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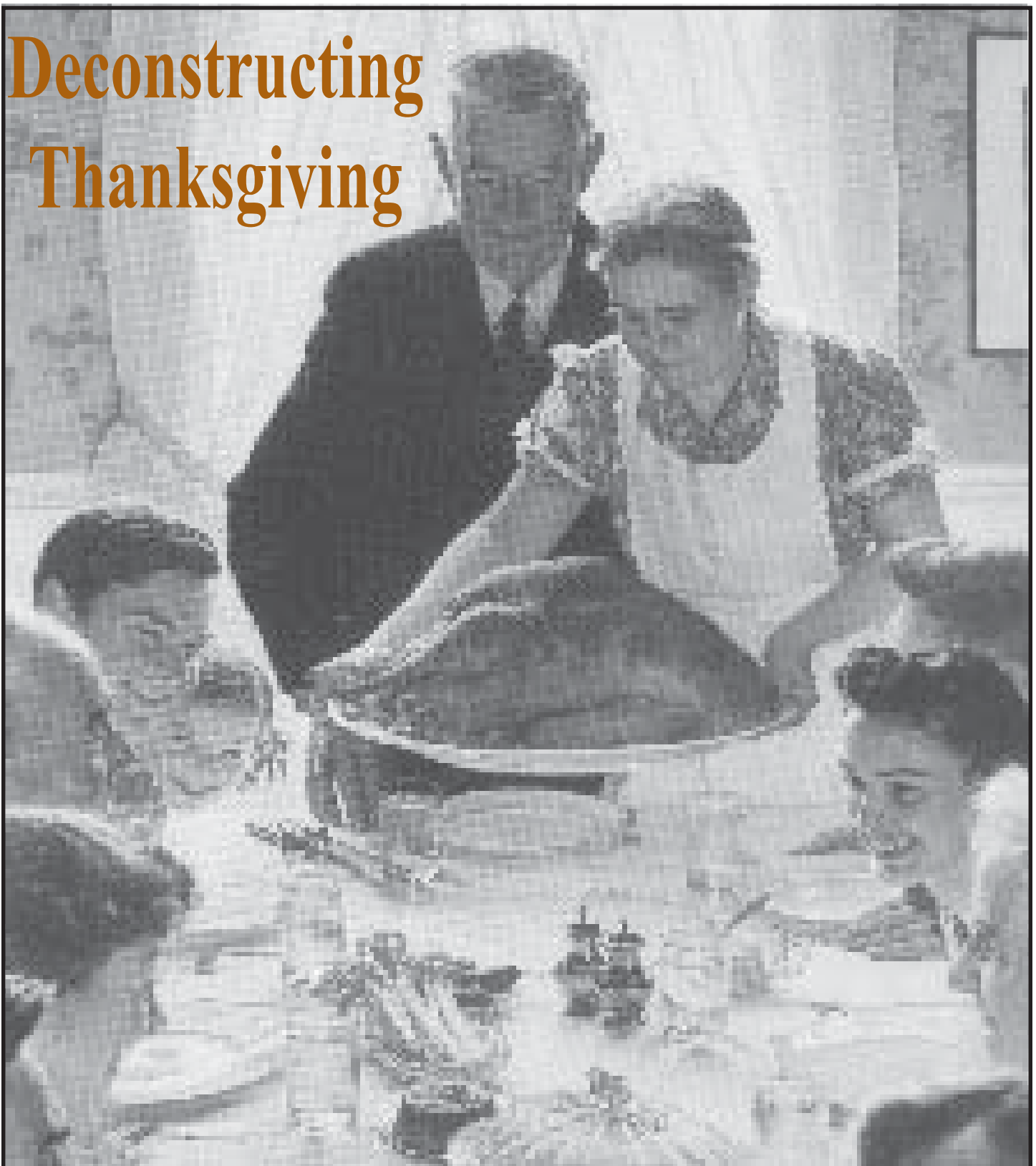
*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*SM

Volume XV Number 6

VERITAS SINE DOLO

November 21, 1996

Deconstructing Thanksgiving



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*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*SM

vol. XV no. 6

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Deconstructing Thanksgiving

Whom Do You Thank?

Other Fowls

Thanksgiving is a traditional American holiday celebrating the joys of production and prosperity.

It must be stopped.

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FROM THE EDITOR

Even though the Massachusetts senatorial race has concluded, the race's loser has not dropped out of the headlines. With much clamor about the Clinton administration seeking to stock its cabinet with Republican officials, Governor William Weld has secured himself a spot in the limelight. The Bay State Governor seems to have his eye on a particular spot, the one currently occupied by Janet Reno.

Although there has been much upheaval and turnover in the Clinton team since the election, Reno's position, that of Attorney General, remains taken. Weld is seemingly banking on rumors that the President seeks to dethrone Reno as punishment for her eager appointments of special prosecutors for the myriad Clinton scandals. There is a chance that the post is not open and the Governor's wandering eye will return home. There is also the possibility that truth exists in the Washington gossip factory.

If Clinton were to excommunicate his Waco-famed Attorney General, it would induce more scandal as the President's motive would prove obvious. Thus if Weld were a viable candidate for this seat, he would be assuming his position in a corrupt administration at the height of the media circus. Apparently this does not bother the Governor for he aspires to hold high office, not high principles. Furthermore, it is implicit that Clinton would only appoint a new crony whom he could be confident would not defect. Weld would necessarily have to assume a soft stance on the investigations to join the President's roster.

In a way it only seems appropriate as selling-out is not only part of Weld's political strategy, but character. He abandoned many items on the Republican agenda hoping to out-liberal John Kerry and usurp his junior Senate seat. He should have learned from his fleeting senatorial escapade that selling-out does

not win elections as he watched his lead drop to a deficit in the waning weeks of the campaign. Instead, Weld thinks success will come through compromising his beliefs more resolutely.

This is not a recent phenomenon or a desperate plea from a virtual lame duck governor who has affirmed that this is his last term on Beacon Hill. In 1992, Weld endorsed corporation crippling environmental regulations to curry favor with the media. Not long after that he began implementing his pro-gay public-school reform which now features gay-straight student alliances. More recently, he has come out in favor of gun control. Again, he issued this gesture not out of conviction, but longing for positive media attention.

Shedding more of his Republican skins to distinguish himself from the mean-spirited GOP, he has cooed over affirmative action. His preferential treatment sympathies are not unadulterated, though, as he set deliberate distance between himself and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas—an obvious political liability as an ally. Most egregiously, Weld teamed up with New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman in cheerleader fashion to support the President's morally unconscionable veto of the partial-birth abortion ban.

The only issue one could confidently declare that Weld has not buckled on is taxes. But the public generally lauds and appreciates politicians who spout rhetoric of tax-relief, so who knows if Weld stays true to his position on taxes out of principle or political ambition. Although for the most part Governor Weld has proven a good leader for his state, especially in comparison to his predecessor, perhaps Massachusetts would be better off if he packed his bags for the Beltway. Then they might get a Republican governor.

—JS

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I've read your publication many times over the past two years and I've understood the usual gist of your format. I thought you saved satire for your special section. As a member of Generation X, I can say that I have never played "country-club style golf," do not have "expensive vices like the Glenlivet and Dunhill cigars," and would not classify myself as a "lounge lizard." Perhaps these are hobbies of Mr. Delaney, but I feel he has grossly mischaracterized his generation. And since when do conservatives applaud vices, expensive or not? The Generation X with which I am familiar thrives on grunge and angst. I am sure that Eddie Vedder could afford a shirt that is not ripped but such attire is part of his Gen X appeal.

Mr. Delaney asserts that Gen X "evinces an affinity for the stratified society of yesteryear." While I hardly think this is true, Mr. Delaney apparently does not either as he writes shortly thereafter that "Xers have created social groups wherein the requirements for entrance go no further than likeness of interest and character—barriers created by class and race have thankfully deteriorated" and he also writes of "equal-opportunity" multiple times.

Don't hope to get honors in your major— "Glen Miller" has two n's.

Mark Blumberg,
Cambridge, MA

To the Editor:

Re: Colin Delaney's article concerning Dunhill cigars

Come on, man. Macanudos for your mild moments, Hoyo de Monterey for anything else.

Bryan Shelly, LA '97

Attention Readers!



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Commentary

The Last Resort

During freshman orientation, the Tufts Community Union Senate ran a voter-registration drive to encourage student participation in the electoral process. However, many students who registered through the TCU's program, in addition to drives conducted by other student groups, discovered on election day that their forms were not processed and their names were absent from the rolls. TCU Senator Stacey Delich affirms that she "personally made sure [the forms] got there on time, and if anybody wasn't able to officially vote, it was because of a screw-up after we turned them in." Although it would not be the first example of Senate incompetence if the TCU did not submit the forms, there exists no compelling reason to doubt Delich's claim. The magnitude of the offense thus becomes far more serious, and may teach Tuftonians an important lesson about government that no Political Science course can, or will, communicate.

The students turned away from the polls should be thankful that the only consequence of the government's ineptitude is an inability to cast their votes in the '96 election. Although the right to vote remains at the heart of the democratic system, these students will probably carry on with their lives as though nothing had occurred and quickly forget the folly. However, the same bureaucrats responsible for this gaffe control myriad other government services with far greater consequences on Americans' lives. The mishandled voter-registration forms could just as easily have been applications for medical treatment under a government health-care system, and the blunder would have cost innocent citizens their lives. In a free-market economy, where competing enterprises provide nearly all essential services, a similar lapse would harm nobody except the company responsible. Consumers would simply take their business elsewhere, since competition always provides wronged parties with a recourse. Before casting their ballots in the next election, Tuftonians who witnessed this government goof should consider just what recourses will remain available to them if they vote for more state controls.

Net Loss

All hell broke loose recently when *The New York Times* published transcripts of a tape recording in which two senior executives at Texaco, Inc. mocked black employees and threatened to destroy documents sought by plaintiffs in a pending discrimination case. The Reverend Jesse Jackson lost no time in mobilizing his posse to launch a boycott of the company in what he hysterically termed a corporate "pattern of racism," while the NAACP threatened a stock divestment campaign and a newspaper ad campaign criticizing Texaco.

