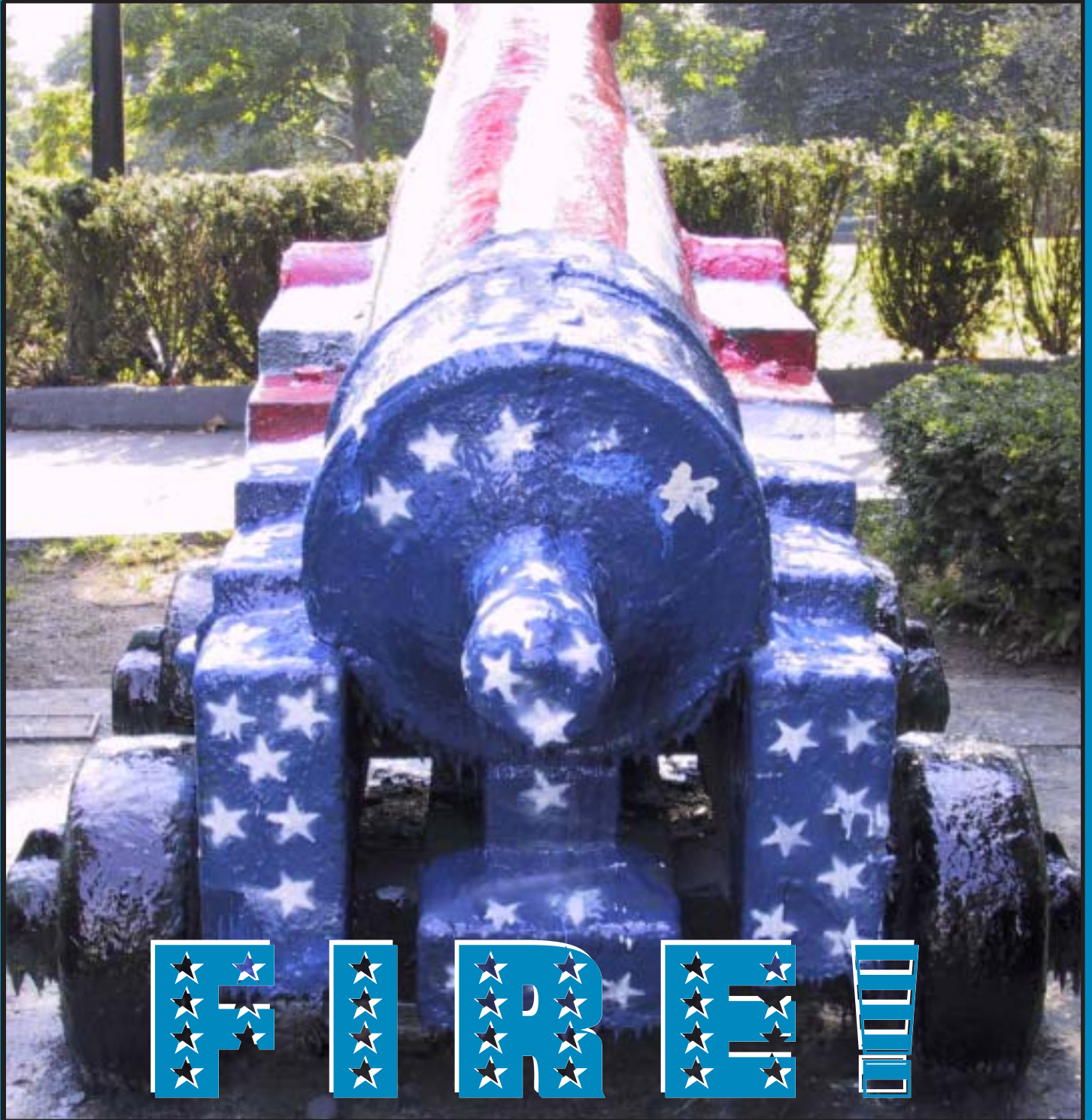


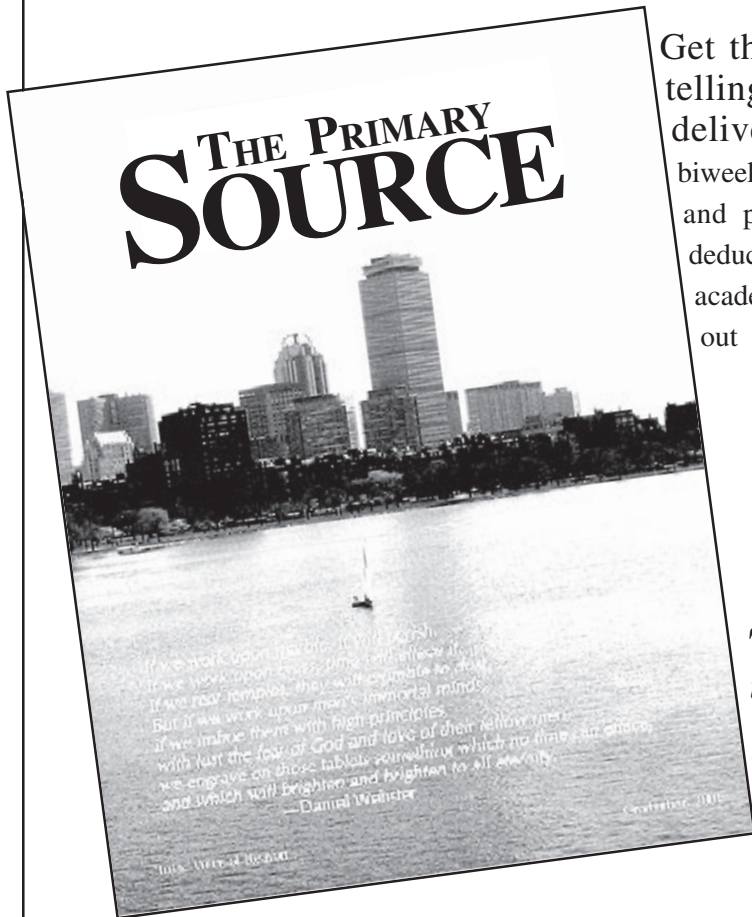
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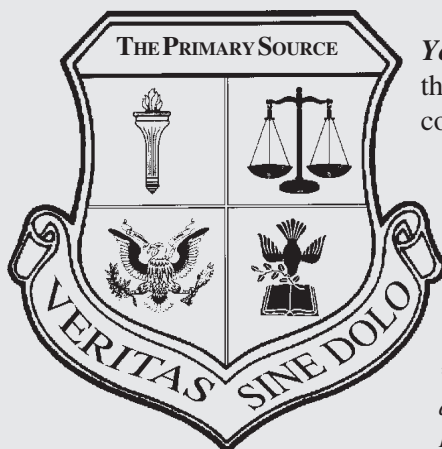
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# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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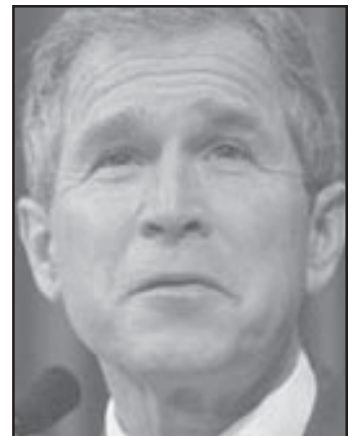
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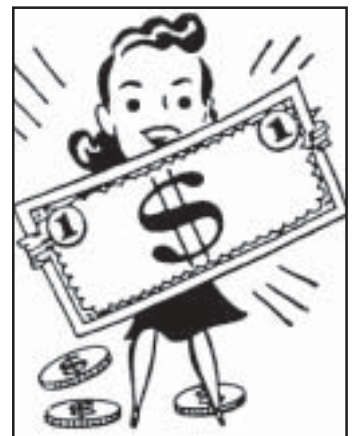
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# Reason and Strength

The attack has come, and the time to mince words is no more. On Sunday, October 7th, the United States began its retaliatory strike against the Taliban regime of Afghanistan and the terrorists it harbors. While we here at Tufts can merely watch, America's brave soldiers are now risking their lives to protect our freedom. Yet as we students, professors, and administrators safely remain atop our hill, there are several issues surrounding the events of which we should be especially mindful.

