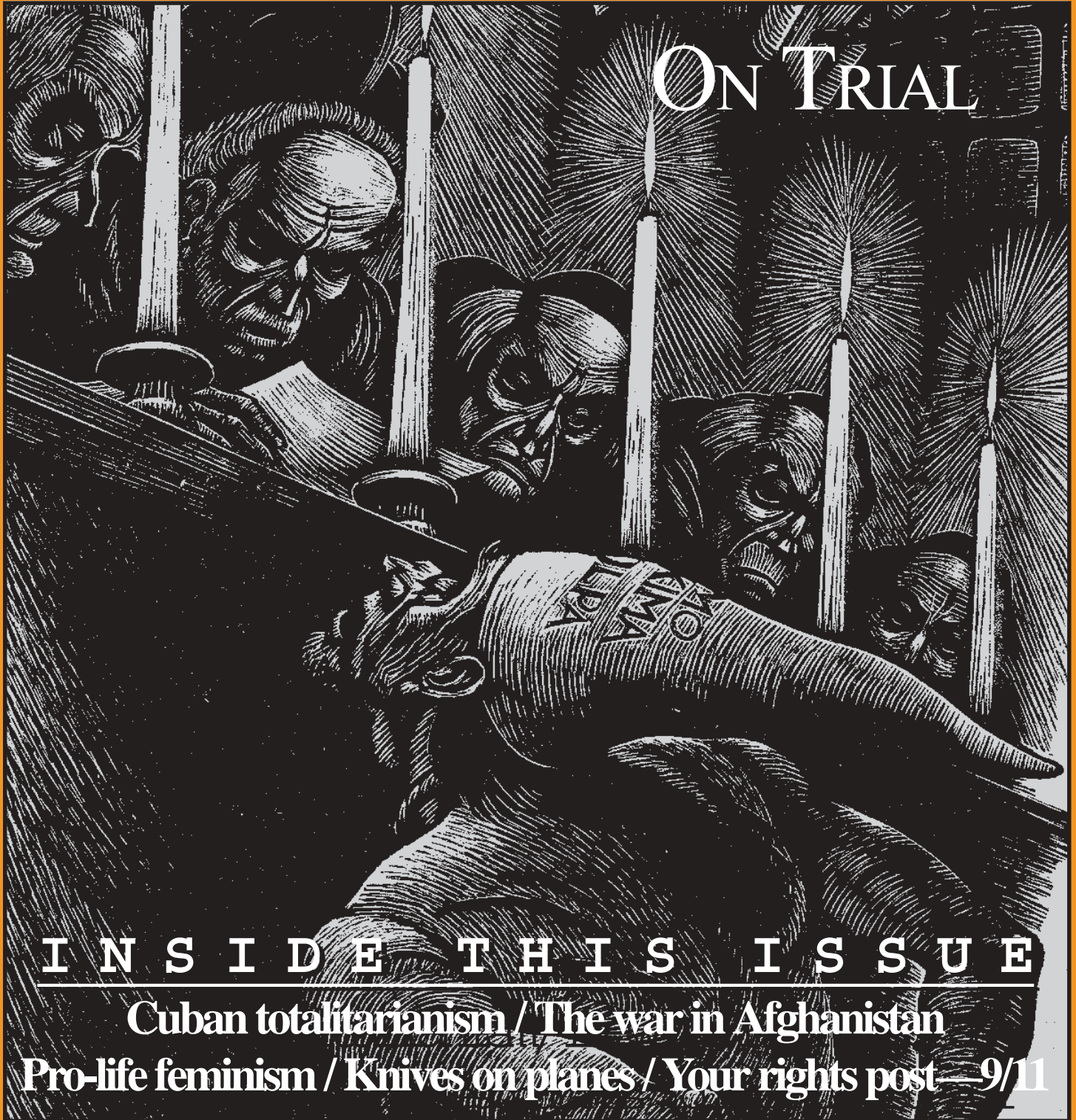


BOOKS:
P.J. O'ROURKE'S
'CEO OF THE SOFA'

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Cuban totalitarianism / The war in Afghanistan

Pro-life feminism / Knives on planes / Your rights post—9/11



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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

Vol. XX • The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University • No. 4

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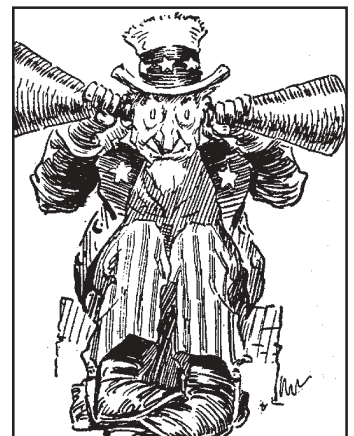
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The Right to Offend

The implementation of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment is rarely without its consequences. Even in the best of circumstances, essential freedoms often clash. And the impulse to restrict civil liberties can be strong. Yet Tufts is far from the best of circumstances, and unfortunately has a long and infamous history of infringing on its students' rights. Freedom of speech is paramount to the very educational mission of Tufts University, but with the recent charges against THE PRIMARY SOURCE, it is once again under fire.

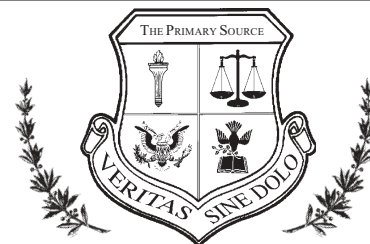
We Tufts students must learn from history if we are to avoid repeating it. While upperclassmen may be familiar with Tufts' history involving freedom of speech, each new class must be educated anew. Tufts has twice before outlawed the First Amendment. Both occasions were attempts to be more "sensitive" and protect students from the harsh realities of those who disagree with them. The goal of making each student's life on campus free from harassment is noble, but when this ambition tramples other students' freedom of expression, it becomes a tyrannical PC crusade.

In 1989, a Tufts student jokingly printed up T-shirts touting "15 Reasons Why Beer is Better than Women at Tufts." This act would go onto spark one of the largest freedom of speech battles to be fought on a college campus. In response to the student's "highly insensitive" actions, then-President Jean Mayer declared the Tufts campus to be divided into zones of varying degrees of freedom of speech. Berlin Wall-esque divisions between liberty and controlled thought were created throughout our campus, and students had to watch their words based upon their location on the Hill. The students responded passionately to the administration's outrageous decree. The "Tufts Free Speech Movement" (headed by several members of THE PRIMARY SOURCE) eventually compelled the

administration to overturn the policy. However, this did not occur before Tufts became a laughingstock in the national media, the height of hypocrisy among the Left's most illiberal educators.

Yet Tufts did not learn its lesson. Only a year ago, the administration rewrote its Sexual Harassment Policy in a way that restricted speech based on nothing more than the emotions of those who may have heard it. The policy stated that "attributing objections to any of the above [classifications of harassment] to the 'hypersensitivity' of others who feel hurt" is a punishable offense. When an outside group alerted Dean of Students Bruce Reitman and Vice President of Arts and Sciences I. Melvin Bernstein to the unconstitutional nature of this policy, they quickly changed it. No doubt they had the University's already-embarrassing history of First Amendment blunders in mind. At the time, Reitman and Bernstein stated that "mere speech" would not be punishable at Tufts.

Thus we return to the charges currently filed against the SOURCE. Just like the "15 Reasons" T-shirt, the SOURCE has also engaged in rather sophomoric joking. References to revealing clothing may not be highbrow humor, but we do not apologize for this—it's funny. Tufts students must learn that the real world will be filled with people who disagree with them, and that they cannot run and tell on those who seem to pick on them. Our words may be harsh and often unpopular, but unpopular speech is precisely the type that is protected by the First Amendment. THE PRIMARY SOURCE hopes that the current administration remembers the follies of the past and upholds our freedom of speech.

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Letters

To the Editor:

D'oh! In the last issue of your fine publication, your "Notable and Quotable" back page made a large *faux pas*. "Didn't you wonder why you were getting checks for doing absolutely nothing? I figured because the Democrats were in power again." You attributed this quote to Homer Simpson, when in fact it is Lisa who asks the question and Grandpa Abe Simpson who responds. As the members of Tufts' finest student organization, The No Homers Club, we wanted to formally let the Tufts community know the correct notation of this exchange.

We ask the SOURCE to brush up on its "Simpsons" knowledge, specifically by watching the episode "Sideshow Bob Roberts," one of the more right-wing friendly episodes. Here is a great, unbiased example:

Staunch Republican Sideshow Bob runs for mayor of Springfield, after being egged on by Springfield's own Rush Limbaugh

character, Birch Barlow. (What's that, you couldn't hear me?) On trial for election fraud in a Springfield courtroom, Bob confesses to wrongdoing. "You need me Springfield. Your guilty conscience may force you to vote Democratic, but deep down inside you secretly long for a cold-hearted Republican to lower taxes, brutalize criminals and rule you like a king!"

Also, in the article "French, Fried," the lovable Scot, Groundskeeper Willy was misquoted. Stephen Tempesta writes, "Damn cheese-eating surrender monkeys!" In reality, Willy says "Bonjourrr, you cheese-eating surrender monkeys!" while teaching a French class due to budget cuts. Not only was the quote taken completely out of context, we do not appreciate the added use of profanity. So screw you!