Racism in any form, as Texaco Chairman Peter Bijur acknowledged, "must never be tolerated." Bijur's public apology

and suspension of the two executives involved should have been sufficient retribution for the content of the recording. But it wasn't enough to satisfy the bloodthirsty demagogue and his entourage, who call for more diversity and sensitivity training and a \$35 million committee to monitor the company's minority hiring progress. Ironically, these hollow measures serve only to foster the very separatism and resentment that perpetuate bigotry.

Jackson and the NAACP are clearly not as interested in racial justice as they are in exacting a twisted revenge upon whites through wealth redistribution. The boycott amounted to a blackmail in which Texaco had no choice but to offer the largest settlement ever in a discrimination suit, \$176 million. The payment included \$115 million to 1,400 black employees claiming to have been overlooked for promotions, and \$26.1 million in ten percent pay raises for all black workers. Never mind that the recipients of these funds experienced no harm from the incident in question. A federal court will oversee Texaco's implementation settlement over the next five years.

While \$176 million is no drop in the hat, the executives of the \$14 billion corporation will endure no significant losses; ironically, it's the consumer at the pump and the small-business owner behind the register that will suffer. According to Thomas West, associate vice president of the National Association of Texaco Wholesalers, the independent owners of 13,000 Texaco stations stand to lose the most from the boycotts, with no ramifications for the corporate executives Jackson supposedly targeted. Moreover,

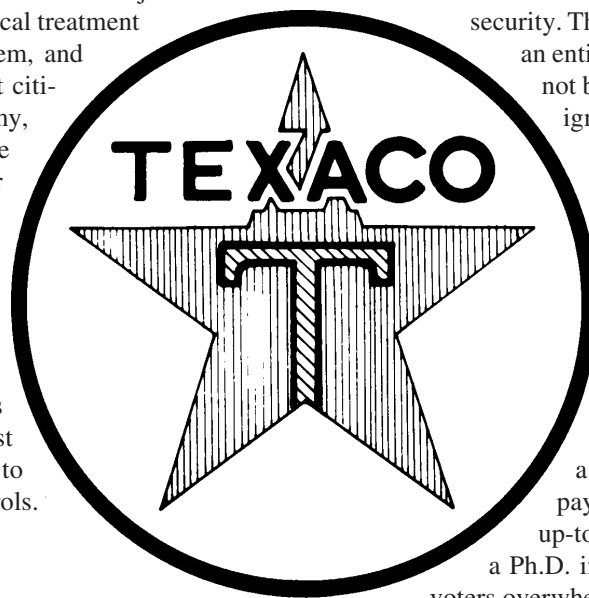
Texaco stock losses in recent weeks also threaten job security. The bottom line on this balance sheet is that an entire corporation, and its customers, should not be forced to pay an outrageous fee for the ignorant conduct of two individuals.

Right Direction

Tufts's Professor James Glaser harbors post-election delusions if he truly believes, as he stated at a Goddard Chapel forum, that Republicans retained the majority in Congress because "incumbents were very well protected." In fact, most were barraged with a \$35 million AFL-CIO onslaught, a taxpayer funded "Mediscare" campaign, and up-to-the-minute media bias. One doesn't need

a Ph.D. in Political Science to recognize that the voters overwhelmingly support the mandate outlined in Newt Gingrich's Contract with America and have clearly signaled the green light for its renewal.

House Republicans can best pursue this noble mission by rallying behind a Speaker whose commitment to honor and integrity remains unchallenged. Given that Gingrich's battle against largely unfounded charges of ethical misconduct (not to mention the media who have done all they can, unfortunately with moderate success, to tame Newt) stands to obstruct Congress's effectiveness, he would perform a great service to the nation by temporarily turning his post over to conservative statesman Henry Hyde. The Speaker's highly esteemed successor would offer no



less a commitment to conservative ideals than Gingrich himself, and would almost certainly solidify a strong Republican force powerful enough to conduct swift and thorough ethics hearings involving the Clinton administration.

All statesmen— not just House Republicans— owe it to the American people to cooperate in an investigation of this presidency if they hope to restore the office's traditionally high esteem. But otherwise upstanding Republican figures such as Colin Powell, William Weld, and Maine Senator William Cohen risk undermining this effort by flirting with the possibility of accepting positions within the politically unscrupulous Clinton Cabinet. Such self-serving participation would lend undue legitimacy to Clinton's personal misconduct and his administration's misguided commitment to government growth.

The President seeks Republican veterans like Bob Dole and Richard Lugar to serve on commissions in the contentious areas of Social Security and Medicare, no doubt hoping that the opposing party will act as a scapegoat for unpopular reductions, while Clinton will surely claim credit for any resultant reforms. It should surprise no one that the slick politician looks to Republicans to salvage his scandal-ridden record, even after taking credit for the achievements of a GOP congress with which he repeatedly refused to cooperate.

If nothing else, Professor Glaser can make safe, if hackneyed, predictions: "...Clinton is going to... attempt to work with the Republicans to have some accomplishments at the end of his term." But any real congressional accomplishments should embody the conservative agenda of fiscal responsibility and true government reform, not the incumbent's phony "bi-partisanship" rhetoric. Accordingly, Republicans must acknowledge that the greatest accomplishment will be the end of his term.

Campus Insecurity

Over the course of the past month, tensions between Tufts students and outsiders have intensified as a result of a series of violent incidents near Eaton, the Fletcher school, Boston Avenue, and Jackson Gym. Unsurprisingly, the University has responded in typical fashion with a string of useless committees, task forces, and regulations. The TCU Senate has even taken it upon itself to remedy the situation with a proposed Student-Faculty committee.

It is disingenuous to suggest that an undergraduate council composed almost entirely of underclassmen could redress serious crime problems. Debates about amendments and resolutions serve only to satisfy those discussing them, wasting everyone's time. The major concerns that have arisen this semester had nothing to do with blue light failures or the logistics of the safety shuttle, but had everything to do with poor protection.

Crime prevention is ultimately the responsibility of the Tufts University Police Department and its trained officers. Only the increased campus coverage of the TUPD can best ensure security. Unfortunately, while Jumbos are taking beatings, Tufts' officers are busy taking coffee breaks at Dunkin' Donuts and ticketing alleged parking violators. Until TUPD makes an effort to deter the violence, Tuftonians must make an effort to watch their backs.

Doctor Feelgood

Amid protests from the White House and California's notoriously uptight Attorney General Dan Lungren, the Golden State legalized the medical prescription of marijuana. After a Doonesbury comic strip treated the proposition favorably, Lungren liberally spouted his fire and brimstone before the television cameras. Cries about pot-smoking children resonated through even Republican circles, echoing the "Reefer Madness" hysteria of thirty years ago.

Curiously, Clinton's drug czar General Barry McCaffrey decried the proposition as "encouraging a Cheech-and-Chong drug policy." No one should find it surprising that this president's henchmen would seek to deny rational, suffering adults the same substance that Slick "I didn't inhale" Willie used for recreation. It should prove equally unsurprising that politicians from both sides of the aisle should speak out in favor of such blatant government

paternalism. Marijuana's effectiveness in relieving a suffering patient's pain boasts a mountain of anecdotal evidence; sadly, government interference with research in that area has thus far stifled empirical proof. Since the federal ban rests on nothing but convenient moralism and a desire to maintain control over individuals' lives, reasoning to the contrary finds little welcome from an intellectually and politically dishonest administration.

That government bureaucrats think the provisions of Proposition 215 should be a target in the media-adored yet unpragmatic War on Drugs is ludicrous. Moreover, one need not support legalizing drugs to back the measure. Seemingly, Washington regulars only tote out their morals when the press approves. And in this case, their activism comes not only at a great monetary cost to Americans, but also serves as a tax on their well-being. Even more detestable, McCaffrey has promised to prosecute California physicians under federal law for prescribing the drug despite the proposition's explicit endorsement by the people of that state. Since cannabis' mention is totally absent from the Constitution, McCaffrey's pledge to enforce an unconstitutional law against an unwilling state reeks of federal imperialism, far worse a threat than that posed by medicinal marijuana.



Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS *The Daily* strikes again. After misprinting SOURCE editor Jessica Schupak's predictions for the '96 Election Editors' Challenge, Gregory Geiman confessed guilt. But Greg's gaffe grew: after giving Miss Schupak his "word" that a correction would be printed, *The Daily* ran a retraction spelling her name wrong. Geiman's word seems about as good as his hero, John Kerry's.

PS The Provisional Party of Communists, a leftist cult amassing a stockpile of firearms (!), recruited members at Amherst College and Tufts University. Finally, we find out what Knable was doing with our cannon for so long.

PS Last weekend, partygoers at 123 had valuables stolen from their jacket pockets. Luckily, TUPD apprehended the culprits. They must have been fleeing the scene with a box of crullers.

PS Three Boston College football players may be expelled as a result of the recent gambling scandal. Not like they were going to graduate anyway.

PS A Columbus, OH, court convicted two men who stole an ATM that tried to convince officers it was their washing machine. Well, at least they were laundering something.

PS A new study shows that NutraSweet causes genetic defects that lead to brain cancer. So you've got sugar, the pink stuff, and the carcinogen.

PS Deborah Miner, a political "scientist" from Simmons College, is studying how to be a college administrator at Tufts because "Tufts administrators have very good reputations." Well, if you like speech-code-instituting, bald-head-shining, faculty-bashing, ten-to-three-working, seat-warming, useless-form-processing, deans-buffet-eating, extra-fee-charging, poster-policy-enforcing bureaucrats, well then, maybe we do.

PS After a Taiwanese woman missed her plane at Logan Airport, she told officials a bomb was on board in order to have the plane called back. Then, they changed the in-flight movie from *Blown Away* to *The Joy Luck Club*.

PS Comedy Central will be airing an altered version of *It's a Wonderful Life*, parodying the Christmas standard. This time, George Bailey enlists the services of Dr. Kevorkian.

PS A hot water pipe caused a flood in Bayit, the Jewish Culture House. Fortunately, somebody had an ark.

PS A reporter investigating violence at McKinley High School in Washington, DC, was beaten by students wearing ski masks. It was actually part of footage for John Singleton's next film: *Poetic Justice II*.

PS The Boston Celtics report losing \$3.2 million last quarter. At least they didn't lose any players.