A name on a piece of paper isn't a solution. As is often the case when a crisis occurs, certain members of the Tufts community have egotistically taken to writing public statements and gleefully signing their names to it. They send opinions to the *Daily* and then boastfully list the names of those who agree with them. It is not even that these statements are no more substantive than "racism against Arabs is bad" as it is their self-serving desire to inject themselves into a national crisis that deserves scorn. Such statements do not create intellectual debate of any sort but merely serve to make those signing feel better about themselves. Let's face it—no individual on this campus will have any bearing on the outcome of this war, so no one cares whose names appear next to any statement about it. Debate about the war on terrorism on this campus should occur; grandstanding to make oneself feel important should not.

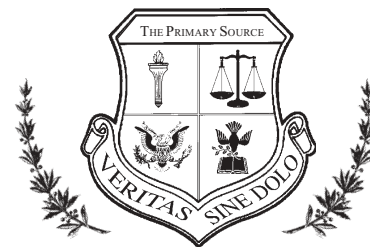
Jumping to conclusions about others' politics only brings harm. Just as President Bush has harshly condemned prejudice against Arab-Americans, so too should the many assumptions made by one end of the political spectrum about the other. Do liberals hate America? No. Do conservatives want to carpet-bomb Afghanistan and then make them all Christians? No. While each side has a different vision of how justice should be served, wisdom must overcome reflexive assumptions. For example, to some the flag has recently taken on new meaning

as a symbol of unity and solidarity, while to others the colors red, white, and blue represent "mindless jingoism." To assume that the flag represents violence is just erroneous, and the use of a term that until a month ago had not been mentioned since the Spanish-American war is disturbingly tactless.

Reason should be our guide. Shortly after September 11<sup>th</sup>, Americans were divided into two types of people: those whose reflex was to support America and those whose impulsively blamed the United States. THE PRIMARY SOURCE proudly stands behind our nation and the democratically elected Bush administration that now leads us. But we do not surrender our reason to patriotism, and within these pages you will find criticisms of Bush's recent actions. We would only hope that those who label Bush an "idiot" or "monkey" find the sense to intelligently present an argument—any argument.

The United States is the greatest nation on Earth. It is not perfect, and a "love it or leave it" attitude will not improve it. But examining America's actions in the wake of being attacked leaves no other conclusion. What other nation would send millions in humanitarian aid to the very country with which it is at war? America is powerful enough to distinguish between those responsible for the attacks and those who are victims as we were. What other nation could use its own money to prop up the world's economy after it was attacked? The Federal Reserve has recently approved the release of several billion dollars in liquid funds to ensure solvency of the world's economies. America is prosperous enough to enrich the entire world. We live in a nation of unprecedented freedom and prosperity, and we should be thankful.

May God continue to bless America,

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ME!  
HEY!  
OVER HERE!  
*HEY!*



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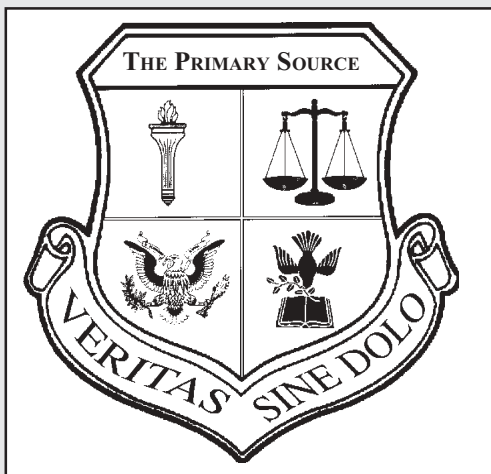
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# Commentary

## Speak No Evil

In the weeks following the terrorist attacks on Washington, DC and New York City, Americans have shown a new spirit of unity and benevolence. Displays of charity and patriotism have been frequent as an exceptional number of citizens rally behind our government. National pride is at a level not seen since the Cold War, but the transformed cultural landscape has sparked a new debate over freedom of speech.

The conflict between sensitivity and freedom of speech has been especially prominent in the entertainment industry. Those who once vehemently defended mindless displays of carnage now worry that even the slightest depiction of violence in creative media will cross the boundaries of public taste. The entertainment industry has shown an unprecedented degree of self-scrutiny since September 11th. Upcoming action movies with plots relating to terrorism, such as the Arnold Schwarzenegger film "Collateral Damage," have been shelved indefinitely, costing film companies of hundreds of millions of dollars. Even the World Wrestling Federation has not escaped the new atmosphere of self-censorship. The company stopped airing "Bodies," the Drowning Pool hit that had become the WWF's new theme song. Ironically, the song is about dancers, not corpses.

Self-policing in the entertainment industry and the media since September 11th, however, has not always been voluntary. Bill Maher, the host of the late-night talk show "Politically Incorrect," was recently warned by White House press secretary Ari Fleischer that media representatives "have to watch what they say." Maher had claimed that the US would be cowardly if it launched missiles on targets in Afghanistan. Journalists around the country who have criticized President Bush's response to the terrorist attacks have been forced to publicly apologize for their remarks and have, in some cases, lost their jobs.

While many in the media have rightfully responded to an increased public demand for shows sympathetic to the September 11th victims, the rampant rise in Oprah-esque sensitivity ultimately threatens to, in the words of *New York Times* writers John Leland and Peter Marks, "produce a culture of blandness, leading some to believe that cultural comfort food is all the nation may be willing to stomach." Yet some people have resisted this trend. Columbia University's Miller Theater director, George Steel, allowed the concert of the musical piece "Blood on the Floor" to continue, stating that "canceling it . . . would infantilize the audience." The entertainment industry and media should take their cues from people like Steel and realize that, while excess sensitivity may be a good idea in the short term, in the long run it threatens the courage necessary for free speech.

## ELBO Room

Step aside, culture reps: Elections Board (ELBO) has you beat this month for biggest student government screw-up. Last Thursday, Tufts freshmen elected their eight representatives to the TCU senate, ending a week-long hiatus of the election caused by nothing more than incompetence. After some minor debate, it appears that ELBO, or what was once ELBO, is to blame. What should have been the relatively ordinary task of organizing the freshman election ended in a flurry of resignations, impeachments, and a formal complaint against ELBO to the Committee on Student Life.

In the first of many blunders, ELBO planned to put the freshmen elections online this year in an initiative toward modernizing campus election procedures. To use online ballots, however, is a violation of ELBO by-laws, which state that elections must be held in Carmichael, Dewick, and the Campus Center. Changing the by-laws requires only a quick vote by group members, yet ELBO ignored protocol and violated their own rules. Additionally, the online ballots ended up being too expensive to fit ELBO's budget. Instead of having a backup plan for a paper ballot, ELBO simply let the ball drop. Phone calls from potential candidates went unreturned, profiles of candidates were never printed in the *Daily*, and the election simply did not happen on schedule.

ELBO's year has been fraught with disorganization and other problems. One member was voted out *Survivor*-style after not attending any meetings. That was before the elections even started. Member Albert Huang was impeached by his fellow members for failure to complete his duties. The TCU senate asked chair Shane Mason and member Adam Mueller to resign. Both did so with relief. Mason happily took full responsibility for the non-election. The sole remaining member, Val Caruso, was also asked to step down but refused and finally held the election by himself.



