cannot spend their own money as they see fit. The state compels them to purchase coverage that is unwanted, and in most cases, needless.

The Clintons justify mandatory insurance by noting that all Americans, covered and uncovered, receive emergency medical treatment. Thus the “uninsured” American does, in fact, have catastrophic health insurance, but at no personal cost. Mandatory coverage, they argue, in addition to promoting “fairness,” precludes such freeloading.

This typically liberal analysis cites existing welfarism as a justification of more state control. According to this logic, because the government provides a service, free catastrophic care, the state is justified in restricting individual liberty by forcing all Americans to purchase health insurance. As usual, collectivist security comes with strings attached.

The next step, of course, is to assume that because the state provides health insurance, it should regulate individuals’ health practices—from mandating regular checkups to dictating the public diet. Mrs. Clinton, always one step ahead of such movements, already has such plans in mind. The leftist argument for expanded state control is relentless. If Americans today compromise additional freedom in the name of

*Please see “Health Care,”  
continued on next page.*

*"Health Care," continued from previous page.*

"fairness," the equity police will soon return to demand greater sacrifice in order to "level the playing field."

**Protect us from Ourselves**

One need only examine the Massachusetts seatbelt controversy to witness the perennially-encroaching nature of government. The state currently provides emergency medical care to car accident victims. Treatment, by and large, is less expensive for those who buckle their seatbelts. Thus, the state concludes, all individuals should be required to wear seatbelts, so as to minimize overall costs to the public. By granting a single benefit, the state has justification to restrict individual liberty. Likewise, the extension of such benefits will accompany commensurate compromises of individual freedom.

The funds for national health care, for example, were to have come from a 300% tax on cigarettes. The First Lady, Ira Magaziner, and their cohorts reasoned that smokers pose an undue risk to public health, hence the fiscal viability of socialized medicine. Evenhandedness, therefore, required that smokers be penalized for their costly and socially disfavored habit.

Curiously, Hillary's support for imposing sin taxes on unhealthy practices does not extend to gay bars and bathhouses, establishments that facilitate the spread of AIDS. Because the health fanatics' craze to abolish vice is marred by politics, it contra-

dicts the left's feigned concern for egalitarianism. Only those whose sins are deemed unworthy by public overseers would be labeled culprits and pariahs worthy of penalization.

And because national health care is expensive, most everyone, at one point or another, would be reprimanded and fined for his habits or personal hygiene. Last year the U.S. Department of Public Health de-

**"Fairness" requires that the fed ban Budweiser, tax twinkies, and condemn couch potatoes to intensive manual labor.**

clared that alcohol, junk food, and "sedentary lifestyles" account for more than half of America's deaths. Dr. Michael McGinnis, head of the USDPH's Office of Disease Prevention prescribed for the nation "a behavioral change." Why should the healthy person have to pay because others enjoy such profligacies? "Fairness" requires that the fed ban Budweiser, tax twinkies, and condemn couch potatoes to intensive manual labor.

Hillary agrees, at least in spirit. Last September Congressman Jim Bunning asked the First Lady if she would consider taxing caffeine, cholesterol, salt, sugar, or alcohol. "If there is a way that you can ever come up with to tax substances like the ones you just named," responded the matriarch of socialized medicine, "we'll be glad to take a look at it." Hillary wants not only to choose our doctor, but to prepare our dinner and tell us when to go to bed.

**Safety Socialism**

It was once remarked that "he who sacrifices liberty for security deserves neither." When national health care comes up for discussion in the 104th Congress, our legislators would be wise to heed this advice. President Clinton's designs on socialized medicine are far more menacing than their economic liabilities. The recent setback for socialized medicine is refreshing, but disheartening in as much that Congress addressed only the practical limitations, and not the libertarian dangers, of national health care.

Granting government dominion over hospitals is only a short step from conceding to it the nation's kitchens and bedrooms. Government benefits invariably come with restrictions; in return for increased stability citizens forsake personal liberties. High quality, affordable health insurance for all is desirable, but not at the expense of individual freedoms.

When the left says "health care is a right," it means "health care is an obligation." But the choice to go without health care, be it for financial or religious reasons, is an important one. Likewise, government should not cap the amount that one can invest in his own life. Socialized medicine requires individuals to turn control of their bodies to the state, leaving the most personal and fundamental questions to the impulses and edicts of bureaucrats and politicians.

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*"Race," continued from page 18.*

students of one race than for students of another.

The only explanation is that the students who do not pass these courses are not prepared to do the coursework. Since there is no biological reason why black students would consistently fail at higher rates than white students, the difference must be in preparation. Every year, minority students who would not normally have been accepted to the university because of inadequate secondary school performance are accepted as a part of the affirmative action program. These are the very students who

enroll in Tufts' most demanding courses only to discover that they are unable to perform at the expected level.