PS *The Chronicle of Higher Education* criticized Tufts's architecture, comparing one campus building to a "deteriorating elementary school." The rest of the campus is a deteriorating liberal arts college.

PS President Clinton hinted that he may include Republicans in his Cabinet. They'll go great with the call girls in his closet.

PS Russia launched a problem-ridden probe to Mars. They are studying the effects of zero gravity on mile-long bread lines.

PS The chair of the FCC threatened TV stations with government action if they do not maintain "voluntary" bans on hard liquor ads. Happiness is mandatory. Are you happy, Citizen?

PS Two Louisville, KY, men arrested for cocaine trafficking were freed after two days when officers discovered the white powder was dried yogurt. You mean all this time Roger Clinton's just been snorting calcium?

PS A *USA Today* survey shows that more boys between 9 and 11 diet than do girls. They have to look good for Michael Jackson.

PS Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki stopped Robin Cotton's expert testimony in OJ's civil trial because the defense attorney's questions were boring jurors. Nothing like a racist cop to keep the laughs going.

PS Former New York City police officer John Cuff was arrested for being a member of a \$1 million per year crack gang. He got his start confiscating marijuana in Bush Hall.



PS Hilton and BET Holdings plan to open a casino aimed at black visitors. They might call it One-Eyed New Jack City.

PS Top Ten All-Purpose Clinton Scandal Alibis:

10. I don't even know what street Indonesia is on.
9. I was so excited about the new Arch Deluxe sandwiches that I damn near lost my mind!
8. Sorry, my beautiful but terribly incompetent secretary accidentally shredded the files.
7. You'd have to ask my wife about that.
6. It's not adultery if you don't actually have sex.
5. You mean embezzling is illegal?
4. Cocaine has medicinal value.
3. Pardon me.
2. If the President does it, then it is not illegal.
1. The dead guy did it.



PS Chris Morris sued Michigan for \$1 million because he caught a cold in the drafty Capitol Building in Lansing. Government makes lots of people sick.

PS McDonald's plans to build a "ski-through" restaurant on the slopes in Sweden, where skiers can pick up food while on the lift. That explains why Clinton is taking such an interest in foreign policy lately.

PS The American Association of Therapeutic Humor met in Orlando, FL, where doctors and nurses wearing Groucho Marx noses studied ways to make patients feel better with laughter. They could try reading *The Observer*.

PS Margo St. James, a former prostitute, won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. Her former career prepared her well for a life in politics.

PS Ross Perot spent \$2 million on a final advertising blitz before the election. Too bad his new infomercials made a giant sucking sound.

PS Marilyn Whitehorse fell from the sixth floor of an Albuquerque, NM, hotel-- and landed on her feet. Unfortunately, she used up one of her nine lives.

PS After Police Chief Brent Myers heard a rumor that Palmer, TN, Mayor Kenley Campbell would fire him, he arrested him the moment he walked out of City Hall. Hear that, Ms. Reno?

PS Palm Harbor, FL, elementary school teacher Patricia Locke beat a drunk driving charge by arguing that a ruptured breast implant caused her disorientation. It disoriented the cop a bit, too.

PS Wesley Shaffer, who served time in the '70s for six hundred robberies, pled innocent to burglary charges on the grounds that eating sugar the night before the crime made the diabetic temporarily insane. Looks like this convict went cuckoo for Cocoa Puffs.

PS During a party with KISS 108 DJ's, sleep-rocker Rod Stewart confessed that his son is embarrassed to have his father drop him off at school. Almost as embarrassing as his dad's musical career.

PS For the first time in history, a robot programmed another robot. Looks like Al Gore's calling the shots from now on.

PS Top Ten Things Bob Dole Is Doing After His Defeat:

10. Two words: Proposition 215.
9. Encouraging Liddy to run in 2000 so he can finally sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom.
8. Finding a parking spot like the rest of us, for a change.
7. At night, when nobody's around, banging a gavel for old times' sake.
6. Wondering whether Strom Thurmond's seat will be available soon.
5. Considering a career in film criticism.
4. Brushing up on his pinochle.
3. Relaxing at a Brooklyn Dodgers game.
2. Catching up on thirty years' missed episodes of *Matlock* and *Columbo*.
1. Going to Disney World!

PS Meanwhile, at the Long Island diocese of the Episcopal Church, an undercover reporter discovered a bizarre sex cult in which priests imported young men from Brazil and performed "sexual baptisms" in a children's swimming pool in the church. Note for the future: don't touch that slippery slope.

Ten Conventional Unwisdoms

by Chris Weinkopf

Vacuous platitudes, if repeated enough, ingrain themselves as fact on the public consciousness. Thus a 1988 Bush campaign ad highlighting the career of Michael Dukakis's favorite murderer/rapist Willie Horton became a symbol of racism, not because it was racist, but because liberals insisted that it was, ad nauseam. Likewise, in the most recent election Democrats succeeded in portraying congressional Republicans as Medicare slashers—even though the Newtniks *increased* spending on America's most popular and fiscally irresponsible entitlement. Campaign '96 has yielded its own crop of un-truisms that pundits, politicians, and professors will continue to spout until no one knows better. Below, the antidote:

Toxic Newt

Throughout 1996 Eleanor Clift, James Carville, and even Tufts's own Jeff Berry and Jim Glaser of the Political Science Department insisted that Newt Gingrich's unpopularity would be the bane of the Republican congressional majority. Al Hunt of *The Wall Street Journal* vowed that the "Gingrich Robots," freshman Republicans, would pay a dear price at the polls. Well, 80% of said freshmen won re-election on November 5, and the GOP held on to its majority. You want toxicity, look at what Bill Clinton did to the Democratic congressional majority in 1994.

Americans Like Bill Clinton

Expect the Administration and its press allies to claim that Clinton's re-election is a mandate for the vigorous implementation of his agenda. Not so fast. The President received only 49% of the vote; the majority of Americans picked someone else—hardly a ringing endorsement of Health Care II.

Affirmative Action, Sacred Cow

Until the end of October, desperation time, Bob Dole refused to make affirmative action a campaign issue. He believed the media spin that talk of preferences alienates female voters. But in California, Proposition 209, which ends special treatment on the basis of sex and race, passed convincingly—with the support of most white

women. And California 1996 is no bastion of conservatism: its voters backed Clinton, elected a Democratic state assembly, and sent mostly Democrats to Congress. If equality of opportunity can happen there, it can happen anywhere.

Drug Legalization Is Politically Impossible

Californians also adopted Proposition 215, which legalizes the possession, cultivation, and use of marijuana for medical purposes. Granted, California is probably home to an inordinate number of marijuana users, but Arizona voters endorsed a similar referendum as well. The results suggest that Americans are tiring of the costly War on Drugs and its excesses.

"Moderate" Republicans Are the Wave of the Future

Conventional wisdom circa 1992 said that George Bush lost the election because the Houston convention was "too extreme." But the Oprah-ized lovefest in San Diego failed to produce much better results for Bob Dole. Bill Weld became a liberal on every issue he could think of, and still lost his bid to unseat John Kerry. Successful Republican senatorial candidates, by and large, were more conservative. And while Republicans acting like Democrats lost, Democrats acting like Republicans (Bill Clinton, Al Gore) fared pretty well.

Jack Kemp—Mr. Touchdown

Jack Kemp's humiliating performance in the VP debate should put an end to the bizarre myth that the best way to deliver a knockout punch is with kidgloves. His pandering to Farrakhan did little to boost the GOP's standing among blacks, and Americans are too disillusioned with social engineering to buy into harebrained ideas such as "Empowerment Zones." Come 2000 the PC Kemp will no doubt be the media darling. Losers always are.

Race Matters

When the Supreme Court declared racially gerrymandered congressional districts unconstitutional, Jesse Jackson screamed "ethnic cleansing." America is so racist, went the Jackson logic, that black congressmen

would lose their seats if forced to run in predominantly white communities. But as Abigail Thernstrom of the Manhattan Institute notes, all five black representatives who sought re-election in new, southern, white-majority districts won handily. Americans will elect blacks, Jesse, they just won't elect you.

Americans Aren't Interested in Lower Taxes

Bob Dole staked his campaign on his 15% tax-cut proposal, and so the left has interpreted his defeat as the public vindication of exorbitant taxes. But Dole's ineptitude as a candidate, not the one salient plank in his campaign, re-elected Bill Clinton. The Senator never made an articulate case for letting Americans keep their own money, and he failed to address Clinton's bogus charge that the modest reduction would balloon the deficit. Promising tax cuts is still a great way to win office—it worked for Bill Clinton in 1992.

Foreign Policy: Non-Issue

When President Clinton sent troops to Bosnia last year, he said they would be home for Christmas 1996. It was an obvious lie—his foreign policy had done nothing to enable a long-lasting peace in the former Yugoslavia. With the election safely behind him, Clinton has finally lived up to this subterfuge, announcing that he will not only put more American troops in Bosnia, but, heck, in Zaire too. Voters did not care about foreign policy in 1996; they will learn their lesson the hard way.

Character Doesn't Matter

Exit polls show that Americans know their President is a scoundrel, yet they re-elected him nevertheless. The media have interpreted this inconsistency to conclude the "character issue" irrelevant. Perhaps in 1996, but the imminent avalanche of indictments will surely change the public mind. In 2000, when President Gore seeks his first elected term, Americans will hold personal integrity in newfound esteem.

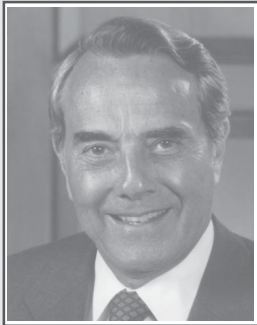
Mr. Weinkopf, A'95, is Editor of National Review Online (www.nationalreview.com).



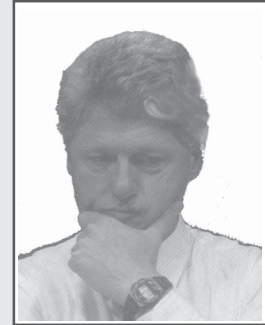
The Primary Source asks,



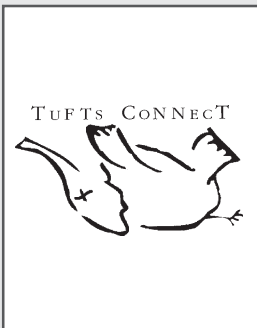
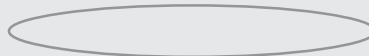
“What are you giving thanks for?”