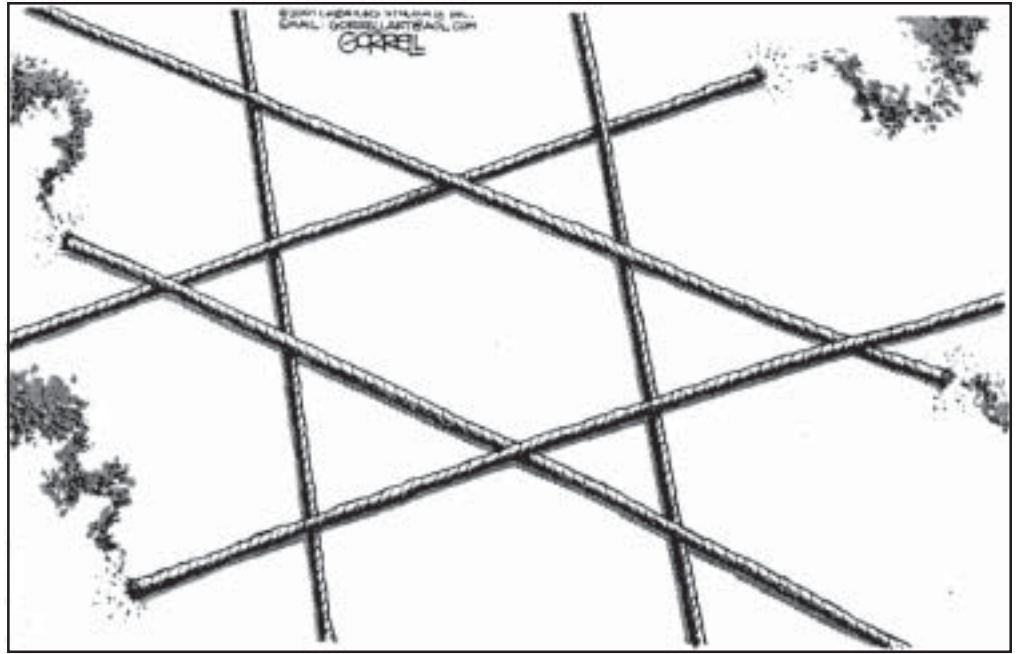
Despite the fact that Caruso took control of the situation after his colleagues gleefully fled their responsibilities, his behavior prior to the elections was unforgivable. Not responding to emails from prospective candidates and failing to even be on campus the day the elections were *supposed* to take place is unacceptable for a legitimate member of student government. Although the complaint against Caruso was dropped, senators who were kept from beginning this year's business must not forget his evasion of responsibility when they send their delegates to appoint new ELBO members later this year.

## Palestine? No, Just Kidding.

So maybe we haven't been supporting Israel one hundred and ten percent in the Middle East conflict. Maybe we've only supported it one hundred and five percent. But does that mean the United States government also has the intention of encouraging the establishment of a Palestinian state? President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell seem to say so. In a statement to reporters last week, President Bush claimed that the United States has always envisioned a Palestinian state as being part of the Middle East peace process. Bush has been attempting to halt violence in the Middle East over the last few weeks in an effort to ultimately assemble a global anti-terrorism effort.

Middle Eastern leaders had mixed responses to Bush's statement. A number of Palestinian leaders have applauded Bush's declaration, but Israeli leaders contend that this will bring about no change in American policy. But some Arab leaders have recognized this action for what it is: a blatant attempt on the part of the Bush administration to acquire support from Arab countries. While the secretary general of the Arab League Amir Moussa acknowledged that Bush's remarks might be a turning point in the Middle East peace process, he also said that Arab countries would not aid in any military strikes against terrorism.

Did Bush really think he would fool anyone? Pro-Israel contingents fiercely criticized Bush; Israeli officials have claimed no fear of a real reversal in American foreign policy. America has supported Israel in the Middle East conflict for some time—you know it, we know it, and even the "editors" of *Radix* know it. Apparently the Bush administration is trying to fool Arab leaders into thinking otherwise. In this matter, it is quite likely that our past actions will speak louder than our current words—the United States will continue to fully support Israel.



## Arrivederci, Rudy!

Rules are rules. That's what Rudy Giuliani was thinking when he defied public opinion and declined to run for a third term as New York City Mayor. Despite sky-high job approval ratings in traditionally liberal Gotham, Giuliani will step down this winter. Only recently did New Yorkers approve of term limits that forbid Hizzoner to take a third term. Giuliani could exploit his popularity and run anyway; but he made the right call.

Giuliani's tenure as mayor will forever be connected with the disaster of September 11th. Even though when he leaves New York will yet be a warzone, Rudy can borrow a phrase from the Gore campaign: Big Apple citizens are surely better off now than they were eight years ago. Giuliani's improvements to New York included sweeping anti-crime legislation and less-noticeable upgrades like ridding street corners of the pesky "squeegee men." His liberal opponents will always disparage the mayor's use of his bully pulpit as the vehicle for his moral bombast; they'll never forgive Giuliani for taking on local museums that displayed a feces-smearing Virgin Mary. But the only New Yorkers truly glad to see Rudy go are hookers, pushers, and junkies.

For now, the clear choice for his replacement is Mike Bloomberg. The billionaire media mogul easily won the recent city mayoral primary. Meanwhile, his Democratic opponents are in shambles, torn between Fernando Ferrer and Mark Green, who will vie for the candidacy in a run-off election. Despite his deep pockets, Bloomberg will have big shoes to fill. No matter how big his feet, should Bloomberg get Giuliani's support, he will certainly be a shoe-in for mayor.

There is a political future for Rudy Giuliani. While New York Republicans are usually to the left of the GOP on national issues, party members may come calling in 2008. Many Republicans are already drooling at the thought of a Colin Powell/Giuliani ticket in seven years. □

# Fortnight in Review <sup>SM</sup>

*Comedy is allied to Justice.*  
—Aristophanes



**PS** After former South Carolina governor Carroll Campbell was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, the two-term executive vowed to fight his illness. Campbell told the press, "I will beat this disease, and then go on to fulfill my lifelong dream of being of governor of South Carolina."

**PS** In order to allow fair representation of Alaskan-Americans, the federal government approved the state's redistricting plan. All ten citizens of Alaska will now have their own district, including Puck, the token black.

**PS** Infamous California Congressman Gary Condit is considering a re-election. Should he run, he will focus his campaign on new goals such as honesty, integrity, and not murdering interns.

**PS** The minuteman mascot at Indiana's Jefferson County Middle School is without his musket—administrators disarmed him because "guns have no place in school." The musket will be replaced with a box cutter.

**PS** A website made by American paratroopers stationed in Italy was shut down when people complained of the insensitivity of a feature called "Bash bin Laden." The unkind material was replaced with a game suggested by the Tufts English Department, "Hug bin Laden, and Kindly Suggest He Stop Blowing Up Americans."

**PS** Islamic activists in England demanded that the BBC not mention bin Laden's religion, claiming the term "Muslim fundamentalist" causes racist backlash. Instead, BBC commentators will now refer to bin Laden as "that daft bloody prick."

**PS** A North Carolina elementary school has outraged local parents by refusing to allow the kiddies to recite the Pledge of Allegiance before class. Singing "Dixie" is still encouraged.

**PS** News service Reuters refused to refer to the perpetrators of the attacks on America as "terrorists," saying "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." Intrepid Reuters reporters discovered that Osama bin Laden had misplaced his freedom in the bottom of the World Trade Center and was simply trying to retrieve it.

**PS** Barry Bonds broke Mark McGwire's single-season home run record, and Rickey Henderson broke Ty Cobb's all-time runs scored record last week. White people take heart: at least we still have hockey.

**PS** And shuffleboard!

**PS** Top Ten Reasons to Become a Tufts Janitor:

10. Tight SLAM tank tops
9. Well-endowed female SLAM members
8. Get to raid the Latino house fridge
7. Sniffing cleaning fluid gets you wicked high
6. Tufts Connect leaves cable on in lounges
5. "Accidentally" cleaning occupied female showers
4. Low work standards
3. *No habla ingles? No problema!*
2. What else are you gonna do with a Women's Studies Major?
1. Twenty grand!





**PS** Ancient congressman Strom Thurmond collapsed last week. Doctors initially attributed his collapse to a stroke but later discovered Thurmond had fainted after learning that dagnabbit women's suffrage bill had passed.

**PS** President Bush proudly introduced his anti-terrorism bill to Congress, claiming the bill will do more than previous legislation to prevent violence against Americans. The bill will make it illegal for foreigners to fly into buildings.

**PS** Stevie Wonder's ex-girlfriend has filed a \$30 million palimony lawsuit against him, claiming that he gave her a sexually transmitted disease. Apparently he accidentally put the condom on his big toe.