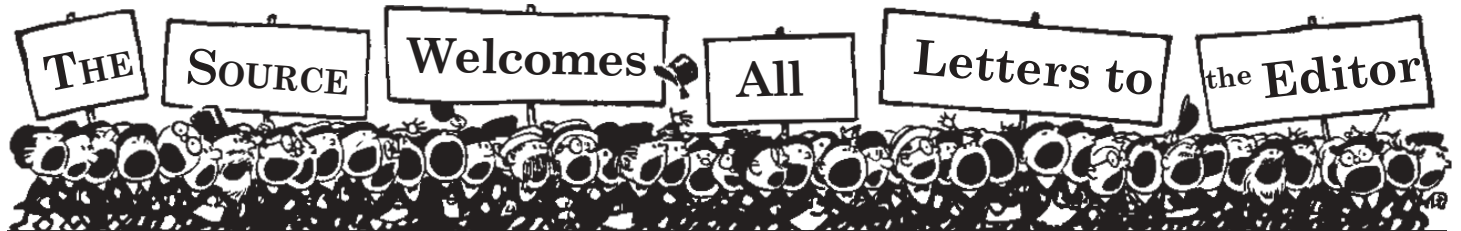
However, we look forward to reading more inspiring "Simpsons" quotes in your publication and hope to see you at our group's bi-weekly meetings.

Yet, if you think that our suggested education method was ineffective, please let us know—instead, we'll just get a Simpsons culture rep.

Sincerely,
Josh Belkin
Imperial High Commander for Life
No Homers Club

CORRECTIONS

In the last issue of THE PRIMARY SOURCE, in the *Fool on the Hill* section, we incorrectly stated that the name "Cohen" referred to Jewish royalty. In fact, the name refers to a sect of priests. The author of the piece regrets sleeping through that day of Hebrew School.



Please address all correspondence to source@listproc.tufts.edu

Everything You Always Wanted to Know About **Tufts** ^{*} **But Everyone Else Was Afraid to Tell You* SM



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Commentary

Getting Carded

The latest debate in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks concerns national ID cards. On October 13th, Alan M. Dershowitz, a law professor at Harvard, wrote an article for the *New York Times* in support of such a system. His article is the most prominent example of the weak arguments for ID cards. National ID cards would be unnecessarily cumbersome and ineffective at combating terrorism.

Dershowitz claims that with a United States ID card, one could “pass through... security more expeditiously.” But does possessing such a card guarantee that the bearer is a perfectly safe human being? Natively-born American citizens are just as capable of performing acts of terrorism on airplanes or in prominent buildings as foreigners are. Has Timothy McVeigh been so quickly forgotten?

Mr. Dershowitz goes on to say that the ID card will “enhance civil liberties by reducing the need for racial and ethnic stereotyping.” How exactly will ID cards stop discrimination? Is someone who is predisposed towards discriminating going to change his or her ways after seeing an Arab with an American ID card? Should members of ethnic groups wear their ID cards around their necks at all times? If a black man accidentally steps into a KKK meeting, presumably all he will have to do is flash his card and be safe.

How will we issue a card to every single United States citizen? How much time would it take? Where would the government come up with the necessary funding? Such a task would easily cost hundreds of millions of dollars, and Bush will have a hard time convincing people to return all those checks he sent out.

Above all, it seems that Mr. Dershowitz and supporters of a national ID card are forgetting two things: the passport and the Social Security card. These are identification enough without the hassle. And everyone already has at least one of the above. Please, let us save the time, effort, and space in our wallets and worry about issues that are actually relevant to the fight against terrorism.

Who Wants to Be a Nobel Laureate?

The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced recently that the United Nations and Kofi Annan would share the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. The staff of THE PRIMARY SOURCE would like to assure the survivors of the 1995 Bosnian massacre, an event where UN intervention headed by Mr. Annan failed horribly, that they are not the only ones disturbed by this year's laureates. With the obvious exception of the aforementioned event, one would be hard-pressed to identify Mr. Annan's achievements. In fact, it seems as though the standards for becoming a Nobel laureate have dropped significantly. With such fine, upstanding citizens as Yasser Arafat and Le Duc Tho on the roster of recently crowned laureates, the Nobel Committee has significantly diminished the prestige and significance that the Nobel Peace Prize holds. Indian ambassador to the UN Kamalesh Sharma summed up the bastardization of this once respectable institution when he claimed that Annan's winning of the prize had made him a “real global celebrity, like a rockstar.” And that is so totally bitchin'.

This year's winner is especially unqualified for the honor. Mr. Annan has not exactly made leaps and bounds in the field of world peace. He seems to have a distorted idea of what peace

really means, as shown in his statement that he was “disturbed” by the prospect of the United States extending its anti-terrorist campaign to countries other than Afghanistan. It appears that Mr. Annan favors the art of submission as opposed to justice.

The UN's record is equally unimpressive. Perhaps a Nobel prize could be awarded to someone who could reorganize the UN and transform it from a league of mostly non-democratic, spineless nations into an organization of the world's more moral and humanitarian countries. The UN doesn't do anything. It passes resolutions, but anyone with half a brain can identify these feeble-minded documents as what they really are: the pathetic attempt of a worthless institution struggling to prove its non-existent validity to the rest of the world. Speaking to the press, Mr. Annan stated that his being awarded the prize would result in higher expectations for the UN. The SOURCE thinks it's about damn time.



Like Clockwork

On Thursday, September 20th, the streets of Washington once again filled with the sound of chants and protests. Protesters gathered from liberal college campuses and activist cells around the country to protest the IMF and World Bank for having the audacity to loan money to nations that ask for it. Having rented fleets of buses to transport enough students to get in a real good fight with the police, the whole thing would have come off perfectly had the World Trade Center not been bombed just nine days before the protest was set to begin. With New York and Washington, DC in flames, anarchists and ultraliberals everywhere sensed that this wasn't the best time to go running through the streets chucking bricks into Starbucks. Apparently, in the mind of the public, global monetary policy takes a back seat to international terrorism.

Running low on time (and no doubt in danger of losing their deposits on the buses), the activists thought quickly and came up with an entirely different cause that could be fought by the same people on the same day. Fortunately for the ultra-liberal and anarchist alike, it seemed likely, at that time, that the U.S. might get into a war. This was better than Christmas: a real war meant real protests that normal people might pay attention to! So groups which previously were feeling downright vicious about the IMF (pay back a loan? Never!) decided instead that the best way to show their anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-American stripes was to protest a war that technically hadn't started yet. Displaying such signs as "Vengeance Isn't Justice" and the witty yet memorable "Stop the Violence," many either blamed Americans for bringing the terrorist acts upon themselves or expressed fears that retaliation might bring more terrorist acts upon the country. Showing the kind of cowardice and self-denigrating appeasement that Chamberlain himself would have applauded, the peace protest drew an opposition protest by those who felt that perhaps, just this once, we were justified in bombing a weaker nation. Forget for a moment that a "weaker" nation would be any other nation; although overemotive worship of the underdog may have made for several rousing "Rocky" sequels, it does not constitute sound foreign policy. The two sides, including the "nonviolent" protesters, nearly came to blows, and police were dispatched to keep them apart.

The protests drew little attention in the conventional news media — defined as any media not run off in batches of 300 on a mimeograph machine, hand-stapled into a pamphlet, and sold for \$3 in bookstores named "Revolution." In spite of the (original) protesters' best efforts, the Bush administration ignored their pleas to knuckle under to depraved madmen and instead decided to stop the violence by bombing the hell out of those responsible for it.

Free Speech, Eh?

If there is one thing perhaps more offensive than the America-hating drivel being spewed by leftists in the wake of 9/11, it is the recent attempt to silence this dissent under the guise of "hate crimes." University of British Columbia Women's Studies Professor Sunera Thobani has recently been charged with a hate crime against Americans for her vitriolic attacks against our great nation and its military actions. It is ironic that the same types of people who champion hate crime legislation now find that it can be turned against them to silence their free speech.

At a conference in Ottawa titled "Women's Resistance: From Victimization to Criminalization" on October 1st, Ms. Thobani unleashed an unbridled attack on America to the applause of over 500 feminists. Among other things, she called the United States "the most dangerous and powerful global force unleashing horrific levels of violence." She also stated that she felt more sympathy for "the victims of US aggression" than for the victims of the terrorist attacks. Her hatred was not confined merely to America however, as she also made several comments such as "there will be no emancipation for women anywhere on this planet until the Western domination of this planet is ended."

At this point, such comments are of little note aside from the fact that they are being silenced by being called "hate crimes." In fact, these comments differ only slightly from statements made by Tufts' own history professor Gary Leupp, such as "US support for tyrants is the norm." It is fortunate for Leupp that America has a Bill of Rights and unfortunate for Thobani that Canada does not. So long as Thobani was not inciting violence against Americans or any individual, then her right to free speech should not be abridged. Once again, hate crimes legislation is infringing on civil liberties. We may find repulsive what she said, but we will defend her right to say it. □



Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS The United States has finally confirmed that terrorist Osama bin Laden is responsible for last month's attacks. Experts say that bin Laden is not affiliated with terrorists in the Peace and Justice Studies Department known as Ayav bin Stupid.

PS What's the difference between the Taliban and Christmas? Christmas will be here this December.

PS Why are there no Taliban militiamen on the new season of *Star Trek*? Because it takes place in the future.

PS Why don't Afghani children trick-or-treat at Osama bin Laden's house? Because he mailed away all his anthrax candy.

PS And because he lives in a cave.

PS Across the nation, federal officials have been scouring mail looking for any envelopes containing mysterious white powder. Here at Tufts, TUPD removed several kilos of suspicious white powder from DTD whose brothers be will be tested nasally for anthrax spores.

PS The *Observer* will soon be changing from a newspaper to a magazine of "analysis and critical evaluation." With that in mind, we present:

Top Ten New Names for the *Observer*:

10. THE PRIMARY SOURCE
9. The Primaree SURce
8. Radix Part Deux
7. The Oberver
6. Mara's Rumors Semimonthly
5. OOOOOBSERRRRRRRVERRRRRR!

4. Jumbo Dung
3. You Only Read the Police Blotter Anyway
2. Lew Titterton Fan Club
1. Charmin

PS In Washington, DC, Cuban Interests Section officials must give three days' notice if they want to travel outside of a 273-square-mile area around the city. Should they fail to do this, the federal government has promised that Janet Reno will hunt them down and abduct their children at gunpoint.