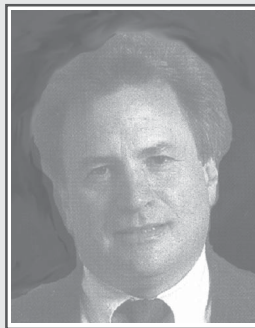
"Social Security and the American Red Cross."



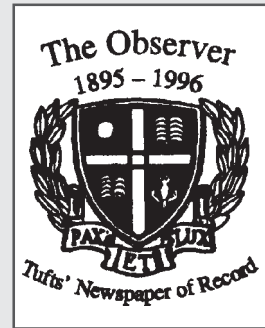
"Bob Dole."



"Homesick freshmen-- especially Euros."



"alt.binaries.pictures.erotica.feet."



"The Police Blotter."



"Kathie Lee Gifford's kids sewing jumpsuits for two cents a day."

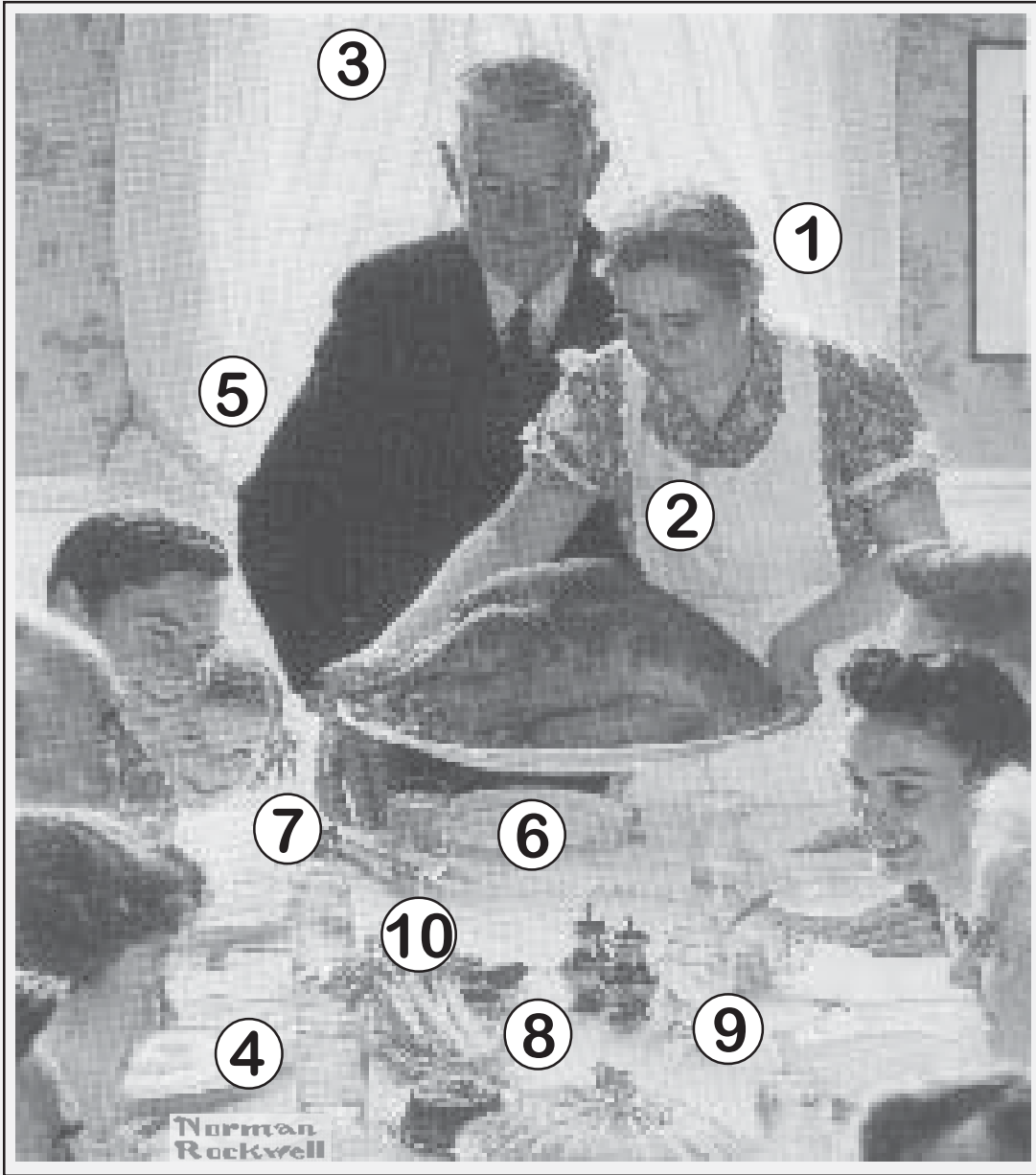


"That Bubba's looking for some sell-out Republicans."



"Tufts students whose meal plans paid for my dinner."

What's wrong with this picture?



Norman Rockwell's seemingly innocuous depictions of AmeriKKKana smack of right-wing fascism. Help us make this Thanksgiving dinner more inclusive.

Did You Spot These Examples of Racism, Sexism, Genderism, Imperialism, Ageism, and Classism?

① This woman's bowed head implies gender submission—and throw down that apron of oppression!

② State should sue the cook to recover increased Medicare costs from this unhealthy, cholesterol-laden turkey.

③ A man at the head of the table? Down with the patriarchy!

④ Norman Rockwell's signature implies ownership. All works of art are collective achievements.



⑤ No culture representatives at this table.

⑥ This family doesn't accept food stamps.

⑦ What's that child doing out of school?

⑧ The only fruit is edible.

⑨ Absence of chopsticks in lieu of western utensils constitutes cultural imperialism.

⑩ Say, was there a five-day waiting period before that knife was purchased?

In the interest of diversity, THE PRIMARY SOURCE asked various campus figures to suggest some alternative fowl for Thanksgiving dinner's main course.



"A raven, never flitting,
still is sitting..."

Ballou Hall receptionist

"Bald eagle."

Bruce Reitman

"Singing canary."

Bobbie Knable



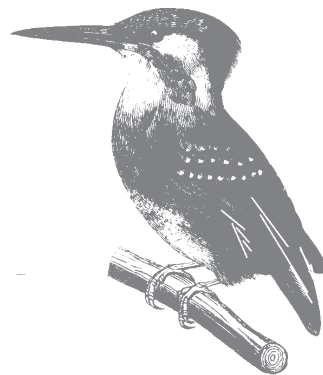
"Pink flamingo."

Charlene Waldron



"Parrot. Parrot.
Parrot. Parrot."

I. Melvin Bernstein



"Cold turkey. No
other way."

Armand
Mickune-Santos



"Chicken. Don't quote me on that."

John DiBiaggio

"Vulture..."

Marjorie Minnigh



Impaired Vision

Ian Popick

On November 2, the Tufts Board of Trustees amended the University's Vision Statement, expanding the diversity objectives to include homosexuals. The revised statement reads: "We value a community of women and men who understand and respect diversity, including individuals of different races, religions, geographic origins, socio-economic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and personal values, politics, and interests." The change, although mainly a symbolic gesture to appease lesbian, gay, and bisexual campus groups, still represents a fundamental flaw in the multiculturalist philosophy Tufts so eagerly embraces.

Toleration of diverse contributions and freedom of expression must persevere as cornerstones of a liberal arts education; the quest for truth indeed necessitates receptivity to new ideas. Although leftist academics claim themselves heralds of open-mindedness, they forsake this classical concept by only tolerating views consistent with their politically correct agenda. Tufts cares more about attracting individuals with different irrelevant physical (and sexual) characteristics than about expanding the forum of ideas from which students draw their own scholarship.

Sexual orientation should remain a personal matter involving a person's conscience, not institutional policy. Much like the Pan-African Alliance's call for a ten percent black admissions quota to "improve the living conditions" of black students, it emphasizes the wrong kind of diversity. Interactions with people of different religions, nationalities, and ideologies contribute to intellectual diversity, awakening students to perspectives that might other-

wise go undiscovered. The observations a student from the former Soviet Union can bring to a classroom, for example, can put a human face on an academic subject and help classmates understand more about Communism than any lecture possibly could. Similar reasoning does not apply to a homosexual student. The only way a gay student's background diverges from his heterosexual counterpart relates to his sexual practices—a subject that he should restrict to his personal affairs. He deserves no special consideration in the admissions process. Likewise, homosexual job applicants deserve no special consideration in hiring.

However, the amendment should not draw as much concern as an item the trustees evidently chose to retain: the encouragement of "different... personal values." The stipulation assumes that different moral codes are equally valid and that

no one morality is more desirable than others.

Having already popularized the notion that objective truths do not exist, the left's next crusade is moral relativism. Truth, the theory goes, is a convention of society, and each community produces a different version.

Having concluded that societies do not share any fundamental principles that guide the development of their moral codes, they proceed to incorrectly extrapolate that each society's conventions are of equal worth.

Such a philosophy abandons reason and begets its own destruction. It does not withstand even casual scrutiny. While different societies certainly develop contrast-

ing concepts of morality, superior moral codes eventually prove dominant. Like any other body of thought, moral codes subject themselves to competition. The society with the most just moral standards eventually emerges victorious; its members produce the most valuable achievements, and

It would certainly compromise the interest of the University to admit some morally upstanding students and others with spotty character in the dubious pursuit of diversity.