**PS** Pray for change! Works for Anne Heche!

**PS** In other presidential news, Mr. Bush is unveiling his humanitarian aid package to the people of Afghanistan. The package will include a fruitcake from last Christmas and a card reading "Up yours!"

**PS** The Supreme Court disbarred former lawyer William Jefferson Clinton last week. Ruth Bader-Ginsburg insisted upon his removal after hearing rumors that the slick one had said "it wasn't worth appointing her even if she does have a great rack."

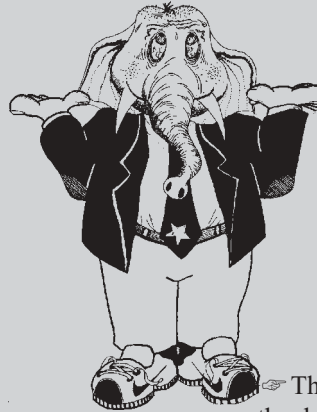
**PS** Top Ten Reasons Billy Joel Won't Come Here

10. Not enough Long Islanders
9. May be forced to perform SLAM jingle
8. Afraid of "Billy = Murderer" sign
7. TFA would protest phallocentric gender roles in "Only the Good Die Young"
6. Administration doesn't want students to accustom themselves to the finer things in life
5. TUPD officers would accuse Joel of starting the fire
4. Townies would chant "Yankees suck!"
3. Time conflicts with the Ted Nugent concert
2. Administration is wary of admitting yet another white male
1. "Where the hell is Tufts?"

**PS** A man claiming to be Michael Jackson was granted entrance to Yankee Stadium by team personnel and was slated to throw out the first pitch at a game, until police arrested him. Apparently one policeman noticed that the impostor still had a nose.

**PS** Madonna lent her treasured painting, *Self-Portrait With Monkey* by artist Frida Kahlo, to London's Tate Modern museum, saying it was "like letting go of one of my precious children." You mean your child with the movie director or your child with the personal trainer?

**PS** A man who had been drinking shot the Alaska Pipeline last Thursday with a hunting rifle, causing 285,000 gallons of oil to spew into the tundra over a period of three days. The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals then flew in baby seals for a photo-op.



## From The Elephant's Mouth

☞ The *Daily's* IQ jumps up a few points thanks to the addition of *Wall Street Journal Campus Edition*. We're still waiting for the *Journal* to add misspelled headlines, sycophantic rants, and **articles that jump to nowhere...** Long, short, thick, black—the *Daily Weekender's* got you covered with an above-the-fold wide-shot of a selection of dildos. The picture took up almost as much space as the article itself, an **exposé on sex shops** in the Boston area. Guess we weren't looking when the *Daily* added *Playgirl Campus Edition*.

☞ A *Daily* ad asks students to participate in a **sperm donor** program and earn up to 600 bucks a month. That'll buy a lot of Kleenex... **Crack Daily** investigators reveal that Middle Eastern travelers are more likely to be "scrutinized" at airports. Next *Daily* bombshell: **Irish** travelers more likely to be violent drunks.

☞ Freshpersyn **Jennifer Ko** calls swordfish an "**overfished species**" in a *Viewpoint* intended to dissuade TUDS from serving the long-nosed delicacy. But Jennifer's only been here a month. Wait 'til she sees Dewick's **bald eagle Thanksgiving smorgasbord...** Tufts grad **Linda Spencer** will compete in the TV show *Survivor: Africa*. We think she'll win the million bucks; after four years eating at Carmichael, **munching rat** will be no problem... but not **swordfish**.

☞ Why spell check when you can stir up racism? *Daily* filler declares "**Middle Easterns** [*sic*] feel persecuted." Not to be outdone, an *Observer* ad asks readers to "Submit and [*sic*] Opinion." Finally, *Radix* posters littering campus define their rag as "**Tufts** [*sic*] **Journal of Progressive Thought**." We know that commies don't like the possessive, but this is ridiculous.

☞ SWAMI ELEPHANT predicts: The eight newly elected freshmen senators serve for three years, then quit to become Trustee Reps, Paragon members, or **United Leaders**. Those who lost the election are elected officers of Strategic Gaming Society... SLAM quits whining and picks up a **mop**... Iris Halpern purchases **SLAM hotpants** to match oh-so-tight tank tops... Yum.

☞ THE ELEPHANT never forgets.

*There's a reason no Peace and Justice Studies majors intern on Wall Street.*

# Indoctrination U.

by Ezra Klughaupt

Asked to explain the official politics of Tufts, any administrator will most likely give you the tried and true answer: Tufts has no official politics. After all, as an institution of higher learning, Tufts should be dedicated to the unadulterated pursuit of knowledge—a mission that knows no political bounds. Yet Tufts has strayed far from the ideals that it claims to hold dear.

Perhaps the most flagrant violator of academic impartiality is the Peace and Justice Studies program. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the department published a pledge in the *Daily* and on its website in which they urged “that the search for justice be focused specifically

on the perpetrators of the crime itself” and that they would “offer alternatives to measures that perpetuate the cycle of violence.”

While the language avoided directly stating the political motivations of the Peace and Justice Studies Program, it was clearly intended to discourage a military retaliation to the attack on America. By using the word “crime” to describe a terrorist attack, the statement implies that the response should be in the form of a criminal trial rather than an armed response. The department’s call for “alternatives” is nothing but a renunciation of war as a solution to violence. It is not unlike the calls of anti-war activists previous to the Second World War—a war against the Nazis, a foe morally equivalent to the Islamic fundamentalists who perpetrated the September 11<sup>th</sup> attack. This statement is not the kind that should be forwarded by an arm of the University.

*Mr. Klughaupt is a junior majoring in Computer Science.*

This is certainly not the first time the Peace and Justice Studies Department has crossed the line between academics and promoting a certain brand of politics. In fact, both the major and certificate program in Peace and Justice require an internship with a “social change organization.” In other words, if you want to graduate with a Peace and Justice Studies degree, you have to work for an organization that promotes the politics of the department. This is nothing

but an attempt by a group of professors to conscript students into their own political organizations. It is an inexcusable travesty of the university’s impartiality.

The Peace and Justice Studies program is certainly not the only department

whose main objective is to promote a political view. Another fertile bastion of indoctrination is the Women’s Studies Program. Contrary to the department’s name, its purpose is not to study women and the issues surrounding them but rather to promote extreme feminism. The program’s scope is not limited to the feminism of past activists who simply sought equality of opportunity; it extends to the politics of extremists who seek to eradicate masculinity.

While these programs are the most visible of the campus indoctrinators, they certainly could not act without help from many of the more traditional departments. Both programs are interdisciplinary and rely on courses from established departments on campus. Help is plentiful, as many actual departments are run by the same ideologues as the interdisciplinary programs. English, which was historically dedicated to the study of English and American classics, is now so littered with politicized

classes one can barely find time for an education in between the hours of propaganda. Those who worship the golden calf of diversity and political correctness believe that these topics should not just be taught on their own but should be pushed into discussions of all other topics.

English 80, which counts towards the Women’s Studies degree, is a prime example of how politicization weakens traditional studies while promoting the professor’s politics. The class, titled “Hitchcock: Gender, Cinema, Ideology,” is the only course that covers the works of the revered filmmaker. The class, however, is dominated by discussion of “the patriarchy,” metaphorical castration, and feminist theory—all taught strictly as fact. After all of these politically correct discussions, there is rarely much time to discuss any of the other aspects of the films.

The central reason why all of these departments so unapologetically use their power to promote their ideals is that, to these departments, these ideals are facts. Political correctness is no joke to them as it is to most Americans. Rather, it is their central guiding principle. Unfortunately, by teaching these beliefs as undeniable facts, they lead another generation of students to the same conclusions and eliminate intellectual debate in the process. Facts and logic are de-emphasized, replaced with anecdotes and blind reasoning.