If racial equality within majors is Tufts' mission, then the university would be wise to enact affirmative action guidelines for grading in biology and chemistry courses. As special tutoring programs, resource centers, and faculty workshops have failed to produce parity in the pre-med program, the only way to achieve equality of performance is to have a different scale of grading for different races. Only then would Professor Slapikoff's objectives be achieved.

Of course, this idea— like many of Slapikoff's proposals— is ludicrous and,

more importantly, academically disingenuous. Neither government nor university administrations can legislate achievement and force an equality of human performance. Programs aimed at helping specific segments of the student body by necessity exclude the general population and discriminate against over-achievers of all races by weighing them down with the burden of under prepared students. The solution to this problem— if there indeed is a problem— is the elimination, not the extension, of affirmative action policies that prioritize race over merit.

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# Centers of Interest

Buddie Jo DiFonzo

Tufts goes to great lengths to present itself as an institution committed to "diversity." A casual read of any of the manuals published by the University would reveal that in almost every picture, at least half of the students are minorities, and they all seem to be enjoying the virtual global village on Walnut Hill.

The novelty soon wears off, and reality sets in as many Tufts students notice a disheartening pattern of campus separatism based on gender, race, and sexual orientation. Students have witnessed the balkanization of Tufts' "global community" into minority centers, clubs, houses, and even dining hall tables. It is indeed ironic that the University, ostensibly encouraging the integration of a diverse student body, would subsidize special-interest resource centers that promote segregation. There is no conclusive evidence indicating that such centers, including the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Center, the Women's Center, the Hispanic-American Center, and the African-American Center serve to enrich the academic environment at Tufts. In fact, most of them provide the same or similar services as their counterpart student organizations. Additionally, many of the programs offered can be similarly obtained at the academic resource and career planning centers. By financing minority centers, the Dean of Students Office is squandering exorbitant tuition fees without enhancing the quality of the general academic program.

When Charles Tufts stated he would "put a light on" Walnut Hill, he meant to establish an academic institution based on a curriculum designed to foster intellectual growth and encourage the development of civic-minded individuals. Instead, his legacy has evolved into a stomping ground for special-interest groups seeking to advance a leftist political agenda while aborting traditional forms of education. Many of the cam-

pus minority centers claim to provide support, advice, and counseling on personal and academic matters, referrals to other

"drop-in spaces." In one example, the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Center, offers a "sunny gay/lesbian/bisexual positive place to hang out, study, browse the current news on the bulletin, or chat." The separatist overtones of such a claim imply that Tufts is so hostile and oppressive to homosexuals and bisexuals that they need their own place of refuge in which to "hang out." The

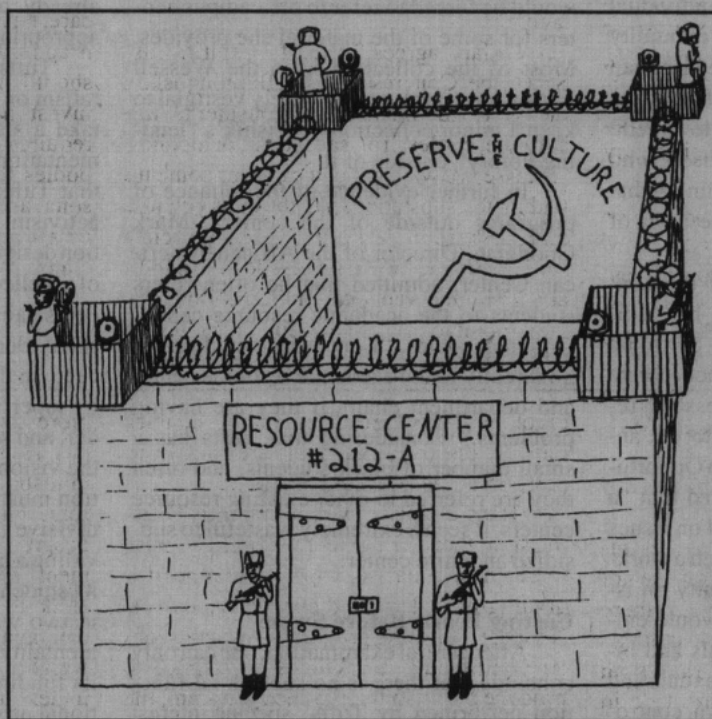
**It is indeed ironic that the University, ostensibly encouraging the integration of a diverse student body, would subsidize special-interest resource centers that promote segregation.**

sources of assistance, and drop-in space for minority students. But the University's founder did not envision an institution built on self-analysis, introspection, and recognition based on skin color, gender, or sexual behavior. His goals, transcending such superficialities, included the pursuit of truth and intellectual challenge. Recognition of individuals was to be based on academic merit alone. It is difficult to imagine that he would have approved of the use of centers

Mayer Campus Center is a more than adequate facility for the common gathering of students. Not only does the situation represent an unnecessary expenditure, it is also indicative of the administration's practice of singling out and rewarding groups solely for their choice of lifestyle.