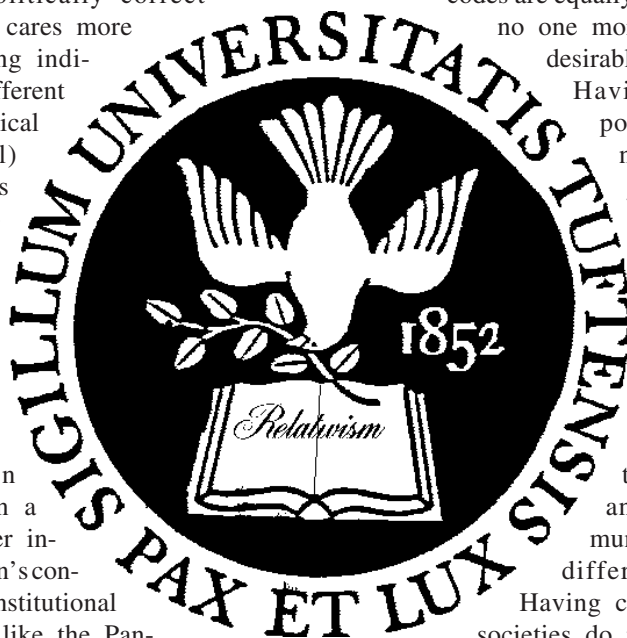
it secures a due degree of prosperity. Eventually, other societies will conform to the superior ethics.

Tufts's brand of relativism, different from no other, inherently accords equal worth to different moral codes within a society. Thus, an individual who affirms the righteousness of abusing children or raping women suffers no moral condemnation from a relativist as his otherwise abhorrent conduct is permitted by his base morality. While conservatives believe he violates fundamental moral principles, the relativist can claim at best that he has contravened non-absolute social standards. The trustees may not actively seek child abusers or rapists to join the faculty or student body, but they turn their heads to similar acts of depravity by endorsing a philosophy of moral 'tolerance.'

Surely the trustees do not seek a community in which individuals adhere to myriad definitions of values. For it would certainly compromise the interest of the University to admit some morally upstanding students and others with spotty character in the dubious pursuit of diversity. And if the trustees mean that Tuftonians should not hold different values but respect them, that is no better. Individuals would be wrong to "respect" low values.

A society in which each member observes a personal moral code cannot long endure. In America, nearly every citizen

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



Highway to Gomorrah

Jessica Schupak

Slouching Towards Gomorrah is a mixed bag. On the one hand, Judge Bork thoroughly chronicles how modern liberalism has corrupted American culture and set the country on the road to moral chaos. On the other, he presents some dubious solutions to social ills such as judicial activism and mischaracterizes the popular culture he blames for much of today's social degeneracy.

Not surprisingly, as Bork reports, the Left developed its two main tenets in the 1960s: radical individualism and radical egalitarianism. The first describes the decreasing limits individuals place on personal gratification, and the second refers to the growing emphasis on equality of outcomes rather than opportunity. Together they have formed the new religion of the Left. Liberals disregard the tautological impossibility of being both a radical individualist and a radical egalitarian. In trying to be both, the Left has become what Harold Rosenberg terms the "herd of individual minds."

In pursuit of egalitarianism, the Left recommends a leveling of income not out of genuine compassion for the poor, but an aversion to the successful. As Bork observes, liberals are driven not by what they lack, but by what others have and are thus motivated by a "politics of envy." Liberal strategy villifies the rich in an attempt to stop anyone from attaining such status. It is, after all, easier to arrive at the Left's utopia by preventing success than engaging in mass redistribution of wealth.

It is ironic that liberals, the majority of them baby boomers, criticize the bourgeois culture which so privileged them (history has proven the danger in this). Especially guilty of doublethink are the Left's spokesmen, most

notably the Hollywood contingent, who seek to impose economic equality while simultaneously preserving their own wealth. Conveniently, as Bork notes, liberals fail to understand that liberty leads to inequality and ignore that wealth is not a zero-sum game.

Likewise, Bork observes, they are opposed to any real achievement in academia. Self-esteem overrides learning in not only the Ivory Tower—the breeding ground of liberal rhetoric—but in secondary education as well. When SAT scores plunged, liberal educators raised marks across the board instead of focusing more attention on developing test-taking skills. Learning also succumbs to politics as educational institutions disparage Western civilization, and academic bankruptcy and political correctness plague their course catalogues. Secondary schools and colleges have become agents of liberal ideology by perpetuating radical feminism, Afrocentrism, multiculturalism, and blatant historical inaccuracies such as the "myth of the robber barons." Worse still, in an effort to boost self-worth and make classes which lack scholarly value seem important, instructors shamelessly inflate grades.

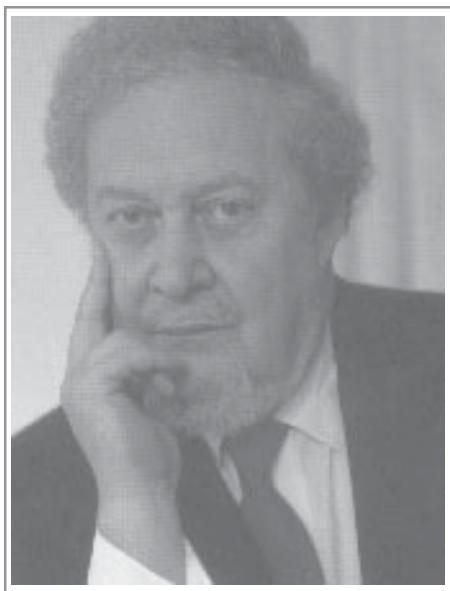
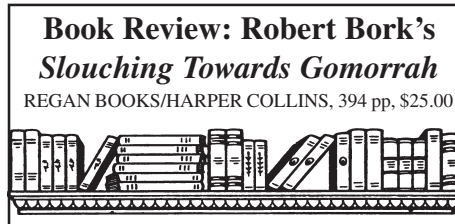
Such revisionism comes without remorse because liberals have denounced any claims to objective truths. The left wholeheartedly embraces relativism and eschews institutions that once defined moral constraints on liberty, such as religion, family, and community. Consequently, the Left ignores fact for political expediency—in this case, that laws indeed impose a moral-

ity and that a public morality is both unavoidable and necessary.

Modern liberals advocate a free-for-all in which personal convenience overrides all else, there exist no standards, and slippery slopes are not to be heeded. Bork cites myriad example of these unfortunate trademarks of modern American culture such as divorce, abortion, and assisted suicide, masterfully dissecting and defeating the

liberal defenses for them. Reading Bork's analyses might not convince the most ardent radical individualist, but rational people can learn much from his plain-English explanations.

Although Bork explains how 1960s thought has denigrated society and provides ample evidence, his portrait of popular culture is a bit distorted. He devotes many pages to describing the characteristics of modern society which include graphically violent Internet pornography and hard-core rap music. He argues compellingly that twenty years ago no one could imagine the state of 1990s American culture. But instead of employing the same logic and concluding that no one today can imagine what will soon prove mainstream, he insists that the aforementioned fare is already entrenched in popular culture. While alt.sex.stories, a net newsgroup he cites, might have a fringe audience, it nevertheless remains taboo—at least for now. And while hard-core rap albums sell well, baby boomers and most Generation Xers prefer more melodic music. Despite thoroughly researching his book (which includes extensive endnotes) he classifies the song "Big Man with a Gun" by Nine Inch Nails as rap when it falls more appropriately in the alternative rock or metal category, demonstrating that he is out of touch with the culture he berates. Simply put, Judge Bork reveals his estrangement from mainstream society by getting ahead of the



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

A Lease on Life

Keith Levenberg

When Giacomo Puccini's opera *La Bohème* achieved acclaim throughout Europe in the 1890s, numerous critics condemned the composer's work because of his alleged contempt for traditional musical conventions. Puccini, they said, de-



Theater Review:

Rent

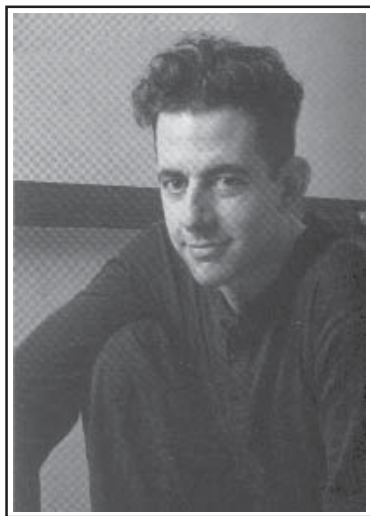
SHUBERT THEATER,
BOSTON

valued the institution of opera by integrating too many unproven experiments with modern popular music. It is a mark of supreme irony, then, that Jonathan Larson's contemporary restaging of *La Bohème*, *Rent*, achieved critical accolades for much the same reasons. Critic after critic praised *Rent* for breathing new life into a Broadway beset by clichés; the production incorporates rock and roll, street techno, ballads, and even a tango, while living up to Puccini's original vision.

The characters are mostly familiar, too. Rodolfo, the classic tortured-poet, is now Roger, a struggling songwriter. Marcello becomes Mark, a would-be filmmaker, and "Musetta's Waltz" cleverly morphs into the "Tango Maureen." Instead of bohemians dying of tuberculosis, as in Puccini's opera, *Rent*'s modern incarnations live in New York's AIDS-stricken East Village. However, Jonathan Larson's Broadway stage success, which opened at Boston's Shubert Theater last weekend, transcends mere 're-make' status. Just as Larson combined modern musical motifs with Broadway traditions, he vividly incorporated contemporary issues and ideas into his play, a work that is sure to make a significant impact in end-of-the-millennium America.

On the eve of the New York opening last January, Larson unexpectedly died of a

cardiac aneurysm. More than one commentator has noted the prophetic connection between Larson's tragic death and *Rent*'s storyline, in which several characters prematurely face the end of life. Indeed, the philosophy of the play, expressed in the recurrent mantra, "No day but today," animates Larson's personal and professional vigor. But *Rent* is not about death. It is about life. The play's themes emphasize the importance of integrity, self-reliance, and the relentless pursuit of personal excellence. Most strikingly, *Rent* illustrates solid standards of uncompromising creative integrity reminiscent of Ayn Rand's anti-social artists in *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*. Despite constant adversity, neither Mark nor Roger abandon their creative pursuits. Although given every reason to feel otherwise, Mark maintains his confidence in the quality of his work and refuses to pervert his intellectual principles even when offered lucrative employment by a tabloid-television show.



Rent creator Jonathan Larson

truth like a blazing fire, an eternal flame." Roger's anthem articulates more than an artist's desire to create something beautiful. It echoes an omnipresent theme that creative achievements create something lasting, real, and valuable, not just personal satisfaction for the creator.