If liberal arts institutions wish to truly serve the purpose of purveying and creating knowledge, they must stop this trend of politicization. When knowledge is spread objectively, it is education. When it is disseminated through a political filter, it is indoctrination. Thankfully, there are still some in the university system who are dedicated to the ideals of fairness, objectivity, and the pursuit of knowledge. The future of our educational system, and American society as a whole, is dependent on the efforts of these people to preserve whatever integrity the modern university has left. □



**"Sssh! Don't tell Tufts my films reinforce the phallogocentric worldview."**



# THE OBERVER

TUFTS' WEAKEST PAPER

VOLUME SPED, ISSUE I

FRIEDAY, OCTEMBER 1, 2001

MEDFROD, MASSS.

## Weather Sparks Controversy



Photo by Dick Leaky

Tufts students enjoy the fall weather on the Tufts campus, but the weather has sparked a controversy.

## Internal Strife Rips Up TCU Student senators, ELBOW

"We are up in arms," say student celebs

by **HUGH PUTZ**  
Observer Mismanaging Editor

Many well-known personalities on the Tufts campus became embroiled in controversy this week, as the Tufts Student Elections Board (EBLO) became the focus of a campus-wide controversy. The craziness began when ELBO, whose real name is Valentino Caruso II, forgot to hold the elections for the freshmen senator candidates. At a press conference in Hotung, Caruso II reiterated that he will stay on the TCU Senate although the TCU Senate wanted to have him strung up.

The freshman senators, who were elected via a secret ballot available only by going to the Campus Center between the hours of 1:15

and 1:35 AM early Columbus Day morning, saw a record turnout. Meanwhile, janitors are still not being paid nearly enough money.

"I have only been here a month, but I definitely think that janitors should have a lot of money. I have never cleaned up after myself before, and I am sure as hell not going to start now," said freshman Jon Goldbergstein.

When pressed for details, Goldbergstein added: "I also think that there should be soap and paper towels in the dormitories. Go Jumbos!" We agree.



Photo by Dick Burns

This TCU senator contemplates change.

## SLAM Enhances Tufts Educational experience Campus leaders sparking controversy

by **LES BIEN**  
Editor at Large

Tufts students learn a lot when they go to their classes at Tufts University: biology, sociology, and english. But few students expected to get such a real life education this semester: they were educated in the subject of real life.

"All this semester I have learned about real, honest, hard working people and the

actual troubles in the world," said one freshman, who before coming to Tufts spent her days laying in a hammock and being fed grapes by one of her family's many eunuchs. "Coming to Tufts has made me realize just how many hardships there are in the world."

Teachers of classes here at Tufts University have also found the recent custodian conflict to be "teachable" in their classes. Anthropologist Stephen

See SLAM page 435

## Professors comment on issues

by **MIKE HUNT**  
Large Editor

The Observer conducted extensive research for this current article, in which we asked professors around Tufts to comment on certain issues, because pretending you care about what professors have to say is a great way to kiss ass.

"We should reach out

and give Osama bin Laden a great big hug," said Peace and Justice Studies professor Paul Joesph. "Then when he's not looking, sucker punch him in the kidney."

"I think we should just nationalize the whole damned economy and get it over with," said philosophy Professor Norman Daniels. "Please leave a message at the tone." But perhaps the most amazing thing was when one professor said

See KISSASS page 56

# Editorials

## Tufts Janitors Deserve More

It is the position of the editors of the tufts OBERVER that the administration whoever they are listen to the demands of SLUM. there is simply no reason why the custodial engineers who take our bags full of trash and put them in the dumpsters not making as much as president of the University Tufts Larry "Lawrence" Bacon who makes according to Iris Halpern, SLAP coordinator, a lot of money. It is difficult to imagine a Tufts campus, the campus on which we go to school on, with out a clean campus. The bathrooms must be cleaned because we do not know how many times we have stumbled out of the OBERVER office after having had a day of solid drinking Night Train after which we laid out the Observatio Opinion pages which we swear to god that's why they're all stupid and anyway we stumbled, drunk, out to the bathroom and puke all over the place because of the night train and that's usually when we write editorials and so that's why janoritiots engineers money lots.

## OPEN\* FORUM

\*to all who agree with the majority opinion



"Racism is bad."



"RAAAAR I AM A CREATURE"



"Totally."

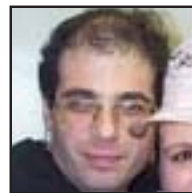


"Yeah."

*What do you think about, you know, race and stuff?*

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### Deep Thoughts



**MACK  
McBROCKMACK**

So I was sitting in Carmichael the other day reacting to the tragedy in New York and Washington, DC and my friend Amy came up to me and she said, "I totally can't believe this happened" so I comforted her, and said I really feel sorry for the victims and their families and the firemen and their families and also the policemen and the res-

cue workers, but especially the janitors because they aren't paid as much as firemen and cops and EMT workers and such, plus they are from other countries, mostly non-English speaking diverse countries, so when people were running out of the building going "Run! Run!" they didn't understand so they stayed behind and cleaned but I don't feel sorry for the terrorists even though America should seriously reevaluate its foreign policy since it is capitalist greed and the corporate machine that caused this disaster which is true since Ar-

abs really hate McDonalds and when they built one in Riyadh without asking it probably angered many diverse citizens and only added to years of pent up anger, rage, wrath, diversity, frustration, fury, anger, and resentment and from that came terrorism, which is why I don't understand why the government doesn't see this because it is very obvious that we brought this upon ourselves by not embracing diversity and by sponsoring a global hate campaign vise a vie comme ci comme ca et cetera chutzpah mollycoddle noise noise noise noise and the global military industrial construct, by the way I was eating the fish sticks and the caesar salad. Poop is funny.

We're



Blotto

Wednesday, September 26

At 1:15 Am a suspicios smell was smelled emanating from a dorm room in Bridge/Metcalf hall. The Tufts TUPD responded and emerged from the building later, getting into their police car and driving away. They would not put on the siren even when we asked them nicely.

Wednesday, September 26

At 1:15 AM TUPD received a notice of two suspicious looking males emanating from South Hall. TUPD responded with two officers who pulled up the hall and got out of their car. We looked in side and there were donuts!!!!!!!!!!!!11111 LOL and also. Th eTUPD came out of the building again and when asked said that the men were Tufts students disputing.

— compiled by Dick Withers

# Observations

## Hey Mister Taliban, Tally Me bin Laden

**JEFF AKBAR**

As a member of the Tufts Collective of Men For Violence (TCMFV), I am outraged by sissies on both the Left and Right. Osama bin Laden must be captured and tortured. Nothing less will be satisfactory.

I've heard many propositions about the intellectual punishment of bin Laden—making him watch MTV and such—but this is not nearly harsh enough. He must be captured; his underground lair must be raided; his henchmen must be raped and pillaged; we must cover his genitals in honey and throw him in a nest of fire ants. The triumphant Navy SEALs ought to then place his gnawed and swollen bits under a steamroller. A sledgehammer to the knees—Chinese water torture—cut off his

*Jeff Akbar is a junior majoring in Political Science and Violence Studies.*

feet and blowtorch the stumps—then make him run a mile being chased by the man-eating wild boars from *Hannibal*. Then a

time to remove his tongue with a pair of safety scissors. His fingernails and toenails have got to go. Thankfully, Her Majesty's Royal Army will provide many thousand sharpened tongue depressors for that task.

This won't be so bad. After all this, Osama will spend a romantic evening with gay adult motion picture stars Keyshawn "Logjammer" McGillicutty and Larry "the Lance" Largepenis. They'll each bring a buddy and a cameraman for the DVDA shot.

Throughout this entire process, Canadian crooner Celine Dion will be on hand to provide a live soundtrack. She and the terrified screams of bin Laden will be

recorded and released on CD, cassette, and eight-track and sold for \$5.00 (or in Kabul currency, one virgin daughter and a cow). Finally, he ought to be drawn and quartered. Six times. By monster trucks. Then, and only then, will we buy him a copy of Britney Spears' new album.

**"As a member... Osama bin Laden... intellectual punishment... rap[e]...Chinese water torture...Her Majesty's Royal Army... buy[s]...Britney Spears' new album."**

hearty bath in a tub of hydrochloric acid. And piranhas.