PS City officials in Fort Wayne, Indiana will allow residents to exercise free speech in the form of yard signs no larger than 12 square feet in residential zones and up to 32 square feet in commercial zones. Just think how many bumper stickers leftists can stick on those!

PS After meeting President Bush for the first time, Jiang Zemin, President of China, vowed that Beijing will provide aid to the United States during the war in Afghanistan. The Chinese premier said that of all the nations that provide our military with supplies, China will stay open latest.

PS Okay... our bad. A Fortnight ago, we ran Top Ten Reasons Why Billy Joel Won't Come to Tufts. Now he is, so here we go again.

Top 10 Reasons Why Billy Joel *is* Coming to Tufts:

10. Dad was a UNICCO janitor
9. Getting honorary degree in Womyn's Studies
8. Two words: Elephant Walk
7. Gets to be a level 74 Cleric at SGS
6. Wanted the honor of sharing the stage with the likes of GZA
5. Smallest university with both a daily and a weekly paper... oh, never mind
4. Really wants to check out the gravity stone
3. Wants to ride the fame of Guster

One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, eh? For all those getting a little confused, Fortnight In Review presents...

HOW TO TELL BUSH FROM BIN LADEN

- ◆ Bush broadcasts live speeches from halls of Congress; bin Laden records comments in caves
- ◆ Bush flanked by Vice President and Speaker of the House; bin Laden flanked by armed guards and 'sex goat'
- ◆ Bush an elected executive official; bin Laden a Jew-hating millionaire



Left: Osama bin Laden. Below: George W. Bush.



2. Bianca Jagger canceled date

1. Heard PRIMARY SOURCE porn stash has lots of Christie Brinkley nudes

PS Dear Concert Board: the SOURCE would like to suggest that Billy Joel tix are distributed based on number of complaints filed against your organization.

PS Amidst fears that sweeteners and powdered coffee creamer may be confused with anthrax, Northwest Airlines has removed these items from all flights. Northwest execs agreed that this was a better plan than simply denying service to Muslims.

PS A college student from San Diego, Osama Awadallah, was charged with lying to a grand jury when he denied knowing two men suspected of hijacking a plane that crashed into the World Trade Center. He hopes that his perjury conviction will lead to oral sex with eager interns.

PS Jaromir Jagr, the high-scoring center for the Washington Capitals, recently signed an eight-year, \$88 million contract. His new salary represents a giant step up from his playing days in communist

Czechoslovakia, when he was paid in vodka and Bulgarian hookers.

PS Persistent leaks in one of the Big Dig's tunnels could cost taxpayers an extra \$60 million and delay the project by three months, officials said. Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy believes the delay is excessive, citing his expertise on waterlogged cars.

PS In Alabama, the Tribal Council of the Poarch Creek Indians rejected an offer from the city to buy 50 acres of Indian land for \$900,000 to derail a high-stakes bingo hall. Tribal elders are holding out for 250,000 beaver skins and 5,000 bags of assorted colored beads.

PS An Alaskan judge ordered five area escort services to stop offering prostitution because the businesses continue to break the law and are a public nuisance. In related news, Bill Clinton has canceled a visit to oil drilling sites in ANWR.

PS The former Mr. Cindy Crawford, Richard Gere, was booed heartily by angry Noo Yawkers during an appearance at a benefit concert last week. Event organizers say that Gere was booed not for being against the war, but because the audience contained over 4,000 gerbil owners.

☞ Had to be a big shot: *Daily* and *Observer* writers make a **failed attempt at wit** and insert song titles into their Billy Joel articles. *Daily*'s **Sheryl Gordon**: "Students under pressure [*get it?* -ED.] to buy Billy Joel tickets... Students might have to take a trip down the River of Dreams to see pop star Billy Joel." *Observer*'s **Erica Goldberg**: "For The Longest Time," the administration has been wanting Tufts to gain more national exposure, and Concert Board has finally found 'The Entertainer' to do it." We'd tell them to just curl up and die, but **only the good die young**... Movin' out: Tufts' 106-year-old Newspaper of Record packs it up. The *Observer* will become a "biweekly magazine dedicated to news analysis." Wait... which one's the *Observer* again?

☞ In a New York state of mind: sophomore **Sameer Puri** opines in the *Observer*, "I highly doubt people would be so pro-war if they had either seen or were faced with the possibility of war on the home front." Oh, so the WTC was destroyed in an **act of peace**?... And the ELEPHANT takes issue with the media's mantra, "everything has changed after September 11th." Not true! Viewpoint writers still **don't make any sense**.

☞ A minor variation: **Crack Daily Sports** writers caption a picture, "Junior running back Keven Kelley rumbles for some of his carrer [*sic*] hih [*sic*] 214 yards rushing on Saturday." And **life imitates art** when the *Daily* copies lines from the SOURCE's *Observer* parody. *Observer*: "...ELBO, whose real name is Valentino Caruso..." *Daily*: "...ELBO, comprised only of senior Valentino Carsuo [*sic*]..." *Observer*: "...was a major factor, in fact all of the players were

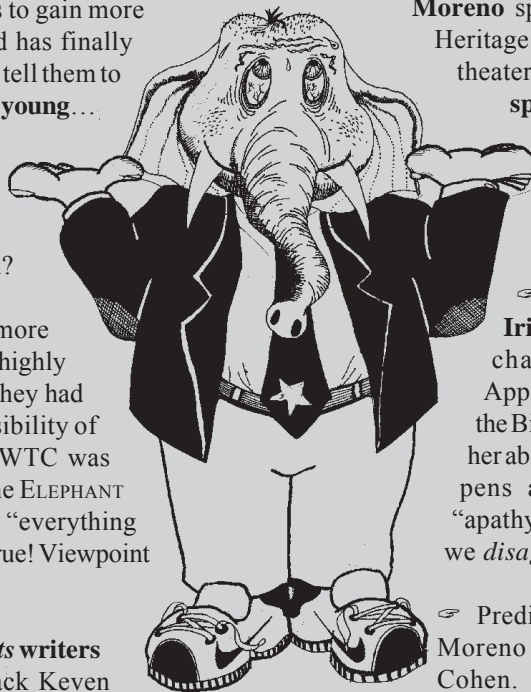
major factors in the win..." *Daily*: "Rupak Datta, along with the rest of the defense, played a key role in [the victory]." THE ELEPHANT would like to remind the *Daily* that those were **not suggestions**.

☞ I like to be in America: Broadway bombshell **Rita Moreno** speaks at Cabot in celebration of Latino Heritage Month. To the disappointment of most theater students in attendance, however, the **spicy chiquita** of "West Side Story" fame eschews discussion of her Broadway experience, instead focusing on **diversity and racial prejudice**. We know a boat you can get o-on.

☞ Always a woman to us: SLAM kingpin **Iris Halpern** files baseless sexual harassment charges against THE PRIMARY SOURCE. Apparently she sees no difference between the Bill of Rights and a **janitor's washrag**... Tell her about it: SLAM special helper **Ariana Flores** pens a vitriolic Opinion decrying student "apathy." *Buenos dias, Ari*: we're not **apathetic**, we *disagree with you*.

☞ Predictions: **Ruben Salinas Stern** and Rita Moreno present an updated *West Side Story* in Cohen. The Sharks win, Bernardo is sent to **sensitivity training**, and **Officer Krupke** is reprimanded for racial profiling... **TFA** gets the night back and isn't sure what to do with it now that all the guys are gone... SLAM buys some nice **sweatshirts**... Tasteful.

☞ THE ELEPHANT never forgets.



*Will Tufts ignore the injustices of Fidel Castro
and finance his bloody regime?*

Condoning Castro's Killing

by Michael J. Fortes

Walk around the Tufts campus and you will see countless signs asking students to join or lend support to groups fighting for social justice. Ironically, many of these very students who tout justice may soon be traveling to Cuba over winter break on a trip sponsored by the Latino Center and the office of Tufts president, Lawrence Bacow. Cuba is a nation with a deplorable human rights record. Its people have suffered under the totalitarian regime of Fidel Castro for over forty years. One man has murdered and tortured thousands in the name of "the revolution."

Unfortunately, the public is ignorant to the harsh repression of Castro's regime. To them, Cuba is the source of good cigars and great baseball players. Those who have visited say they found Cuba exotic, with beautiful beaches, gorgeous palms, and fascinating architecture. They see only what Castro lets them, however, and they accept it at face value. They drink rum on the beach, spend money at the clubs, and leave the nation content and oblivious to Castro's well-oiled machinery of repression.

The denial of basic human and civil rights is written into Cuban law. Armed forces and government organizations silence dissidents with the threat of hefty prison terms, forced labor, harassment, or torture. I know this not only because it is well documented by numerous organizations, but because of the experiences of my own mother and father.

Mr. Fortes is a junior majoring in International Relations.