In Act One's closing banquet which features the whole company, Mark toasts to "days of inspiration, playing hooky, making something out of nothing, the need

***Rent* emphasizes the importance of integrity, self-reliance, and the relentless pursuit of personal excellence.**

to express—to communicate, to going against the grain, going insane, going mad." This simple but eloquent description of the anti-social existence of an artist proves to be a source of conflict for Mark throughout the story. He desperately craves some kind of connection to his community, but realizes that his attempts to secure this link through his art relegate him to the status of an outcast. In order to restore the connection between the artist/creator and society, people must dispel dangerous notions: that progress consists simply of not regressing, that society improves by itself without need for any agents of change to improve it. For, as Mark later declares, "The opposite of war isn't peace—it's creation." *Rent* urges the audience to view the creator as an inherently productive being scorned by society but without whom society could not exist. The play also recognizes that the artist cannot exist on any other terms but his own.

Indeed, the overall philosophy of *Rent* promotes uncompromising self-ownership. In "What You Own," a pivotal second-act hard-rock song, Mark and Roger remind the audience that "in America... you are what you own." The admonishment clearly condemns individuals who seek spiritless material goods at the expense of their personal integrity, but in the larger dramatic context, it means much more. Out of all the things a person can own, be they possessions or emotional rewards that money cannot buy, none proves more valuable

*Please see "Rent,"
continued on page 20.*

“Vision,” continued from page 15.

respects the sanctity of human life, the sovereignty of his countrymen, and similar objective truths. The results speak for themselves; two centuries observing American standards of right and wrong leave no question about what moral principles motivate individuals and societies to excel. The twentieth century “American Empire” is as much cultural as political.

Such a realization exposes the true motivation behind the relativists’ quest; namely, deep-seated anti-Americanism. The left realizes it cannot defeat American values such as hard work, merit-based evaluation, and decency by codifying a superior set, so it attempts to change the rules of the game by dismissing the very concept of a better ethos as a myth. It would be no less outrageous for a baseball player, after striking out, to triumphantly declare that balls and strikes do not exist before victoriously marching to first base.

“Bork,” continued from page 16.

eight ball, tacitly admitting that he thinks America is already in Gomorrah.

His reasoning for how the baby boom and X generations became so morally debased are not much more compelling. He chalks their base cultural motivation up to boredom, noting that it “is a much underrated emotion” for which the cures are anti-social and sometimes deviant behavior such as alcohol, violence, and pornography. He quotes Peter Berger, “[The sixties generation is] not so much concerned with black people in slums and yellow people in rice paddies as by boredom in Connecticut.” While boredom played a role, Bork overrates the influence of this ‘underrated’ emotion. He mistakenly emphasizes boredom over the numerous symptoms that cause it, pampered lifestyles among them.

Bork’s most erudite arguments, though recycled from his previous best-seller *The Tempting of America*, include many thoughtful attacks against the judiciary and its reprehensible liberal activism. With the Left’s approval, courts regard the Constitution as only a guideline to be heeded when politically convenient. What matters to the judiciary is the result of a decision, not precedents and reasoning. For instance, no matter what one’s opinion on abortion,

Yet the University does not even practice what it preaches, perhaps conceding that no organization concerned with its survival can acquiesce to the follies implicit in relativism. The University’s chaplaincy often releases pamphlets warning students about the danger of joining cults, a wise decision given that cults target insecure young adults and succeed in destroying many lives. If Tufts sincerely believed in the Vision Statement’s acceptance of and reverence for diverse values, however, it would not pass any such judgments on cults. It would simply describe cults as alternative religions, no better or worse than any other faith.

A literal reading of the Vision Statement suggests that the University should actively court cult members as students and professors, eager to benefit from the diversity of values that a cult member could bring to the community. Administrators should have to hire official University chaplains from cults, since featuring only Jewish and Christian chaplains would con-

stitute discrimination, exclusivity, and closed-mindedness.

Regardless of how politically driven trustees construct the University’s conciliatory Vision Statement, the true values of a liberal arts education will persist on Tufts’s own crest: *Pax et Lux*, Peace and Light. But before Tufts’s administrators can think about allowing the light of truth to shine on the Hill as Charles Tufts intended, they must first acknowledge that truth itself exists. And as one of the country’s premiere liberal arts institutions, Tufts takes on a special responsibility to provide intellectual leadership and guidance for other colleges. Provided the University does not abuse this honor by legitimizing the subversive claims of fringe radicals, it will adequately prepare the next generation of graduates to fight for what is right and true in a world that recognizes and applauds the value of right and truth.

Mr. Popick is a sophomore majoring in Political Science.

he cannot deny the utter lack of Constitutional grounding in *Roe v Wade*. While many pro-choicers disregard this because the outcome pleases them, such legal chaos could one day produce laws they dislike. And by debasing the Constitution’s authority, they will have no avenues of recourse against courts which believe they acted in the interest of a greater social good. “The ACLU seems to think democracy is tyranny and government by judges is freedom,” remarks Bork.

Bork expands on the moral relativism courts employ in decision-making. He cites the most glaring example, *Cohen v California*, which states that “one man’s vulgarity is another’s lyric,” as if bestiality is alright if one’s morality so dictates. Bork’s solution for curtailing the judiciary’s leftist escapades, however, is somewhat far-fetched. He proposes a constitutional amendment allowing Congress to override court decisions, which would disturb America’s system of checks and balances and make the judiciary nearly irrelevant. Furthermore, a system that allows Congress to override a state court decision would emasculate the Tenth Amendment.

Liberalism, asserts Bork, is incompatible with true democracy because it seeks to concoct conditions that no individual would actually desire. In fact, the radical egalitarian element of liberalism is neces-

sarily statist because it cannot be implemented and enforced by any entity other than the government. Bork cites Alexis de Tocqueville’s observation that Americans are more obsessed with equality than freedom, and notes that this misguided prioritization did not pose a threat to liberty until the twentieth century. Liberals now view income inequality as one of the most pressing issues that needs attention and rectification— by politicians, of course.

Bork does an excellent job relaying the components of America’s cultural demise. He lacks viable solutions, however. And the multitude of quotations he uses, while supporting his argument well, are too often in place of his own analysis. More disappointing is his unadulterated pessimism about America’s cultural future. This is evident partly because he makes little effort to write with intent to convince, but instead to preach to the choir. He dismisses the popular conservative theory that modern liberalism will fail on its own because it is predicated on intellectual dishonesty and moral nihilism (a historically proven rationale). Instead he proposes that only an unlikely “optimism of the will” can divert America from the highway to Gomorrah. Judge Bork gives liberalism too much credit.

Miss Schupak is a junior majoring in History and Economics.

The Right Path

Colin Delaney

WCVB-TV's Brian Leary recently aired an investigative report on the extent to which recruiters, agents, and sports-apparel companies have professionalized *high-school* sports. The spot profiled a number of area athletes who spend much of the year away from their books and on the basketball court. One such "student," Elton Tyler of West Roxbury High School, decided to attend Boston College next fall but lamented that his low SAT score, a combined 790, precluded him from competition in his freshman year.

Yes, 790 combined. And yes, he has already secured a spot at BC, two months before the normal application deadline and nearly six months before traditional applicants will learn their fate. Unfortunately, many top national universities—from Georgetown and Duke to Brigham Young and USC—participate in the academic dishonesty that Division I sports has become. Those schools and others that once prided themselves on a solemn commitment to scholarly pursuits have created a special class of ill-prepared jocks who use the college as a springboard to the pros as much as it uses them to rake in lucrative advertising contracts.

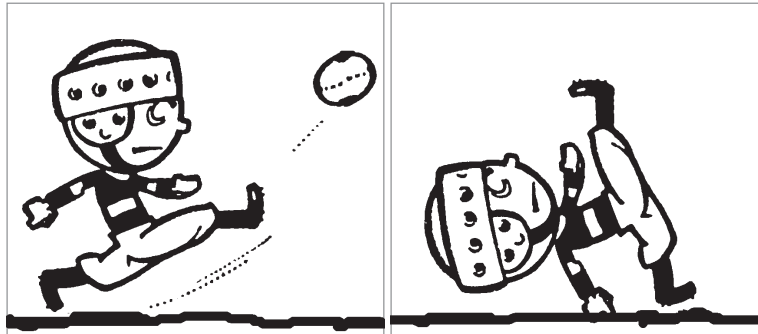
Thankfully, Tufts chose the right path. Maybe the Jumbos have not won a game since that 1-0 triumph over Harvard in the first college football game, but Tuftonians still have their pride. And rightfully so. Because the University does not award athletic scholarships, Tufts students are, as President DiBiaggio once said, "Scholars first, and sportsmen second." While the Doug Flutie years proved that a Cotton Bowl trophy can bring a college national stature in a matter of months, Tufts chose the sadder but wiser route, recruiting top students from around the world on the strength of academics alone.

Sure enough, the BC gambling scandal has conclusively proven the pitfalls of welcoming scores of under-qualified students to a competitive campus. The risk of

bad press aside, liberal-arts colleges should maintain a philosophical opposition to near-professional sports because they almost inevitably stain the institution's academic reputation. As a Dartmouth student chiding

While a Cotton Bowl trophy can bring a college national stature in a matter of months, Tufts chose the sadder but wiser route.

a Stanford Tree once remarked, a college simply cannot maintain both a number-two academic rating and a top-25 football team. Though Stanford has somehow managed to escape widespread condemnation in academic circles for its aggressive athletic recruiting policies, other colleges have not fared so well. Notre Dame, long known as a football school, struggles to get recognition for outstanding academic programs. And Georgetown University's Jesuit-guarded reputation came down a few pegs when the nation discovered Patrick Ewing scored just 490—combined—on his Scholastic Aptitude Test.



Clearly some colleges can survive, even thrive, without NBC Sports' coverage. CalTech, the Pomona Colleges, Washington University, and Tufts all exemplify the young institution that built a national name without Division I athletics. They still host sports, but the teams reflect the mission of their school: they are composed of scholars who devote their spare time to pursuits on the track and in the field. Simply put, Charles Tufts, the fathers of the

Society of Jesus (who founded Georgetown), and countless others established their schools as centers of learning, not breeding grounds for the NFL and NBA.