Then on to dinner. A heaping portion of tapeworm and steaming camel dung. With a side helping of haggis made with ground-up bits of his parents. Dessert will come next: a

## Like, Oh My God

**BRITTANY SMITH-COHEN**

Like, holy cow. I cannot even believe that like something like this could even possibly happen. Like most other Tufts students in Miller Hall where I live, it was absolutely astonishing to me to read about these events in the newspapers. And when I was in my 8:30 class on Monday, "EXP 14S: World Religions That Are So Totally Better Than Christianity," my professor was telling us how the Akaramalakakak people of ancient Ramalamadingdong would have reacted

*Brittany Smith-Cohen is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major, but she is totally seriously thinking about doing Women's Studies. Like, yeah.*

to these events, which would have been to perform a ritual female circumcision, and how we should be sure not to condemn the culture for this because we have no way of understanding their ancient traditions and to rob them of a culture would be to remove their reason for living. They also have Playstation now in their country.

But anyway, after class I went to the 'Brew with my friend Julie or Jamie and she said that like we should totally make a "blanket for understanding" which is where we get a whole bunch of string and tie it all together, and each color will represent a different emotion that we felt because of the events. Of course, the events I am referring to are

*Please see TOTALLY page 89*

## No Poop For You

**KELLY DOUCHEBAGGIO**

I would have written this *Viewpoint* last week, but I ran out of really thick crayon. Anyway, I just wanted to write to express my outrage at last week's Open Forum, which asked, "After you take a dump do you, you know, take a look at it?" Of course, almost everyone responded yes.

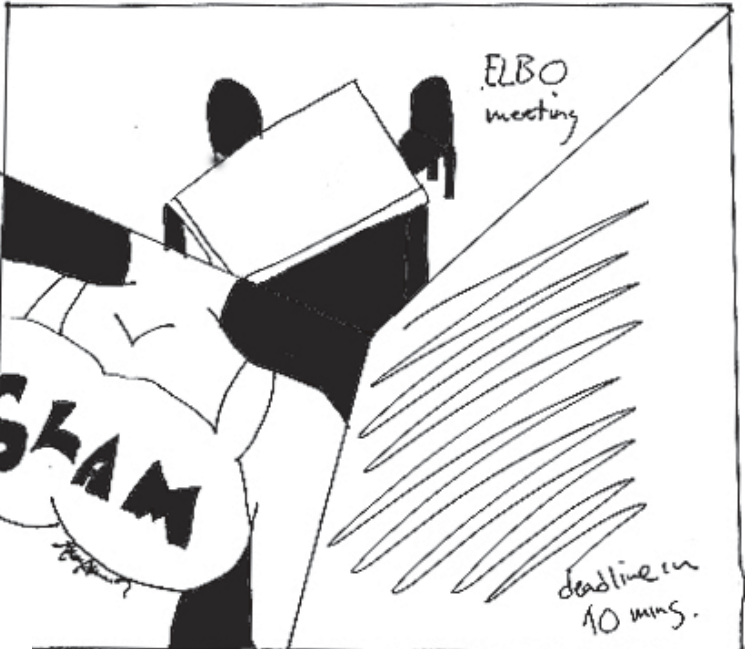
As a person who flushes before she wipes, I am deeply offended that you did not acknowledge my viewpoint. You will be hearing from my culture rep.

*Please look at POOP page 27*

# Comics



BET YOU WISH THIS BOX WAS STILL BLANK



# JUMBO SPORTS

Tufts Sports, played at Tufts by tufts. students. Tufts is the college we go to.

## Sports wrapup: Jumbos master Bates

by MIKE OXLONG

Special Friend of the Observer

The Jumbo football team goaled two scores in hockey today which resulted in a win for Jumbo sports. Five-time all NESCAFE athlete {name} was a major factor, in fact all

of the players were major factors in the win for Jumbos. Sailing team sailed a boat to win and it was all over but the crying when Ichiro hit an RBI. Also the tufts Cross Country team maintained their record of 9 to 8 when they ran longer and for a farther distance than somebody else, possibly the other team. It was an incredible event, and

the team members agreed with this sentiment. "It was an incredible event," said the team captain. "We had a bit of good luck, and a bit of bad luck, but in the end we surprised the other team with a surprise in the end," said the captain of the team for Tufts. The soccer team reiterated that their main strength was kicking.



Lady Jumbos shocked (page 17)

**SOFA KING!**  
FURNITURE

When you try our couches, you'll say "...that's not just comfortable, that's SOFA KING comfortable!"



Photo by Dick Hertz

The Tufts' cycling team prepares

*Conservative parents make the case for more Get-Out-of-Jail Free cards in Public School Monopoly.*

# Child-Friendly Pro-Choice

*by Robert Lichter*

In Cincinnati last year, a federal appeals court ruled school vouchers unconstitutional. After much legal wrangling, the case reached the Supreme Court. Hopefully the high justices will be smarter than their Cincinnati counterparts; vouchers are good for public schools because they foster competition in an establishment that otherwise has a monopoly on tax dollars.

In an ideal world, parents would be completely responsible for educating their children. Whether they home school their children or send them to a private school, parents would be expected to ensure that their children are properly educated. Unfortunately, the reality is that tax dollars fund failing public schools, and parents have limited choices as far as which public school their children will attend. They can send their children to private schools, but their tax dollars go towards public school tuition; why pay twice? Most parents can't afford private school tuition, and many others who do choose to pay tuition for their children have to scrimp on other things to make the payments.

Enter vouchers. Returning a portion of the taxed tuition to parents allows children to attend private school. This provides some much needed leverage against failing schools. Acknowledging the truth in Ronald Reagan's observation that the closest thing to eternity on earth is a government program, America must embrace vouchers. We will probably never rid ourselves of the public education system, but at least we can

improve it by providing alternatives.

America has spent \$80 billion on education over the past decade, yet this federal funding has been a colossal failure, as reading scores have spiraled downward over the past decade. School board members often

look to projects that make a school more technologically advanced, no matter how little it impacts the learning process. If bureaucrats insist on throwing such large amounts of money at education, we should at least educate the children with it; teach them how well paper burns, or show them what great tissues dollar bills make if

you rub them back and forth in your hands long enough.

On the local level, there have been challenges to the system. Vouchers in Ohio and charter schools elsewhere have lured families away from public schooling. In Ohio's case, it doesn't seem like a fair competition. Last year, in Ohio's self evaluation, its public school districts met the minimum "satisfactory" requirement in an average of only nine out of twenty-seven categories. Some might incorrectly label them as one-third satisfactory. The sum of the parts, however, is much less than a whole education. A system's deficiency in one area, or eighteen, greatly detracts from its overall benefit.

Vouchers allow children attending deficient schools to threaten to leave if they don't see progress. This is especially important for low-income families, who may not have bargaining power on their own. Indeed, 60 percent of the families using Ohio's vouchers are below the poverty level.

The statistic troubling some is that 96 percent of the 4,266 students using Ohio's vouchers attend religiously affiliated

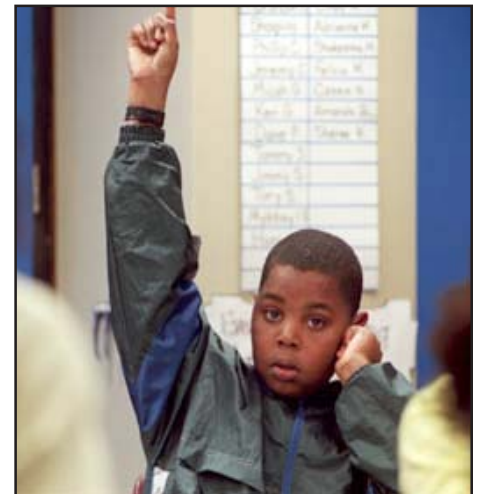
schools. The anti-voucher crowd insists that this is an affront to the "separation of church and state." They are the ones who, afraid of state-sponsored religion, have eradicated the name of God from our public schools *ad absurdum*.