My mother, Maria, was born to Juan and Oneida Vidal. Her father was an educated man, who received his PhD from the University of Havana. He taught at a university in Guantanamo and a Catholic school and was also involved in politics. During the revolution, my grandfather's brother fought on the side of Castro's forces, but once he realized Castro's future plans,

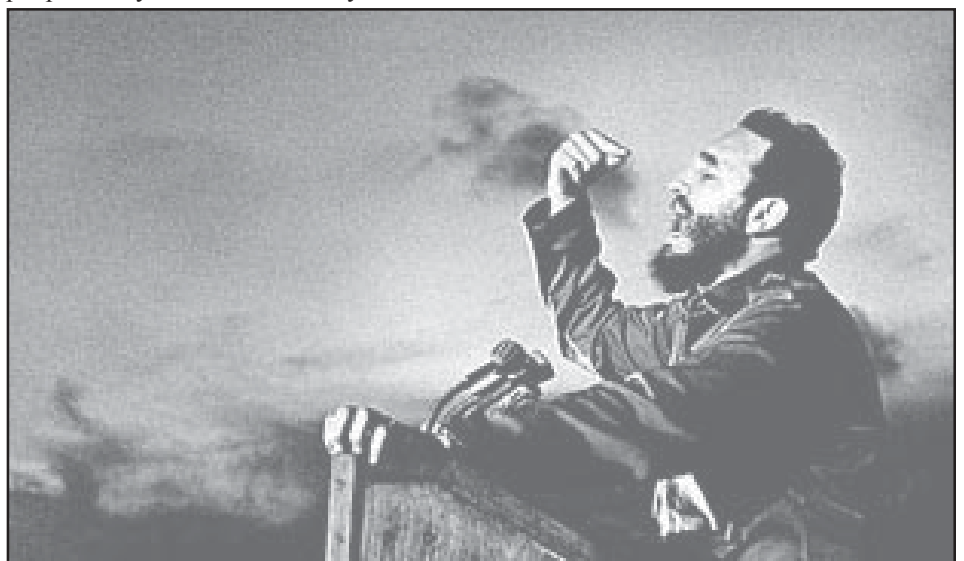
he defected and fled Cuba to settle in New York City. This was his only option; if he were ever discovered, Castro's forces would have killed him. My grandfather remained in Cuba to speak against Castro and organize opposition movements. The communists realized that he could potentially be a dangerous man since he was educated, respected, and had the ability to organize people. They decided to raid my mother's

home, capture my grandfather, and send him to prison.

A friend overheard these plans and told Vidal to go into hiding, and so he fled to the other side of the island. "They used to barge into our house at any time armed with guns and rifles demanding to know where my father was," my mother recalls. The raids continued for some time, but eventually the communist party gave up. After several months, Vidal returned home, now jobless since the university where he taught had expelled him. The communists also shut down the Catholic school where he taught. For two years my grandfather supported the family by clandestinely tutoring students in his home. "They entered the home through the back so as not to be seen," said my mother. "Each block had what was called a G2 family. It was their job to watch everything that happened on the block: who came, who left, what time people left for their job, and what time the lights turned on and off in each home. They were to report any suspicious activity to the communist party." The identity of the G2 family was usually kept secret, but in this case Vidal's family knew who they were. The G2 family had been friends of my grandfather, so when they found out about the secret tutoring, they did not report it.

Castro also cracked down on religious rights. Churches were converted into government offices. Despite this religious persecution, priests gave mass at other locations. Mobs would gather outside and yell to disrupt the services. The state indoctrinated children to put their faith in Castro rather than God. "They would gather the

They drink rum on the beach, spend money at the clubs, and leave the nation content and oblivious to Castro's well-oiled machinery of repression.



Tufts is sponsoring a trip to Cuba; will our funds end up in Castro's pockets?

children and tell them to ask God for candy; we would and of course we wouldn't get any," my mother explained. "Then they would make us ask Castro for candy. Upon doing so we would be showered by candy." Eventually Castro eliminated more freedoms. The celebration of Christmas was abolished, as were other holidays, until eventually the practice of religion was illegal.

President Lyndon Johnson's administration established the "liberty flights." These allowed Cuban-Americans to bring family members still in Cuba to the United States. My grandfather's brother claimed my mother's family. My grandfather received a telegram explaining the situation; it stated that they must leave within 24 hours. Once in the USA, the once highly-respected professor had to work three jobs to support his wife, daughter and three sons. He refused to take welfare. Yet he saved money and eventually earned both a BA and a Master's in Education and became a teacher. My mother also earned a Master's degree and became a teacher. "We knew the value of education and how important it was to get ahead," she explains.

My father, Juan Fortes, and his family endured similar hardships in Cuba. His parents died while he was young so his grandfather, Juan Muniz, raised him and his sister. Muniz was born into poverty, but saved money and became a businessman who eventually acquired several businesses, plantations, and ranches. "He was a very respected man, all the people in the town knew his name," says my father. "He was also a very religious and decent man as well. Workers would come to his house and explain that they needed extra money to fix their house or to pay medical bills, and he would selflessly give them what they needed. He would look after their kids if they wanted him to and would throw parties for them." This all changed under Castro.

Once Castro came to power, all property was abolished. Communists would show up and take what they needed, be it a truck or a building. Aware of the coming disaster, Muniz urged his son and his son's wife to purchase visas to leave the country with my father and

his sister. The government, however, would only issue visas for the married couple and my father, so his sister had to stay behind.

Muniz watched helplessly as his property was seized. One of his daughters, Miriam, then in her early twenties, was an outspoken anti-Castro rebel. The communist party took Miriam to a state prison, where she was

tortured. The communists used all sorts of torments, including Chinese water torture. Weakened and physically ruined by torture and sickness, she died in prison. And when her grieving parents asked for her body in order to give their daughter a proper burial, the communists refused. They took her body, removed the internal organs, stuffed it with sawdust, and buried it without telling her parents of the burial. Heartbroken by the fate of their daughter and the loss of all their possessions, Muniz and his wife died shortly after. Only later did other family members find the daughter's body and discover her grisly tomb.

Stories like those of my family are not uncommon in Cuba. Many tales are worse.

Castro ordered his agents to go house-to-house and apprehend all males that he deemed "the scum of society." Gays, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, and

members of other Protestant sects fit this description. They were then taken to police stations and given two options: sign a confession and be sent to a concentration camp, or refuse to confess, be taken to prison and be tortured. The concentration camps were built in the same style as those of Hitler, minus the crematoriums. Prisoners of the camps were tortured and forced to perform hard labor. Many died from hunger and disease, and some committed suicide rather than live under such conditions.

Cubans today face similar conditions. "Political dissidents" are routinely sent to

prison to be tortured. People lack basic living necessities, such as medicine, soap, clothing, and food. Many claim the American embargo is to blame for these shortages, but this too is a lie. Even without the embargo, the people would suffer; that is how Castro maintains his power. Castro, not the embargo, is the problem. Wearing as much clothing as she could, my grandmother made a trip to Cuba to visit her sister still living there. The extra clothing she wore was to be given to her sister, who had nothing. After returning from her trip, my grandmother suffered severe depression from witnessing the conditions to which Castro subjects the Cuban people.

"When it comes to tourism the situation is similar to apartheid," explains my father. "The government doesn't allow [Cubans] to be on the same beaches as tourists." To believe that Cuba is exotic is to believe a lie. Before Castro, Cuba was very much like the United States. My father grew up watching "The Lone Ranger" and "Zorro" on TV (dubbed in Spanish, of course). My mother sang along with Elvis and drank Coca-Cola. Fords and Chevrolets cruised down the streets. Cuba was nothing more than an island 90 miles from Florida.

Today Cuba is in shambles. Rusty Fords from the 1950's are still regularly found struggling down the street. The infrastructure has

not seen any renovations. Tourists find Cuba exotic because they are transported to the past. The situation, however, only shows that there has been no advancement

since Castro's rise to power.

A Tufts-sponsored trip to Cuba is an outrage. I urge Tufts students to reject such a trip. American dollars spent there will only help repress the people who have already suffered under Castro's iron fist. "People ask me why I haven't gone back to see the land of my birth," my mom says. "They ask me, don't you want to see the beaches and palm trees? I tell these people that I made a promise that I will only go back to a Cuba that is free, where people have the right to live how they want to and can leave if they so choose." □

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Muniz watched helplessly as his property was seized. One of his daughters, Miriam, then in her early twenties, was an outspoken anti-Castro rebel. The communist party took Miriam to a state prison, where she was tortured.

Pinkos! Make your October especially scary with...

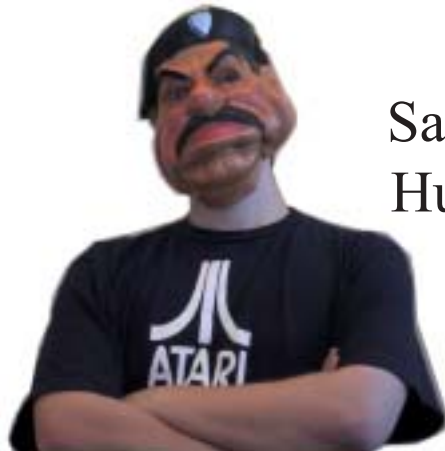
LEFTIST HALLOWEEN COSTUMES!



An indigenous person—noble savages, every one of them.



Liz Ammons mask—you too can decry American imperialism—for a budget price! Mindless jingoism sold separately.



Saddam Hussein—savior of starving Iraqi children.



Aborted fetus—just like ghosts and skeletons, it's not alive. But it never was, really!

Hooded sweatshirt/ bandana combo—protects against tear gas, and good for concealing your identity.



Men (*and* women!) of the right need not feel left out! CONSERVATIVE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES!



Jesse Helms— like your Grandpa, but scarier!



Christopher Columbus— bringer of all things enlightened. Blankets included.



Mumia Abu-Jamal's charred body— well done.



Wife Beater— They're not "tank tops" to us!



Pile of rubble — scary to Afghans, at least.

In order to defeat terror, America must first win an ideological battle with its own citizens.

The First Shots Fired

by Aaron Clift and Joshua Martino

As the world enters the second week of the war on terrorism, American and British bombers have successfully destroyed much of the Taliban's military infrastructure. Now that the United States has established air supremacy over Afghanistan, it faces the challenge of infiltrating the country, dismantling the Taliban regime, and capturing Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Most Americans have never asked themselves if they have the resolve to endure a prolonged armed conflict, but older

Americans may find the current situation to be similar to the days following the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. Two days after the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt told a shaken United States, "We must face the fact that modern warfare . . . is a dirty business." He wisely added that although "we don't like war," to win "we're going to fight it with everything we've got." Roosevelt's words are especially relevant today. If America hopes to make the world safe from terrorism, it must whole-heartedly commit itself toward winning the first battle of what promises to be a long war.