When young men want to toss around a football on a Saturday afternoon, few would stand in their way. Vibrant competitors lend life and spirit to their *alma mater*, and many students enjoy spending an afternoon at Ellis Oval or Alumni Stadium. When the Jumbos score a triumph over Williams or Trinity,

students here have just cause for celebration. Should Tufts triumph in a championship game, the victory is truly sweet, for it speaks volumes about the all-around level of talent those true student-athletes embody.

The irrefutable laws of the free market hold that anyone can put twelve great basketball players on a court, so it is no reflection on Georgetown that its twelve beat all the rest. On the other hand, if men who took Western Philosophy and Calculus together and then spent some time on the basketball court make up the team, it is all the more remarkable. But when the athletes who take the court have skipped classes for the sake of their sport, they have foregone academic opportunities and stained their school's reputation.

Lamentably, many universities conveniently forget about their commitment to academics, deliberately lower standards, and dole out tens of thousands of dollars in athletic scholarships to applicants whose physical prowess supposedly merits special treatment. Of course, the separate and unequal consideration does not end there. BC and Notre Dame are just two leading examples of colleges that grant athletes additional benefits, such as remedial coursework, extraordinary tutoring help, and the like, which

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

*“Athletics,” continued from the
previous page.*

true students neither want nor need. Hence colleges of this kind support two separate categories of students, those who can ace Logic and enroll in Yale Law School, and those who skip Trigonometry so they can impress Bob Costas and the college trustees on the football field. So the challenge for top liberal-arts institutions (and those that wish to join their ranks) remains limiting sports-patronage to the few extra benefits athletes deserve.

The diversity a scratch golfer, a proficient place-kicker, or an exceptional point guard can bring to a school requires evaluation, but that talent does not constitute another four- or five-hundred SAT points. Succumbing to pressure from powerful alumni and coaches to slide one or two applications through the process, as BC apparently did in the case of Elton Tyler,

*“Rent,” continued
from page 17.*

than his ownership of his own self and his own mind. The empty lives practiced by those who “own not a notion, [who] escape and ape content[ment]” ultimately amount to nothing. As Roger warns in “Goodbye Love,” “You’ll never share real love until you love yourself— I should know.”

Rent brilliantly illustrates the differences between two fundamental ways of life. Some people own their lives, never allowing others to upset their principles or guide their actions. Others simply rent. Neither their destiny nor their achievements belong to them; they live solely by the grace of others and consequently lose control of their own identity. Above all else, *Rent* is a fanfare for the former. One could spend hours debating political minutiae in the play’s myriad subplots, such as a protest to save a homeless tent city from developers, but such petty squabbling would only demean Larson’s work. In truth, *Rent* refuses many opportunities to make political arguments when they would diminish the impact of the play’s more general philosophical themes.

After the play’s opening at New York’s Nederlander Theater last year, countless fawning critics began hyping *Rent* as Gen-

eration X’s *Hair*, a production capable of exploiting all of the essential generational zeitgeists. Watching the play, however, leaves one completely mystified as to how this unimaginative comparison arose. It grossly diminishes *Rent*’s contribution to theater by implying that Jonathan Larson merely expounded on familiar Generation X themes without making substantial insights of his own. In fact, one of *Rent*’s most courageous achievements is its eagerness to shatter popular myths about Generation-X propagated not by the media but by Xers themselves.

Whereas “slacker” stereotypes paint young adults as underachievers that should revel in their failure, a hackneyed analysis that many enthusiastically endorse in order to convert their laziness into a social statement, *Rent* condemns such cowardice. The play’s East Village denizens, even while living in relative poverty, never abandon their lofty dreams and continue to strive toward creative goals. Moreover, the narrative makes it crystal-clear that they willingly accept their financially strapped lifestyle rather than dismiss it as a condition unfairly thrust upon them by a hostile universe. Mark, while dwelling in an unfurnished, unheated loft apartment, occasionally communicates with his parents living comfortably in Scarsdale. Clearly, he does not suffer from ‘inherited’ poverty

I enjoy college football as much as the

next guy. I cheer when the Eagles score a touchdown and when the Nittany Lions triumph in the Rose Bowl. But the dishonesty involved in proclaiming devotion to the liberal-arts tradition does a tremendous disservice to the men who founded institutions of higher learning and those who wish to study with bright classmates. Indeed, the time for true celebration comes when Holy Cross, knowing it can no longer compete with BC’s generous athletic scholarships, gracefully bows out of a long-standing rivalry. Or when Tuftonians recognize that their basketball and football teams compete in NESCAC because Division III’s rules hold that institutional admissions standards and academic performance requirements alone determine eligibility. Thankfully, Tufts’s freshman athletes need not worry about meeting the NCAA’s 820-point requirement.

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

and could have chosen a more secure lifestyle. Nor does Mark consider it a sacrifice that he chooses instead to pursue his filmmaking career on his own terms. One cannot imagine him happy in any other pursuit.

Obviously, Larson injected a great deal of his own life into his characters. His theatrical career mirrors the principled creative energy of his characters, Mark and Roger in particular. The tragedy of his death is worsened by the realization that he never saw his favorite creation achieve popularity among the public that for so long ignored his talent. While Larson never sought the approval of his peers to justify his work, and, like his ‘90s Bohemians, never played the fame game, he surely would have appreciated widespread acceptance after years of going against the grain. Larson’s predecessor, Giacomo Puccini, suffered beleaguering self-doubt throughout his career even while composing celebrated masterpieces, including *La Bohème*, *Madame Butterfly*, *Tosca*, and *Turandot*. Though audiences will never witness Larson’s artistic progression beyond *Rent*, watching a performance of his crowning achievement will show them what he was—and what other creators hope to be.

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Public Disorder

Ananda Gupta

In recent years, deregulation and privatization trends have echoed through all levels of government. The Postal Service operates much like a corporation, despite its heavy state protections, and debate rages over school voucher programs and toll roads. Advocates of privatization often cite the private sector's profit motive as an incentive to get the job done more inexpensively and with better consumer satisfaction than the muddle government typically provides. But two government services stand apart from the rest, immune to claims about efficiency or fairness. Even the most diehard deregulator usually acquiesces to the idea that the provision of justice ought to remain in the state's hands. Yet it is in that area where removal of authoritarian influence would do the most good, since it affects almost every American's life.

Centralized Law's Dirty Past

The government's coercive monopoly on justice has been in place for so long that most Americans could not conceive life without it. Some even find the very concept of common law bizarre. But, compared to the history of Western civilization, a lasting monopoly on law is quite young. Bruce Lyon's examination of the origins of centralized law reveals that in England, the "king's court"—the court in which all disputes inevitably found resolution—came about as a method of raising money for military adventures against other dominions. Monarchs quickly saw that forcing disputants to abandon mutually agreeable arbitration led to money in the war chest, as mandatory fines and gradual extension of the king's influence came to dominate the legal scene. By the time of the *Magna Carta*, the English sovereign's wealth regularly received a healthy boost from peasants' pockets above and beyond the taxes they had to pay for the 'privilege' of living under such an enlightened ruler.

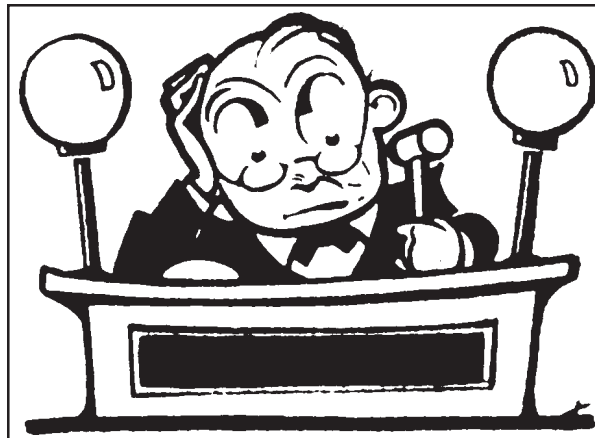
The rationale for forcing anyone with a dispute to resolve it under the king's aegis came from the idea of "the king's peace," which stipulated that any offense committed against a subject of the king was an

offense against the king himself. Accordingly, the king deserved compensation just as surely as did the actual victim. The king's peace extended wherever the king

The antics of medieval monarchs and modern congressmen show a striking similarity.

wanted it to; unsurprisingly, its domain tended to grow in times of war and shrink in times of peace. Baronial power acted as a limited check on the king's ability to extract funds from his subjects in this way, since barons often did exactly the same thing on a smaller scale.

Before the advent of the king's peace and the king's court, disputes found resolution in mutually acceptable agreements. A market for skilled, wise adjudication thrived, and village elders or clergy would often request nominal fees for their services. Sometimes, more complex methods prevailed; for example, a council of ten elders would convene, and each would



offer a solution to a given problem. The disputants would decide among the ten solutions, and both would pay the elder who came up with the best one. Precedent would spread from village to village, and sufficiently similar disputes no longer ended in clan violence.

But, as Leon Trakman reveals, the most ardent proponents of a decentralized

legal system were Continental merchants. Faced with massive cultural and linguistic differences between them and their trading partners in India or China, they developed the "Law Merchant." The Law Merchant involved judges who specialized in the area of commerce relevant to the dispute. If a merchant opted out of the system, choosing to default on a contract or renege on an agreement to abide

by a judge's decision, his business suffered tremendously. In fact, modern international trade law functions in largely the same way—subject, of course, to the whims of governments seeking to "protect" politically powerful domestic industries.

Self-Interest at Work

The modern systems in England and America retain a common law tradition, although the judges who make that law at a higher than local level receive their offices from government officials. However, it remains uncertain whether a decentralized system should even allow judicial levels higher than local. Naturally, precedent would transcend community boundaries, but the need for one judge to overrule another would disappear along with the state's final, arbitrary role in dispute resolution.

The antics of medieval monarchs and modern congressmen show a striking similarity, one which serves to answer concerns about motives. Questions about conflict of interest arise in any discussion about privatization, since the profit motive supposedly lacks the government's 'even-handed' altruism. But no rational individual can watch a perennially 'regretful' Congress vote down campaign finance reform and term limits while voting up their own salaries and pensions and simultaneously refuse to conclude that government officials act under a profit motive as well.

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Intuitively, 'government altruism' seems oxymoronic in the face of blatant preferential treatment for the politically powerful. In economics, public choice theorists like James Buchanan and David Friedman have made powerful strides in mathematically proving that intuition's validity.