Many forget that the first amendment to our Constitution states "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion." Allowing federal money to go to all types of religious schools does not favor one religion but favors the strong moral foundation in which education is most likely to flourish. Even though a few religions happen to dominate, it is often not a requirement to practice the same faith with which the school is affiliated. It would be different if there were a certain number of vouchers set aside for each type of school, but that is not the case. As long as families choose the religious schools on their own, vouchers should be viewed as a government subsidy of freedom.

What constitutes Catholic algebra or Lutheran geography or Muslim grammar? The religious schools have traditionally done a better job of teaching children the basics of reading, math, and science than their public counterparts. The fact that they also offer religious instruction has no bearing on basic education.

Microsoft has faced a lot of heat for what has been labeled as monopolistic behavior. Society should shift its focus and put public education under the same scrutiny. In the interests of better education, the Supreme Court should overturn the decision of the Cincinnati appellate court and grant parents the opportunity to choose the best school available. □

**We will probably never rid ourselves of the public education system, but at least we can improve it by providing alternatives.**



**"Mrs. Johnson, may I be excused? Permanently?"**

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

*The acronyms change,  
but the song remains the same.*

# It's Always Something

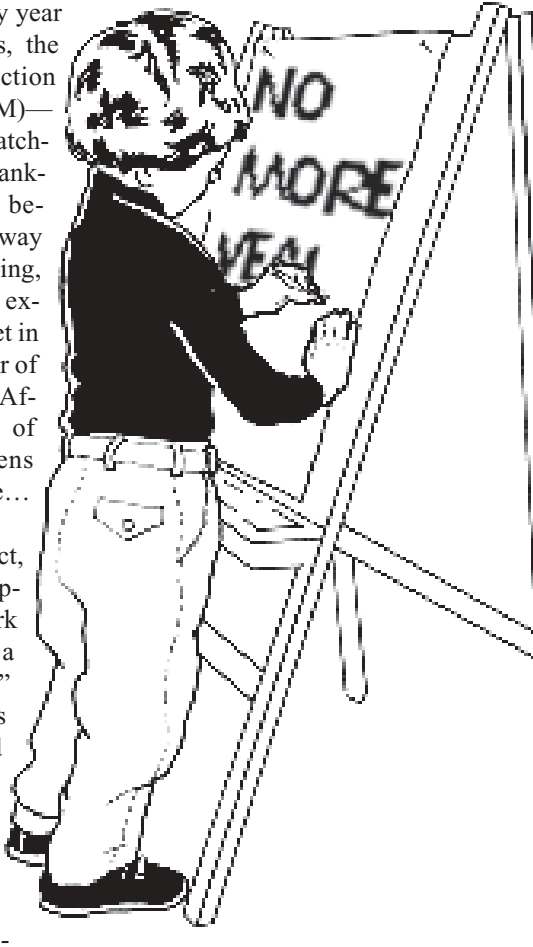
by Chris Kohler

This is a message for the class of 2005. You may be awestruck at having the good fortune to enter Tufts at such a unique time of political upheaval. What a coincidence that the very year you entered Tufts, the Student Labor Action Movement (SLAM)—complete with matching, form-fitting tank-tops—came into being! What better way to get a life-changing, fulfilling college experience than to get in on the ground floor of an activist group? After all, this kind of thing only happens once in a lifetime... right?

Wrong. In fact, this sort of thing happens like clockwork every year when a “campus leader” looking to pad his résumé/grad school application/those little “Join A Winning Team” cards they put on the tables in Wendy’s suddenly realizes that Tufts is unsafe/unfair/too focused on academics and starts bitching. (A “campus leader” majors in either Peace and Justice Studies or Women’s Studies. Long hair is optional... for the men.) Every year it’s a different protest, every year a new cause. More often than not, when the academic year comes to a close, you never hear from them again.

*Mr. Kohler is a senior majoring in Japanese.*

Through the years, Tufts has seen a litany of such groups; groups with dubious missions, overlapping goals, and absolutely ridiculous acronyms.



• **SOFA.** Students Organized For Awareness was formed in the fall of 1989 in response to an issue of *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*. The group died quickly when they realized that open discourse on racism does not constitute racism. I was about to thank Tufts students for not forming any other groups whose mission statement is to get rid of our journal, but then I remembered *Radix*.

zaftig former TCU president Andi Friedman, who only after the formation of the group realized that the acronym... ahem. It was later changed to the Tufts Feminist Leadership Alliance and then to the Tufts Feminist Alliance. (It is worth noting that the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue of *THE PRIMARY SOURCE* suggested instead Feminists Resistant to Interact with Gentlemen Interested in Dating.) The primary directive of FAT was the promotion of abortion.

• **TBAG.** Tufts Burma Action Group fought hard to eliminate Pepsi from the Tufts campus, because PepsiCo did business in Burma, and as we all know, Burma—I don’t have the column space for this, but it was something to do with political unrest. No blood for cola, I guess. TBAG, which means to put your... ahem. They wasted years of their college career with absolutely zero results, showing that it is in fact possible to lose the Pepsi Challenge.

• **HAMS.** The Human-Animal Mutualism Society was started in 1995 by one Jamie Roth, who protested rat dissections in Bio 13 and then lobbied to banish veal from

**This sort of thing happens like clockwork every year, when a “campus leader” looking to pad his résumé/grad school application/those little “Join A Winning Team” cards they put on the tables in Wendy’s suddenly realizes that Tufts is unsafe/unfair/too focused on academics and starts bitching.**

Dewick. Did Roth *have* to start with the tastiest meat? If she’d successfully banned Aztec-rubbed chicken or turkey tips, she’d have been hailed as a hero; instead she only irritated the campus at large. Her popularity dwindling, she wrote a *Viewpoint* opposing milk before joining the terrorist Animal Liberation Front and participating in a botched raid on a mink farm on Thanksgiving Day, 1996. The “Mass Four” set 25 mink free into the wild, where they promptly died. Jamie went to jail and was not able to enjoy her traditional Thanksgiving dinner of gruel made from free-range pumpkin that died of natural causes.

This year we are in danger of seeing another such protest rear its ugly head since freshman Jennifer Ko’s *Viewpoint* asked students to boycott swordfish dinners. (I shall



ask again: *why* do they start with the best selections? Can't you bitch about fish nuggets?) Like Roth, Ko is a vegan, which makes me curious as to where she got the right to tell me what kind of meat I can eat.

•**SCIRT.** The short-lived (are you seeing a pattern here yet?) Student Coalition for Investor Responsibility at Tufts was headed by former TBAGger Kathy Polias, who turned over control to future TCU president Jack Schnirman. SCIRT's objective was to ensure that Tufts only invests in politically correct stocks. This came to a close when Schnirman won the presidency and commenced the single most doing-nothing year in TCU history.

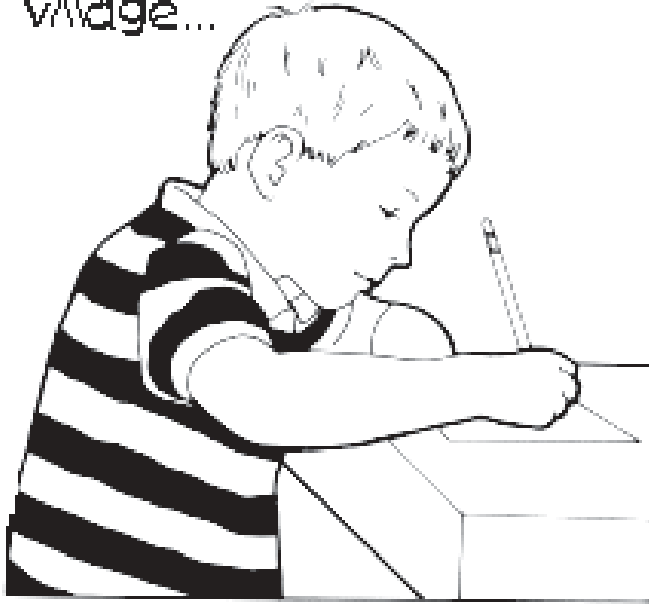
•**TSAD.** Last year, Tufts Students Against Discrimination formed with the goal of dragging the Tufts Christian Fellowship (TCF) out of their relative obscurity, complaining that their group—an evangelical Christian organization—was “discriminating against self-acceptance of identity” (whatever that means). TCF refused to allow a bisexual group member—TSAD founder Julie Catalano—to be a Senior Leader in their group because she wanted to teach that homosexual activity is not a sin according to the Bible.