The most important support for military action in Afghanistan must come from the people of the United States. Fortunately, the majority of Americans support retaliation against the Taliban. Frank Newport, editor-in-chief of the *Gallup Poll*, said in a recent interview with CNN that his organization "has reviewed over 10 polls that . . . have consistently found that about 9 out of 10 Americans support military actions against

*Mr. Clift is a junior majoring in Music.
Mr. Martino is a senior majoring in English.*

those responsible for the attacks."

Despite this overwhelming support, a small minority of Americans insist that the military response against Afghanistan is either morally wrong or will not adequately address the problem of terrorism. Tufts sophomore Emily Good is typical of those who morally object to the bombings. In an

October 16th *Daily Viewpoint*, Good wrote that "the minute we began bombing, we abandoned the moral high ground and abandoned our claims of righteousness." Some go further and

claim that the United States' actions in Afghanistan are "imperialist."

The moral objectors to the war fail to realize several important points. The September 11th attacks on the United States were nothing short of war. Just as Roosevelt was correct to respond to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States must use force against the perpetrators of last month's attacks. Indeed, Afghani civilians will be killed accidentally during this campaign. This is an unavoidable and tragic side effect of warfare. Anti-war advocates like Good do not understand that America's goal, unlike that of the terrorists, is to avoid killing civilians. In addition, Emily and her ilk

If America hopes to make the world safe from terrorism, it must wholeheartedly commit itself toward winning the first battle of what promises to be a long war.

offer no feasible plan for bringing the terrorists to justice without a fight.

Despite their objections to this war, the conflict has given Marx groupies, multiculturalists, and petty bourgeois rebels ample opportunity to rage against the United States. We've read their views in *Daily Viewpoints* decrying American imperialism. And we've witnessed them first-hand at the rally for SLAM, where a student wore an anti-USA tee shirt.

There's no reason for this hatred, but it burns in the bellies of American radicals and Islamic fundamentalists alike. Two months ago, American radicals denounced President Bush's "isolationism" and America's failure to support peace and justice around the globe. Now we're fighting terrorism, and the same folks call this "interventionism" morally indefensible.

Gary Leupp does not like America. And once *Daily* readers finished giggling and guffawing at the history professor's claim to be a "patriotic, flag-loving American," they found his hatred to be self-evident. Leupp makes the following generalization: "The U.S. government has backed so many Pinochets, Fujimoris, Mobutus, Francos, Caetanos, Shahs, Suhartos, Marcoses... U.S. support for tyrants is the norm, and people resent that." There is never a bad reason for Americans to consider the vast wrongdoings of the United States. But if there were, Leupp might have found it. For he is one of many who allege that America's political blunders, and the



Many flags will be burned in the Middle East in the next few months; the friends of terror despise America and her allies .

hatred they have sown overseas, caused the attacks on September 11th. They say the US ought not bomb those whom we caused to despise us.

They may be correct in noting our mistakes spawn this hatred, but to demand a reexamination of American foreign policy in lieu of a military campaign against terrorism is absurd. There is no political response to an attack by those who do not practice politics. Osama bin Laden's loathing for America has turned a millionaire

into a terrorist renegade with a life's mission: destroy the United States. How are we to negotiate with a man who describes Jews as a plague and Americans as "a great Evil?" Neither bin Laden nor any Al Qaeda spokesperson has cited specific

political actions as impetus for the attack. Bin Laden has made threats to Israel and references to the suffering of Iraqi children, so one can assume he is against Zionism and the sanctions. But politics do not compel men to commit mass murder; hatred and insanity do. And no Leupp-led apology for sponsoring the Shah, Pinochet, and Mobutu would have kept bin Laden from his mission.

There is no political defense to bigotry, which is bin Laden's motivation. He has executed history's greatest hate crime. Admit it, peaceniks: there are occasions

where the government must go to war. The Constitution compels our government to "insure domestic Tranquility [and] provide for the common defense." The time for a soul-searching reexamination of politics is not now. After this unwanted war, which protest-hungry nostalgic leftists shamefully compare to Vietnam, *then* let's examine the complex reasons for anti-Americanism. We ought not to discount any viewpoint in detecting what we did wrong. For now, however, let's focus on what

we're doing right: wiping terrorists from the globe lest they destroy us first.

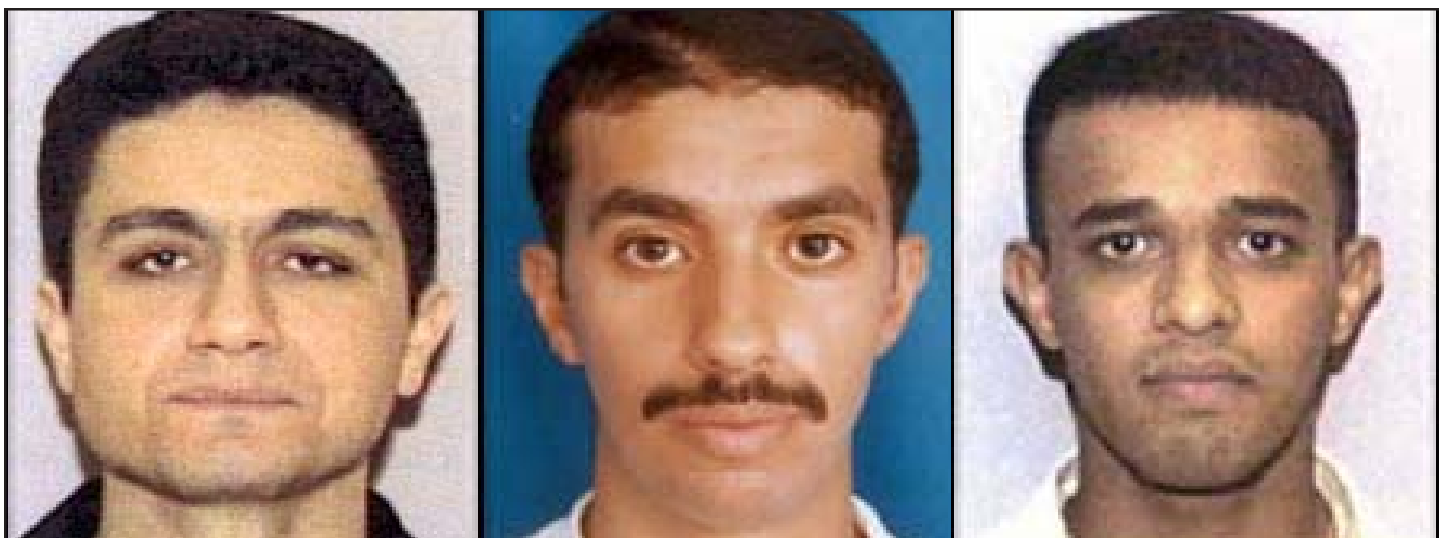
Besides the small contingent of people who oppose military action on moral grounds, some anti-war activists claim that military action will

not end the threat of terrorism. These people are not totally incorrect. Even supporters of war, such as William F. Buckley, Jr., editor of *National Review*, concede that "something more than the head of bin Laden is required to short-circuit the grid that binds the terrorists in their envious, fanatical designs on the free world." However, those who claim that the current military campaign is a wasted effort because it cannot destroy the roots of terrorism fail to take into account that the effort to capture bin Laden and destroy the

Taliban is only the first part of a larger war against terrorism. Any student of history knows that to win a long war, a country must first win several important battles. If the US and her allies beat the Taliban, they will have won a crucial battle in the war against terrorism.

Assuming that the first major battle against terrorism is won, what is the next step? After World War II, America prevented Germany and Japan from reverting to authoritarian regimes by significantly rebuilding the economic infrastructure of the devastated countries. The United States could take a similar approach in Afghanistan, perhaps working with other Middle Eastern nations in order to ensure that the country is ruled by a democratic government. Though Bush at the beginning of his presidency stated he was against "nation-building," current circumstances suggest that this may be the best course of action in Afghanistan. Finally, the United States should continue to be the world leader in promoting free trade and capitalism. Though it will obviously be a long time before developing countries possess the same standard of living as the developed world, the sooner that the citizens reap the rewards of free world, the less likely they will be swayed by the anti-Western rhetoric of terrorists. Though this new war will not be easy, we must persevere. We should remember the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt and realize that today, as in 1941, the free world is "fighting to maintain the right to live . . . in freedom, in common decency, [and] without fear of assault." □

There is no political defense to bigotry, which is bin Laden's motivation. He has executed history's greatest hate crime. Admit it, peaceniks: there are occasions where the government must go to war.



These men are not politicians. Therefore their comrades should not be treated like diplomats; they deserve a criminal's death.

Another Fish in the Sea

by Robert Lichter

While The Tufts Feminist Alliance rallies annually to “take back the night,” other feminists are more concerned with preventing violence performed by women that denies a whole lifetime to aborted children.

Feminists for Life (FFL) is a national organization distinguished from the National Organization for Women (NOW) on one issue: abortion. NOW tells women that

For its pro-life efforts, Feminists for Life is worthy of praise; for its white-knuckled grip on liberal psychology, it is not.

the option to abort empowers them by giving them control over their bodies. On the other hand, Susan B. Anthony, along with other dead feminists, was pro-life, and would, therefore, agree with FFL’s stance that society must grant power to both the mother and the unborn child by opposing abortion. It is important that FFL presents the argument that true feminism does not support abortion, since NOW feminists would likely dismiss it if it came from a group detached from “feminism.” (After all, only feminists care about women, right?) However, aside from this famously conservative departure from feminism, FFL brings most of the same liberal “ms.-information” to the table.