## Redefining Liberal Arts

If academic enrichment was the reason for establishing the centers, then they have failed miserably. However, it seems likely that academic enrichment was never a consideration, anyway. Rather, the centers seem to have been more concerned with distorting the curriculum to advance a social agenda. According to Peggy Barrett, Director of the Women's Center, traditional definitions of liberal arts education are too narrow and should be expanded to include the experiences of different peoples and their perspectives. The Women's Studies department, with which she is affiliated, sets as criteria for its courses a ruling that at least 50% of the curriculum be taught from the feminist perspective. The arbitrary number is cumbersome because it is more representative of a political ideology than of serious scholarship. Many of the courses which



as "referrals," a relatively unnecessary service; one certainly not worth the considerable budget used to finance it.

Even less worthy of financial support is the need for resource centers to provide

*Please see "Resource Centers," continued on next page.*

*"Resource Centers," continued  
from previous page.*

constitute the Women's Studies core curriculum— most notably Biology, History, and Language Department courses—should transcend any political train of thought.

Reuben Salinas Stern, Director of the Hispanic-American Center, seems to share Barrett's idea that minority perspectives be thrust into the agenda, even if at the expense of academic objectivity. Stern states, "Unfortunately, we live in a society where everyone is not equal. The people in power are generally white and male. If Tufts' job is to prepare you

for the outside world and your connection with education is from only one perspective, then we're doing a great disservice to our students." Mr. Stern's ages-old rhetoric smacks of leftist propaganda. He should be reminded that America was founded on such ideas as free enterprise, individual liberty and responsibility. His mentality seems to be more attuned to an egalitarian academic environment instead of a setting that is conducive to individual achievement. And ironically, it is Mr. Stern, himself, who is guilty of discrimination by assuming that whites hold high positions on the basis of their skin color.

Heather Wishik, director of the Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Center, has indirectly attempted to revise the curricula through seminars designed to incorporate gay and lesbian studies into professors' respective disciplines. According to the annual report of the Equal Education Opportunity Committee, Wishik suggested that "a workshop for new faculty be held on issues involving sexual orientation." Such a workshop, in addition to training faculty on issues of sexual orientation, also would emphasize the rights of homosexuals and bisexuals. But, the rights of homosexuals and bisexuals, except for well-known controversial situations involving military enlistment and marriage ceremonies, are in fact the same as for any other individuals. Therefore, the training would inevitably and unfairly promote the extension of privileges and special treatment— rather than "rights"

— for this group. Of course, one may wonder how matters of sexual orientation are related to academic scholarship, but that seems unimportant to Wishik and the Office that funds the center.

**One and the Same**

In addition to the fact that the centers exist more from political motivation than academic, they merely offer the same programs as the other Tufts' resources which are open to all students. For example, they pride themselves on their "wealth of biblio-

graphic materials" for minorities. The Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Center

**It is up to the students to take a stand against this increasing fragmentation and inform the administration that Tufts is not a hotbed of liberal social activism.**

provides a "lending library about sexual orientation matters including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, and magazines." Wishik admitted that there is some overlap between the center's library materials and those of the Tufts' libraries, but added that students would be forced to refer to off-campus centers for some of the material she provides. Most of the collection is in the Wessell library anyway; it seems merely vestigial to keep a minor collection— Wishik's "lending library" outside of it.

In further evidence of the reliance of programs outside of the centers, Mark Goodman, Director of the African-American Center, admitted that he often refers students to the academic resource center. Goodman states, "I encourage students to go directly to the academic resource center and department chairs if they are having problems." Considering that Tufts has a small number of black students, and often they are referred to other existing resource centers, it seems extremely wasteful to subsidize an entire center.

**Casting Pearls Before Swine**

After careful examination, one can only conclude that there is no substantial function performed by Tufts' special interest centers that is not provided by other student organizations. Both provide counseling and advice to students. Both offer programs to educate the community about related issues. And both sponsor related events. The only difference between the two, then, seems

to be that minority centers limit themselves to certain groups of students, while sister organizations are open to all students (including those for whom the centers are also available). Directors attempt to make another distinction; funding. They state that centers acquire funds through the budget of the Dean of Students Office, whereas other student organizations are funded through the TCU Senate. In fact, the funding for both emanates from one source— students' tuition payments.