Public Order?

So far, however, privatization seems to have few advantages over an admittedly flawed system. And, of course, the threat of "market failure" looms. Advocates of centralization claim that the private sector cannot efficiently produce or allocate law and order, since those qualify as 'public goods.' But the private sector, paradoxically, often produces public goods, as Ronald Coase demonstrates. For instance, the private sector routinely builds and runs lighthouses for profit, despite the fact that lighthouses qualify as textbook examples of a public good.

However, as David Friedman argues, even if market failure or public goods arguments succeed, government intervention might turn out even worse. After all, few would argue that the current system of law 'works' for everyone. Some express the frequent concern that big corporations with well-funded legal departments can take advantage of the system at will, stalling cases and paying for endless expert witnesses to influence juries. These phenomena merely betray more significant procedural flaws lurking in a centralized system: namely, that the state rations scarce judicial resources not on the basis of willingness to pay but on willingness to wait. Since everyone has a right to dispute resolution, one sees the same results with judges' services as doctors' services in countries with universal health care: long lines. Few would argue that a large corporation is worse equipped to wait than an injured consumer— and with the advent of contingency fees, where lawyers only charge a fee if they win, poor plaintiffs can sue just as readily as rich ones.

Informed Judgment

Bruce Benson spells out another major advantage to privatization of the court system: specialization. The Law Merchant

judges advertised their expertise in specific, often arcane areas of commercial and trade law. When they heard disputes, they were themselves the expert witnesses, well-informed on the issues at stake. Precedents therefore took into account a staggering level of relevant knowledge. Conversely, under the authoritarian system of today, judges often require education on technical points at issue in a suit. Judges' rulings often conceal ignorance about the product or service whose quality the plaintiff called into question. Occasionally, judges make an effort, as demonstrated by the opinions of Learned Hand or Oliver Wendell Holmes. But if disputants get stuck with a judge who cannot comprehend even the facts of the case, an all-too-familiar situation for technology firms, a coin toss would yield a similarly 'fair' ruling.

Specialization is not entirely unique to the private sector. The committee system in Congress exemplifies an effort by government to mimic a tremendously successful free-market technique. Even the legal system features criminal court judges, family court judges, and the like. Nevertheless, the private arbitration market has grown fast in the last fifteen years as more and more firms decide to work out their differences without getting entangled in the government-run labyrinth. Much of that growth seems due to the higher quality of judges in that market, who specialize in various areas of dispute and whose reputations stand above reproach with the disputants.

Law and Disorder

Customary law, like government law, has often proven morally unacceptable; state law may simply be altered by political power. Since employing political power usually proves easier than changing a community's cultural outlook, using gov-

ernment to quash morally unacceptable "community standards" seems legitimate to statist. For example, the federal government did indeed sweep down from the North to avenge the deaths of civil rights

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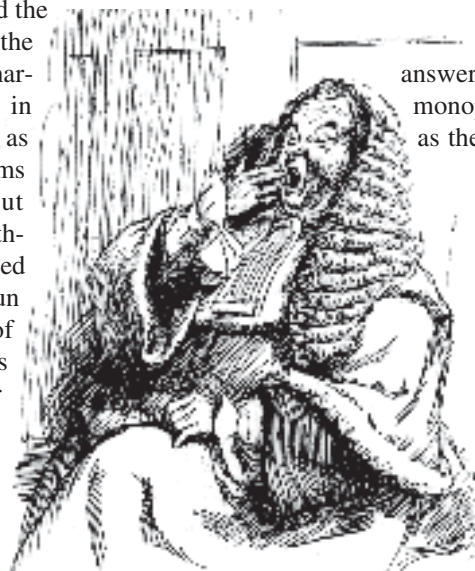
workers, whose murderers were turned loose by local Southern courts.

Privatization of courts would partly solve that problem, since the injured plaintiffs may patronize a competitor rather than submit to a racist court's 'authority.' The two courts would then have to resolve their differences, in much the same way that nation-states do today. But an even better solution lies in even more extensive privatization: police duties. If the police actively oppress a group of people for arbitrary reasons like skin color or sexual orientation, relying on equally arbitrary favor from the courts to spare them the consequences of their actions, then the clear answer is to abolish that group's monopoly on the police as well as the courts.

The words "law" and "order" have run together into a cliché, not just on the NBC lineup but in the public mind as well. Since only government provided law for so long, people seem to accept the conclusion that government must provide order as well. However, economic theory and

practice both tell us that when people desire a good or service, an enterprising individual will provide it. Unless a vast majority of Americans actively desire chaos, the market for order will prove vibrant and vigorous indeed.

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



Students Understanding Cats & Kittens Course Evaluation Guide



Dear Tufts students,

Welcome to the Fall 1996 edition of Students Understanding Cats & Kittens's Course Evaluation Guide. This guide contains ratings of Tufts courses and professors from last Spring, and is intended to help the feline-inclined among you in the process of choosing your courses.

Although we hope to reach as wide an audience as possible, this information is not meant for general consumption. Through a special grant from the Dean of Students' Office, we have prepared this guide specifically for members of the Manx, Abyssinian, and Siamese communities at Tufts. Whereas those particular marginalized groups have been subjugated throughout the ages (we must never forget that beautiful cat who first suffered at the hands of the pharaohs' ear-piercers, then had insult added to injury when they shipped him off to the British Museum), we frankly hope this guide will free them from Calico-centric oppression and give them the tools they need to be all that they can be in the evolving technology-dominated 21st century economy.

Sincerely,
The Education Committee, SUCK

How to Use the Course Evaluation Guide

- Each course is rated on a scale from 1 to 5 (5=Unbelievable, 4=Extraordinary, 3=Remarkable, 2=Brilliant, 1=Excellent).
- There are ratings in each of five categories: professor's availability outside of the litter, overall rating of professors, overall rating of course, amount learned, and workload.
- In addition, the number of students from each class and the number of majors and non-majors in the subject are listed.

Course	Professor	Availability	Instructor	Course	Learned	Workload	Graduate	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshmen	Major-No	Major-Yes
FS101: How to Sleep 18 Hours a Day	Mungojerrie & Rumpleteazer	4.5	4.9	4.6	5.0	4.7	0	4	2	0	0	0	6
FS125: Restless Kittens	Bombalurina, Coricopat	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.3	0	4	2	0	0	0	6
FS138: Breedism in Feline Societies	Grizabella	4.7	5.0	4.9	5.0	4.8	0	4	2	0	0	0	6
FS141: Feline Political Thought I	Mephistopheles	4.3	4.8	4.3	5.0	4.6	0	4	2	0	0	0	6
FS181: Sem: Midnight Caterwauling	Skimbleshanks	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.5	0	4	2	0	0	0	6

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

I love New York City. I've got a gun.
—Charles Barkley

Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then, we elected them.
—Lily Tomlin

I didn't make Arkansas the butt of ridicule. God did.
—H. L. Mencken

I like cigarettes.... I like to think of fire held in a man's hand. Fire, a dangerous force, tamed at his fingertips. I often wonder about the hours when a man sits alone, watching the smoke of a cigarette, thinking. I wonder what great things have come from such hours. When a man thinks, there is a spot of fire alive in his mind—and it is proper that he should have the burning point of a cigarette as his one expression.
—Ayn Rand, *Atlas Shrugged*

The Constitution provides for every accidental contingency in the Executive—except a vacancy in the mind of the President.
—Senator John Sherman

In the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.
—Edward Gibbon

*The pig, if I am not mistaken,
Supplies us sausage, ham, and bacon.
Let others say his heart is big.
I call it stupid of the pig.*
—Ogden Nash

A man must first govern himself 'ere he is fit to govern a family; and his family 'ere he be fit to bear the government of the commonwealth.
—Sir Walter Raleigh

To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness.
—Benjamin Franklin

Democracy is three wolves and a sheep deciding what to have for dinner.
—Unknown

When they took the Fourth Amendment, I was silent because I don't deal. When they took the Sixth Amendment, I kept quiet because I know I'm innocent. When they took the Second Amendment, I said nothing because I don't own a gun. Now they've come for the First Amendment, and I can't say anything at all.
—Tim Freeman

The worst thing in this world, next to anarchy, is government.
—Reverend Henry Ward

If we can put a man on the moon, why can't we put Clinton there?
—Unknown

America does not go abroad in search of monsters to destroy. She is the well-wisher to freedom and independence of all. She is the champion and vindicator only of her own.
—John Quincy Adams

Truth and news are not the same thing.
—The Washington Post owner
Katherine Graham

No nation was ever drunk when the wine was cheap.
—Thomas Jefferson

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

Don't go around saying the world owes you a living. The world owes you nothing. It was here first.
—Mark Twain

It's illegal to say to a voter 'Here's \$100, vote for me.' So what do the politicians do? They offer the voter \$100 in the form of Health Care, Social Security, Unemployment Insurance, Food Stamps, tobacco subsidies, grain payments, NEA payments, and jobs programs.
—Don Farrar

Children who know how to think for themselves spoil the harmony of the collective society which is coming where everyone is interdependent.
—John Dewey, pioneer of public education

When goods don't cross borders, soldiers will.
—Fredric Bastiat

The said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to prevent the people of the United States who are peaceable citizens from keeping their own arms.
—Samuel Adams

We hate our politicians so much that even if they tell us they lied, we don't believe them.
—Paul Newman

The day you write to please everyone you no longer are in journalism. You are in show business.
—Frank Miller, Jr.

The word media is plural for mediocre.
—Rene Saguisag

The United Nations is the greatest fraud in all history. Its purpose is to destroy the United States.
—Congressman John E. Rankin

It's hard to believe that America was founded to avoid high taxes.
—Theodore Roosevelt

The United States Supreme Court has handed down the eleventh commandment, "Thou shalt not, in any classroom, read the first ten."
—Associate Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark

Name me an emperor who was ever struck by a cannonball.
—Charles V

I didn't know he was dead; I thought he was British.
—Unknown

My uncle was the town drunk—and we lived in Chicago.
—W. C. Fields

A wife lasts only for the length of the marriage, but an ex-wife is there for the rest of your life.
—Jim Samuels

Exit, pursued by a bear.
—stage direction in Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*