There was a true need for awareness in the United States regarding women’s rights earlier last century. Equality under the law, as secured by the 19th amendment and similar feminist successes, is the only issue meriting social concern. How many cents a woman makes to a man’s dollar

should only matter to businesses looking for cheap labor. In an efficient market, when women are paid less than they are worth by one company, a second business will gladly pay them more, thereby increasing

their profits as well as making the women better off. The Equal Pay Act is counter to the best interest of a free market by unnecessarily raising the cost of employment, which should reflect the true value of the employees.

Similarly, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA), which forces businesses who offer sick leave to extend the policy to include pregnant women, is another impediment to the free market. More importantly, the PDA distorts the proper view of pregnancy by comparing it to illness. Workers are given sick days as protection from the random chance of being sick. No firm should be forced to retain employees who go out of their way to contract an

illness. Likewise, they should not be forced to employ women who require leave as a result of choosing to bear children. Corporations should respect mothers since children and families are crucial to a healthy society, but being paid while childbearing is not a right—it is a privilege.

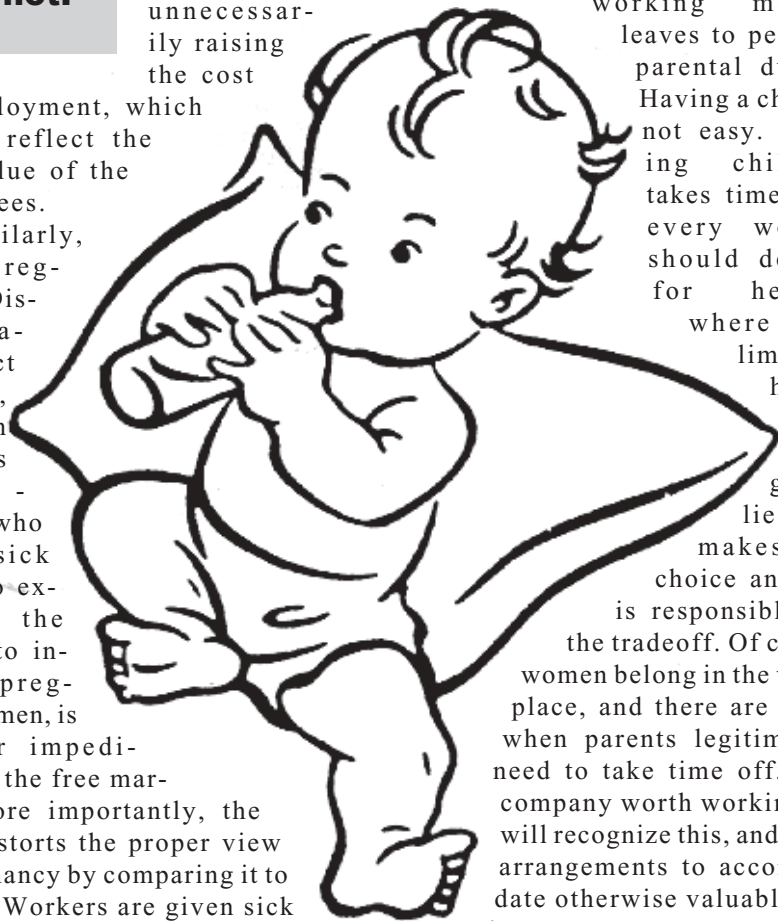
The members of FFL, like their NOW sisters, support both Acts because they, too, see woman’s role as that of the victim. And the pro-life ladies want to create more policies that allow women to reconcile “their often-conflicting roles as caregivers and breadwinners.” If circumstances prevent a family from raising children while achieving career goals, parents have to choose. Why should a single mother get leave, childcare benefits, and other goodies? A woman who chose not to start a family and concentrated solely on her career gets nothing and perhaps even has to take

up the slack when the working mother leaves to perform parental duties. Having a child is not easy. Raising children takes time, and every woman should decide for herself

where the limits on her career goals lie. She

makes the choice and she is responsible for the tradeoff. Of course women belong in the workplace, and there are times when parents legitimately need to take time off. Any company worth working for will recognize this, and make arrangements to accommodate otherwise valuable employees.

Attempting to guarantee people what they want by law, however, does not resolve societal



Mr. Lichter is a sophomore majoring in Quantitative Economics and Mechanical Engineering.

issues. This is a fact to which FFL remains blind. They campaign for affordable housing, flexible work schedules, and government childcare. It would be convenient if these perks existed, but the reality is that such guarantees would produce a moral hazard. If families were promised the necessities for child-raising, what incentive would they have to be responsible and to attempt to secure those resources on their own? If a fish chooses to spawn *sans* bicycle, then she should also be able to provide for two without additional help.

Since many abortions are performed on college women, FFL has a College Outreach Program. They focus on encouraging pregnant students to give birth to their children, a laudable goal. (FFL reports the birth rate at one northeastern college to be just 6 of 300, a mere 2 percent.) Unfortunately, FFL also pleads for more “campus resources for pregnant and parenting students.” Again, the moral hazard. University subsidized pregnancy support for students is not the solution, particularly since it is a drain on most schools’ already finite and stretched resources. It would be more appropriate to explain to students the responsibilities of parenting, as well as the pain and gore of abortion, which accompany even the oh-so-convenient RU-486. Students should be educated so they do not make poor life choices about pregnancy.

American feminists need to hold a victory party and acknowledge that the inequities of the past are today largely extinct. Then they ought to move on to help women who are truly oppressed, for example those in third world nations like Afghanistan, where women are considered inherently inferior. Abortion should be argued as a solely moral issue, without things like the PDA as default backup. While FFL is not as bad as the alternative, it is still a liberal organization, complete with all the economically skewed liberal thinking. For its pro-life efforts, FFL is worthy of praise; for its white-knuckled grip on liberal psychology, it is not. □

books

The CEO of the Sofa

by P.J. O'Rourke

Atlantic Monthly Press, \$25.00, hardcover

ISBN 0-87113-825-5

I was just going to say, when I was interrupted...

“Nobody interrupted you,” said Josh.

It’s a literary reference to a book I’ve never read, I said.

“You are just doing this to pad column inches.”

Possibly. Anyhow, as I was just going to say, when I was interrupted, never suggest to anyone else that you are “well-read.” It’s even dangerous to let yourself believe it, because you’re just setting yourself up for a fall when someone inevitably names a “classic” that you have never heard of. Like I’m going to right now. Ever read The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table by Oliver Wendell Holmes? If so, contact me care of the SOURCE because you deserve to write this book review more than I do. P.J. notes that Autocrat “was, for half a century, one of the best-loved and most-reprinted American books.” And I didn’t read it in high school? Must be because

Holmes was white. In any case, P.J. liked the book—a collection of columns presented as monologues by the autocrat with interruptions from various characters throughout—to the point that he ripped it off for his latest endeavor, The CEO of the Sofa.

CEO follows a year in the life of P.J., a year spent in the living room creating an ever-deepening hindprint on the davenport, sipping martinis, and lecturing random passersby on topics from the UN to India to Social Security. Writers have a specific name for this type of literary endeavor: “throwing a whole bunch of old articles together and calling it a book so I can sell them again.”

“Chris, are you criticizing P.J. O’Rourke? Didn’t we give him our Lifetime Achievement Award a year ago?” said Sam.

Precisely, I said. That’s why he’s starting to slack off now. But as I was just going to say, O’Rourke does much more with his

compilation than most authors do, since he’s cleverly worked each of his articles into one unifying narrative, told via characters of varying fictionality. *I’m completely made up*, he warns in the acknowledgements. Even so, the quality of the book varies with the humor quotient of the articles themselves. Things start off rather slow, but by the middle of the book, Peej is at his quotable best, sounding off on modern popular culture in his “Who the F— Are These People?” list:

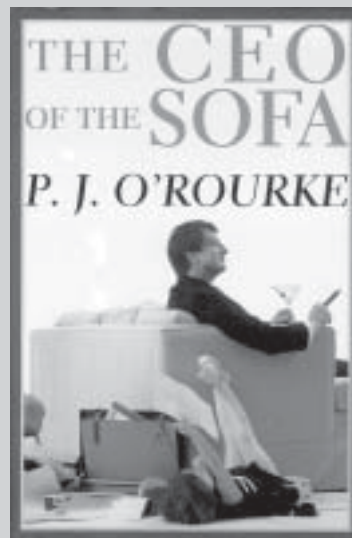
- On Leonardo DeCaprio: “Enormous heartthrob among females who have issues with male secondary sexual characteristics.”
- On rap: “A form of music created by one performer shouting obscenities in a singsong voice while other performers torture a cat and throw garbage cans down a flight of stairs.”
- On Britney Spears: “Former cast member of a postmodern *Mickey Mouse Club* apparently broadcast from a different planet than the one

occupied by Annette Funicello.”

“Now *she* was well-endowed,” said the Offensive Nut who was laying out our special section, *Attractive Girls of the Far Left*, but scrapped it when he couldn’t find any pictures.

As an accomplished automobile journalist and alcoholic, O’Rourke is at his best when he sounds off on both at the same time. *Proper use of antifreeze can also help. Alcohol is effective as an antifreeze. Gin has alcohol in it. So does vermouth.* And of course, politics—the reason to read P.J. Is he as gut-burstingly funny as Dave Barry? No. But you can actually learn something other than booger jokes by reading O’Rourke’s books. I wouldn’t recommend starting with CEO, though. Go read Eat The Rich or Parliament Of Whores first, and if you’re hooked, you can come back to CEO of the Sofa later. □

— Chris Kohler



When the government comes a' knocking, let your pump-shottie do the talking.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Bill of Rights

by Andrew Gibbs

America is a country steeped in a rich heritage of liberty, more so than any other nation in the history of the world. Above all else, this is what the people of America must fight to protect. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, and at no time is this more crucial than at home during a war. American armed forces are in a foreign land at this moment risking life and limb to preserve this freedom. At the same time, American citizens must stand

In light of the recent and ongoing attacks it is obvious that security requires substantial augmentation. Policy makers, however, might consider adding some common sense and intestinal fortitude.

guard against the inexorable curtailment of their liberties. Failure to do so invalidates the sacrifices of these soldiers. Admittedly, over the years America has significantly improved the preservation of liberties in times of crisis. There is, however, still room for substantial improvement as recent events have revealed.