In addition, student organizations often need financial assistance to sponsor events, and are entitled to enlist the centers to "co-sponsor" (read: fund) them. However, not all organizations happen to have a related center that would be willing to provide funds in the way that, for example, Capen House can aid the Pan-African Alliance. Thus, organizations may be preferentially funded. The funding that the centers receive is substantial. It includes office space, directors' positions, staff assistants, secretaries, and budgets for resource materials and publicity events. As it turns out, the centers' budgets also include money used to augment certain student organizations that have already been allocated a budget deemed appropriate by the TCU Senate.

Tufts University must discontinue separatism on campus. It is up to the students to take a stand against this increasing fragmentation and inform the administration that Tufts is not a hotbed of liberal social activism. Rather, it is an academic institution designed to carry out its founder's dream of intellectual and character growth. Students cannot be expected to develop a personal identity and the skills needed to succeed in the real world if they are restricted by superficial limitations such as race, gender, and sexual behavior. In order to realize the vision of Charles Tufts, the administration must turn its attention away from such divisive issues and focus, instead, on providing a high-quality academic program for its students. It can begin to accomplish this in two ways; by abandoning its separatist mentality, and (in the process) re-directing its funding towards matters of more traditional academic concern.

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

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## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

*We must believe in luck. For how else can we explain the success of those we don't like?*

—Jean Cocteau

*Never play leapfrog with a unicorn.*

—Anonymous

*I want a girl just like the girl that married dear old Dad.*

—Lyrics by Oedipus Rex

*Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.*

—Mark Twain

*We the unwilling, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful. We have done so much with so little for so long, that by now we are qualified to do anything with nothing.*

—Anonymous

*The history of saints is mainly the history of insane people.*

—Benito Mussolini

*A gentleman is a man who can play the accordion but doesn't.*

—Anonymous

*My toughest fight was with my first wife.*

—Muhammad Ali

*Logic is in the eye of the logician.*

—Gloria Steinem

*Eat cheese or die.*

—Motto for Wisconsin suggested by Joel McNally

*Democracy is being allowed to vote for the candidate you dislike least.*

—Robert Byrne

*He was a wise man who invented God.*

—Plato

*The perfect lover is one who turns into a pizza at 4:00 A.M.*

—Charles Pierce

*My mother didn't breast-feed me. She said she liked me as a friend.*

—Rodney Dangerfield

*An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest.*

—Spanish proverb

*New York now leads the world's greatest cities in the number of people around whom you shouldn't make a sudden move.*

—David Letterman

*It isn't necessary to have relatives in Kansas to be unhappy.*

—Groucho Marx

*Never accept an invitation from a stranger unless he gives you candy.*

—Linda Festa

*The gods too are fond of a joke.*

—Aristotle

*Happy is the child whose father died rich.*

—Proverb

*Girls are always running through my mind. They don't dare walk.*

—Andy Gibb

*Why should Hillary be painted as an evil woman because she made money in the stock market?*

*We live in a free-enterprise society; you want to make money for your family. Why does that make you greedy? In my opinion, that makes you smart!*

—Barbra Streisand

*Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.*

—Socrates

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

—Steven Pearl

*Only the mediocre are always at their best.*

—Jean Giraudoux

*I'm six foot eleven. My birthday covers three days.*

—Darryl Dawkins

*It is better to have a permanent income than to be fascinating.*

—Oscar Wilde

*It is scarcely the same thing to put a man on the moon as to put a bone in your nose.*

—William A. Henry, III

*Too bad the only people who know how to run the country are busy driving cabs and cutting hair.*

—George Burns

*Originality is the art of concealing your sources.*

—Unknown

*Some editors are failed writers, but so are most writers.*

—T.S. Eliot

*Autobiography is the last refuge of scoundrels.*

—Henry Gray

*There is one thing to be said for country clubs; they drain off a lot of people you wouldn't want to associate with anyway.*

—Joseph Prescott

*A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.*

—Carl Reiner

*If at first you don't succeed, you're doing it wrong.*

—Bazooka Joe

*Although prepared for martyrdom, I preferred that it be postponed.*

—Winston Churchill

*O Lord, help me to be pure, but not yet.*

—St. Augustine

*Classical music is music written by famous dead foreigners.*

—Arlene Heath

*I prefer rogues to imbeciles because they sometimes take a rest.*

—Alexandre Dumas the Younger

*The doctor can bury his mistakes but an architect can only advise his client to plant vines.*

—Frank Lloyd Wright

*Never have children, only grandchildren.*

—Gore Vidal