Typically the erosion of civil liberties occurs at a trickle. Take them away gradually and the average citizen does not notice. Times of crisis, however, offer the government the opportunity to snatch broad, sweeping powers. The aftermath of recent terrorist attacks has made this painfully evident. Doubtless a certain amount of police power is necessary or crime fighting would be completely ineffectual. On the other hand, while treating everyone like a criminal may expedite justice for criminals, it violates the rights of every citizen. This is not a justifiable cost. The Fourth Amendment exists for a reason.

Several of the terrorists involved in the attacks on the WTC and Pentagon were in

Mr. Gibbs is a senior majoring in Computer Science.

America on student visas. It is quite feasible that funding for the attacks flowed through these student accounts. Accordingly, it is quite reasonable that law enforcement officials should target individuals who had close ties to the known perpetrators. These investigations, however, must be limited to these individuals and not elevated to broad categorizations. A multitude of universities across America have provided federal inves-

tigatory agencies with confidential student information. Requests for information from specific students who are under suspicion are easily justifiable. Unfortunately, the divulgence of information from universities has not been limited to such cases. A substantial number of universities released confidential student information simply on the grounds of the student being on a visa, participating in a particular program, or even belonging to a particular ethnicity. According to a survey of about 1200 colleges by the American Association of College Registrars and

investigatory agencies with confidential student information. Requests for information from specific students who are under suspicion are easily justifiable. Unfortunately,

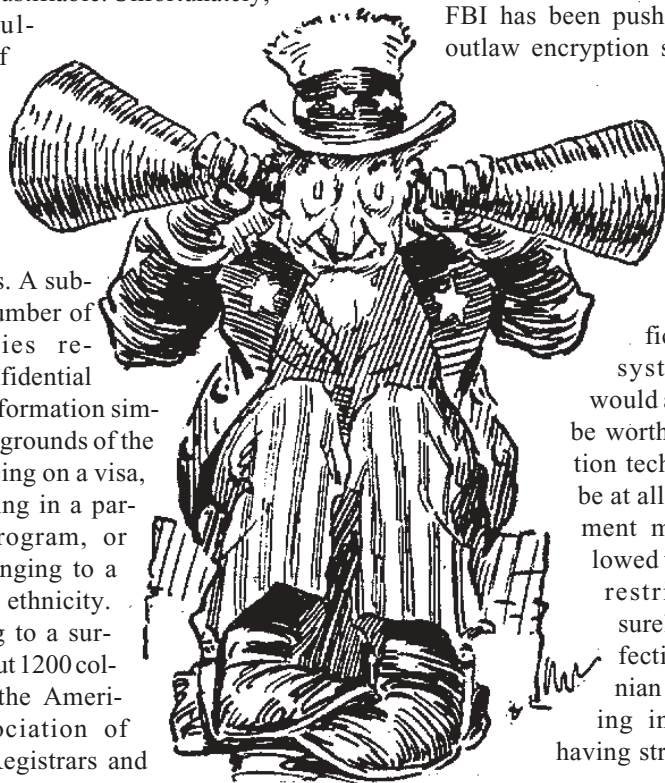
the divulgence of information from universities has not been limited to such cases. A substantial number of universities released confidential student information simply on the grounds of the student being on a visa, participating in a particular program, or even belonging to a particular ethnicity. According to a survey of about 1200 colleges by the American Association of College Registrars and

Admissions Officers (AACRAO), only five percent of schools that handed over such information did so because of court subpoenas. Whatever happened to probable cause?

Eager for some sloppy seconds with the Fourth Amendment, enemies of civil liberties are hot on the trail of digital encryption. In 1991, the government harrassed computer scientist Phillip Zimmerman for the creation and purveyance of the Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) encryption technology. This technology allows for essentially unbreakable encryption so long as one keeps his private encryption key safe, a capability of which the US government is none too fond. The government claimed that doing so violated export restrictions on munitions. At one point the shenanigans came to the point when distributors of the technology hosted downloads only in foreign countries so the "munitions" could only be imported to America. Of course, by this time, the technology had already spread throughout the globe, protecting the data and lives of millions. Whether it has been protecting the intellectual property and privacy of Americans or saving lives in other countries by keeping genocidal military regimes from ethnic data, unbreakable encryption has proved itself to be one of the most important technologies in the world. Governments hate for such powerful tools to be in the hands of average citizens. The

FBI has been pushing for ages to outlaw encryption systems that do

not provide a key escrow mechanism in which law enforcement agencies could decrypt encrypted traffic at will. Such a system, however, would almost certainly be worthless. If encryption technologies are to be at all useful, government must not be allowed to meddle. Such restrictions would surely be no more effective than draconian gun laws, resulting in only outlaws having strong encryption,



and the average Joe having his email read by the pervert down the street.

Certainly, in light of the recent and ongoing attacks, it is obvious that security requires substantial augmentation. Policy makers, however, might consider adding some common sense and intestinal fortitude. Put aside the debate of whether you may carry a pocketknife onto a plane for a moment and consider something even sillier. Go to one of the restaurants in an airport terminal.

Look by the bins of plastic forks and spoons. Take note of the third empty bin which has a sign on it that reads: "FAA regulations prohibit us from providing knives in the terminal.

Sorry for the inconvenience." Those knives cannot even cut an entrée let alone be used to hijack a plane. What's next? Will the FAA ban people with martial arts training from commercial flights? Just give the pilots and flight crew tasers, and see how effective a pocketknife becomes for hijacking purposes. Flying Northwest Airlines and want some artificial sweetener or powdered creamer for your coffee? Too bad it looks too much like anthrax.

Most disgraceful of all has been the one-week recess of the House of Representatives due to anthrax scares. This was the greatest American failure of late, and one of the biggest victories for terrorists; congratulations Osama, you have shut down the U.S. government, if only for a little while. Soldiers do not stop fighting when the bullets start flying; nor should government officials cower in the face of adversity. Give all the members of the House a bottle of Cipro and get them back in there. The show must go on.

Faith in the power of the individual has long served as the basis of American power. Such is the tenet of a capitalist society. The strength of the individual does not end, however, with business. The individual must play an active role in shaping govern-

ment and defending the nation. Such functions stem from the Constitution's First and Second Amendments, respectively.

Unpatriotic individuals may criticize the government, but criticism of the government does not entail being unpatriotic. Critical analysis of the government is one of the many checks and balances needed to keep it from snowballing out of control. It must be done, however, with appropriate restraint and timing. The Saudi royal who

talked about "addressing the roots of terrorism" while he was visiting New York and walking amongst the ashes of the tragedy got what he deserved when

Mayor Giuliani returned his \$10million check. Those who leak tactical military information and put American troops in danger because of their loose tongues ought to be crucified on the spot. Criticism of American governmental policy in general, however, is fair game.

As for decentralization of the defense of America, the Second Amendment serves the purpose quite well. Government, as much as it might like to be, cannot be everywhere. The answer is to empower the average citizen. Firearms training and private gun ownership have surged sharply in the weeks following the terrorist attacks. Recent years have seen liberals across America fighting to abolish Second Amendment rights, but in light of present circumstances it's unlikely many Americans will be dropping their guns.

The world was forever changed by the events of September 11th. Every American citizen's reality was utterly shattered on that day. The world that existed before the Eleventh exists no more. The struggle to return to normalcy will prove a long and arduous one, most of which still lies ahead. Crucial principles must not, however, be sacrificed on the alter of security along the way. America is a great and powerful nation *because* of its liberties, not in spite of them. □

Typically the erosion of civil liberties occurs at a trickle. Take them away gradually and the average citizen does not notice. Times of crisis, however, offer the government the opportunity to snatch broad, sweeping powers. The aftermath of recent terrorist attacks has made this painfully evident.

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The way to add security without trampling on the Constitution: allow airline passengers to carry knives.

Knives Out

by Jason Walker

In the wake of the September 11th massacre, big-government politicians have revived all manner of proposals to solidify the security of the nation by giving more authority to the federal government, on the dubious basis that the surrender of liberty *can* provide security. And, given the terrorists' manner of attack, the one industry that will no doubt suffer the most from government intervention in the near future is the

Terrorists who wished to recreate the attack of September 11th would have to think twice knowing that if even a fraction of passengers were armed, the terrorists would most likely be outnumbered.

airline industry. Already, proposals to federalize the security of the airlines are on the table, and some voices in Congress have even gone so far as to advocate nationalizing the entire industry so that the airlines will be able to offer the same sense of security and peace of mind as other government-operated monopolies such as the postal service. Only Representative Ron Paul (R-Texas), a former Libertarian candidate for President, has offered a solution that would strengthen security by taking government out of the picture: allow pilots to carry handguns.

The sense of this proposal is manifest, particularly in light of offers by the NRA and other groups to train pilots in the use of these weapons free of charge. Yet while Paul's proposal deserves full support, we can do better. Bluntly stated: time, energy, resources, lives, and liberty will be preserved if all passengers

were allowed to carry knives and swords on board all flights.

Counter-intuitive? You bet. Insane? Only if you are of the mindset that civilians should not be trusted to defend themselves. Consider that the terrorists who struck on September 11th succeeded in hijacking four planes with little more than *box cutters* despite being outnumbered ten to one. The passengers,

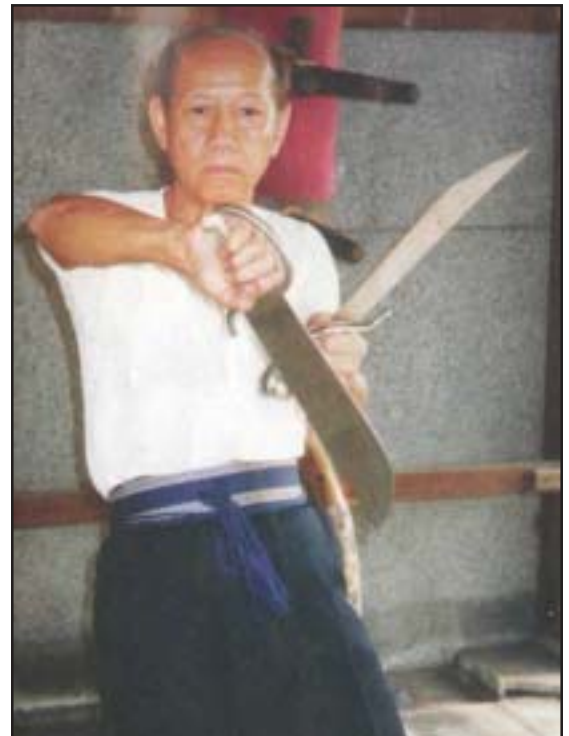
pilots, and crew had no means of defending themselves. Only the passengers of Flight 93 successfully overpowered the terrorists with their bare hands. As heroic as they were, consider how clumsy the struggle must have been against opponents armed with blades, and how despite their best efforts to wrest back control of the plane, they succeeded only in preventing the use of the plane as a missile. They still all lost their lives. We can do better than this. Arming passengers is one way to improve the odds.

The proper question here is not whether the government should allow passengers to carry knives, but rather, is the government justified in preventing it? The most basic human liberty is the right of self-defense. Even Thomas Hobbes, who believed in government-as-Leviathan in-

carnate, recognized that if the King's men were dispatched to execute a person, that person possessed the right to defend himself. This is a right that exists pre-social contract; no state may justly deprive one of it.

In principle, therefore, the government must in all cases recognize not only one's right to carry knives, but also one's right to carry arms as well, unless one has been convicted of a crime. But while the government may not prevent passengers from carrying guns, private airlines may, for practical considerations, restrict such weaponry based on the exercise of their property and liberty of contract rights. (Advocates of federal take-over of the airlines take note: a federalized airline would have no such right, any more than they would have rights to prohibit the exercise of free speech or conduct searches and seizures without a warrant.)

There are practical reasons why airlines might want to prohibit their passengers from carrying guns into the cabin. Pilots, air marshals, and flight attendants should always be better armed than the passengers. There are the consequences of a gun fired in the wrong direction: ricochets, broken windows, cabin decompression. Proper handling



"Mr. Atta, I'm afraid I'm going to have to ask you to take your seat."

Mr. Walker is a graduate student in Philosophy.

of a gun requires training in a way that knives do not.

The positive effects of allowing knives on board would be tremendous. Imagine how much government funding would be saved if new schemes and technologies being developed to detect even the tiniest of box-cutters were not necessary. Also consider the deterrence value. Terrorists who wished to recreate the attack of September 11th would have to think twice knowing that if even a fraction of passengers were armed, they would most likely be outnumbered.

I don't suggest this should be all that is done. Air marshals (preferably hired privately by airlines rather than provided by the government) should be on every flight, pilots should be able to carry guns (preferably special models developed for use on planes to reduce the risk of decompression), and flight attendants should be given stun guns, or if they request, guns and the requisite training. But the strongest defense of all would be the deterrence value offered by armed passengers. Even if a terrorist or other crook tries something stupid, they would not get far. Allowing knives would provide the greatest degree of security, be the cheapest to implement, and best of all, would be by far the friendliest to our liberty by not involving the government in our basic right to self-defense. □



"Please put your tray table in the upright position, sir!"

Farewell, *Observer*

by the editors

It is by now common knowledge that the *Observer*, Tufts' century-old Newspaper of Record, is no more. Two weeks from now—assuming their staff can get their collective act together by then—we will see the launch of a biweekly magazine dedicated to news analysis with an editorial slant. In other words, the *Observer* will become officially what it has been for decades.

The *Observer* has long been the political outlet for the indignant leftie, the garden-variety liberal Democrat, and of course the mushy-middle moderates, who have no politics and prove it in 800 words on a weekly basis. Of course, we're not talking the "Opinion" section here. This is on the front page. Yes, the *Observer* has a long and storied tradition of editorializing all over their news pieces—witness such above-the-fold delights as "Affirmative Action an Asset to Tufts" or, in their final newspaper-format issue, "New Trustee Reps Reflect Tufts' Diversity."

Moreover, the *Observer* has been in a serious slump—even for the *Observer*—in the past three semesters. Coming off of a particularly strong year under the leadership of Zach Bromer (editorials about feces notwithstanding), the *Observer* became "Tufts' Weekend Paper," abandoning any pretense of seriousness and focusing on "On The Town," pages full of scribbled student comics, and an "Opinion" page that served only as the mouthpiece of those too far to the left even to write news.

Since the inception of the *Tufts Daily* in 1980, the *Observer* has found itself obsolete. The paper was able to justify its existence by promising the whole story, meticulously researched and accurate—hence,

"Tufts' Newspaper of Record." Once everybody was finished laughing at that, they went back to producing the same mediocre product. And they still managed to scoop the *Daily* every week, prompting THE PRIMARY SOURCE to ask why two overlapping groups were allowed to coexist and drive each other's quality down. But when the *Daily*'s quality increased to the point where each daily issue was at least on the same level of mediocrity as your average weekly, the *Observer* truly became superfluous.

Or did it? As the *Daily* admitted in a gloating news piece and accompanying editorial this Friday, it was fear of getting scooped by the *Observer* that motivated the *Daily* to its current level of quality—"quality" being a relative term, as the *Daily* still cannot be bothered to get the names of the subjects of its stories correct, inform its headline writers what the stories are about, or jump articles to pages that actually exist. One shudders at the prospect of a *Daily* without an *Observer* to compete with.

But above all, this change in format should not be seen as the natural evolution of the publication. It is, for all intents and purposes, the throwing up of hands in defeat of a staff too small, too undedicated, and perhaps too bored to continue. But what will this change in format mean? SLAM and every other *cause du jour* will have to find a new outlet for free publicity if the "Opinion" section is axed. Worst of all is that tour guides will have to stop themselves from calling Tufts "the smallest university with both a daily and a weekly paper." And perhaps someone should notify the second-smallest university on that list that its time has finally come. □



See, He Told You So: A SOURCE Tribute to Rush Limbaugh

On October 9th, conservative talk show host and media icon Rush Limbaugh announced that he was going deaf. But the biggest mouth on political radio would not be silenced by the sudden onslaught of an inner ear disease. The voice of the Right will continue to sound off on his daily radio show—maybe even louder than before.

THE NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE RUSH LIMBAUGH

- We are born to action; and whatever is capable of suggesting and guiding action has power over us from the first.
- Obviously, we want to eliminate poverty, and there is the one method that has never been tried: tax it. The poor represent a promising new revenue stream. More money to the Treasury, and the lessening of poverty at the same time.
- Isn't this ironic? The Clinton War Room was to defend Clinton. The Bush War Room is to defend America.
- Feminism was established to allow unattractive women easier access to the mainstream.



Good Luck, Rush!

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

One of the greatest delusions in the world is the hope that the evils in this world are to be cured by legislation.

—Thomas B. Reed

The more corrupt the state, the more it legislates.

—Tacitus

Liberty is not a means to a political end. It is itself the highest political end.

—Lord Acton

There's no way to rule innocent men. The only power any government has is the power to crack down on criminals. Well, when there aren't enough criminals, one makes them. One declares so many things to be a crime that it becomes impossible to live without breaking laws.

—Ayn Rand

In order to get power and retain it, it is necessary to love power; but love of power is not connected with goodness but with qualities that are the opposite of goodness, such as pride, cunning, and cruelty.

—Leo Tolstoy

A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which he proposes to pay off with your money.

—G. Gordon Liddy

A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves.

—Edward R. Murrow

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free.

—P.J. O'Rourke

The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other.

—Ronald Reagan

The Constitution shall never be construed to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.

—Samuel Adams

Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest.

—Mahatma Gandhi

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

—William Pitt

Ask not what you can do for your country; ask what your government is doing to you.

—Joseph Sobran

The threat posed by humans to the natural environment is nothing compared to the threat to humans posed by global environmental policy.

—Fred Smith

The Constitution is not an instrument for the government to restrain the people; it is an instrument for the people to restrain the government—lest it come to dominate our lives and interests.

—Patrick Henry

The firm basis of government is justice, not pity.

—Woodrow Wilson

To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving peace.

—George Washington

When the mouse laughs at the cat, there is a hole nearby.

—Nigerian proverb

You can discover what your enemy fears most by observing the means he uses to frighten you.

—Eric Hoffer

Treat the bailiff with respect. He has a gun.

—Malcom Lewis

The government solution to a problem is usually as bad as the problem.

—Milton Friedman

To find out a girl's faults, praise her to her girl friends.

—Benjamin Franklin

Never give in—never, never, never, never, in nothing great or small, large or petty, never give in except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force; never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.

—Winston Churchill

People with courage and character always seem sinister to the rest.

—Herman Hesse

In difficult situations, when hope seems feeble, the boldest plans are safest.

—Livy

Intellectually I know that America is not better than any other country; emotionally, I know she is better than every other nation.

—Sinclair Lewis

The first requisite of a good citizen in this Republic of our is that he should be able and willing to pull his weight.

—Theodore Roosevelt

I shall know but one country. I was born an American; I live an American; I shall die an American.

—Daniel Webster