TSAD members vandalized the campus with stickers, which can still be seen stuck to lampposts and signs around campus, and banners. They then staged a sit-in (more like a slumber party) in Bendetson Hall so as to disrupt the administration as much as possible. To get them the hell out, administrators “confirmed” that “self-acceptance of identity” was protected at Tufts. TSAD wanted more and attempted to change the discrimination policy so that any group who “advocat[ed] the inferiority of any identity group... should lose both funding and recognition.” The group disbanded when interest waned and the tribulations of OneSource janitors became top priority.

And that would bring us back to SLAM.

I'll leave the debunking of SLAM's communist agenda to my fellow writers and merely ask why, when the Coalition For Social Justice and Nonviolence still exists, must Iris Halpern form an entirely different group when her

...and the mindless  
jingoism which has so  
pervaded our global  
village...



“work” could have been conducted under the auspices of an existing one? As a matter of fact, why is there a new lefty umbrella group every few years? The eighties saw TPAC—the Tufts Political Action Coalition. The early nineties saw the Harambee Coalition. And the current Coalition For Social Justice and Nonviolence began during my freshman year. All three of these groups embodied the very same principles and mission statements.

The TFA, meanwhile, was illegitimate from the get-go. Tufts already had the “Women's Collective,” a group that brought pro-abortion speakers to campus and was the original sponsor of the “Take Back The Night” rallies. There was so much overlap between the two groups that Friedman should never have been given funding for her pet project.

Here's the irony: in 1996, Andi appeared in a feature called “Top Ten College Women” in *Glamour* magazine. Other cover stories in that issue included “18 Signs He'd Be Great To Sleep With” and “You? A Flirt? You Bet! Here's How.” This is the *founder of the TFA*, girls.

And, of course, we have the recent birth of *Radix*, the so-called “Journal of Progressive and Radical Thought.” I'll let the oxymoron slide just this once because I feel the need to note that the TCU was *already* funding a poorly written publication with an editorial slant slightly to the left of Lenin: *The Observer Submerge*. True to its name, the magazine went under after two issues, but it is still technically recognized, and as such the editors of *Radix* should have been told to join the other publication.

But why start a new group and have to deal with the \$1000 new-groups budget cap? Why not continue and build upon the work of others, eventually making your group into a permanent fixture on campus long after your graduation? Because the idea is not to get the message out with speed and efficiency but to have a pile of impressive-sounding titles to paste on your résumé. And this is why these groups come and go, and similar groups are started every year as the old ones die off—because *their agendas are*

*fully fused with their personal aspirations*. It looks better to say “founded” rather than “joined” or even “led.” Hence, TBAG, SCIRT, TSAD, HAMS, and TFA were always associ-

ated with Polias, Schnirman, Catalano, Roth, and Friedman—usually in pedantic *Daily* write-ups complete with headshots.

Newcomers to the “group” are not willing to carry on the group's legacy because they are not allowed or encour-

aged to share the workload or the decision-making with the one or two leaders. Meanwhile, new groups that overlap entirely with old ones will always be funded because the TCU senate will never say no to the politically correct. Luckily for us, as SCIRT, TBAG, TSAD, and—so far—SLAM have proven, the administration sometimes will. □

**Why, when the Coalition For Social Justice and Nonviolence still exists, must Iris Halpern form an entirely different group? As a matter of fact, why is there a new lefty umbrella group every few years?**

*George Bush cannot dodge the homeland crisis by stepping to the left.*

## Keep Right

*by Simon Holroyd*

When elected, President Bush's goals were rather mundane for a Republican; he aimed for a large tax cut, increased defense spending, and a less intrusive government. Over the past few weeks, however, Americans have seen an expanding government, with almost \$90 billion in new spending with possibly more on the way. The United States changed on September 11<sup>th</sup>, but this is not what was expected from the GOP.

The terrorist attacks have put fear in the hearts of Americans and devastated the economy. Government action is key to restoring safety and upholding justice. There is no excuse, however, for confused Republicans who discard logic. Terrorist attacks are sad and frightening, but they do not grant Republicans the right to ignore the virtues of small government and a free market.

The first expansion of government was the Office of Homeland Security, the first new job at the cabinet level since 1989. Just as the government is increasing its office space, it is also broadening its economic scope with new spending. Mr. Bush deserves praise for passing defense-spending bills that will improve the military and allocate funds for a missile shield. After subtracting the \$34.2 billion on defense, however, there remains another \$55 billion. Some of this money is disaster relief for New York and Washington, a necessary response to the attacks. Much of the new spending, however, is direct economic aid or stimulus. Obviously, one of the largest packages, \$15 billion, is headed for airlines, since fewer

people are likely to fly after hijackings. This premise is obviously true; airlines are reporting losses of tens of millions of dollars per day. It does not follow, however, that government should directly help the airlines. The simplest argument against such aid is that airlines are not the only ones hurt by the disaster. Tourism, for instance, has been hurt almost as badly as the airline industry yet has received no aid from the government. This line of thinking merely leads to the notion that government should be propping up all businesses struggling over the past few weeks. In any case, the government chose the airlines and is now faced with the difficult decisions inherent in corporate aid: how to distribute the welfare. It's easier said than done; many of the companies were nearing bankruptcy before the hijackings. Consistent with the current trend, Bush created yet another office, the Air Transportation Stabilization Board, to face the difficult process of doling out the funds and determining which failing companies are saved and which will perish. Not only does the ATSB mark expansion of government control over deregulated "free" markets, it will have no positive effect on consumers. The airlines have seen a fall in demand, meaning that they will have to cut supply, cut costs or raise prices. Raising prices will only lower demand. Cost cutting in the airline industry is difficult because of extremely high fixed costs. Their only option is to cut supply until it meets demand, eliminating the routes that are not profitable. Government spending will not prevent the companies from responding to decreased demand. As a result, the subsidies

will only cut losses and keep the stock price from falling. The money will go directly into the hands of shareholders. Airline stockholders accept the risk of declining demand. Those who choose to invest deserve to gain as the stock gains; when the stock fails, however, they do not deserve to be handed a check from the government. Essentially, the government is giving certain stockholders a no-risk guarantee.

It is more effective to allow demand to increase naturally as prices decrease. Without cost-effective routes, some airlines will exit the market. As demand eventually increases, new routes will become profitable and new airlines will enter the market to pick up the slack. Government should have a hand in the security of airports, not the finances. The security workers in airports were neither held accountable nor well trained. A much more effective use of the government's money would be to make airport security a public responsibility and use federally trained personnel. This would help to regain the trust of the airborne public, increase travel demand, and help airlines recover their costs at the same time.

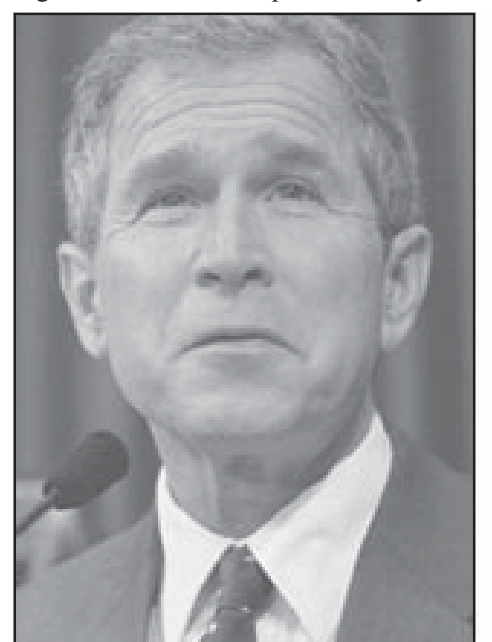
An expanding government and increased spending is unjust when not beneficial to the general public. Airline stockholders do not deserve refunds courtesy of the taxpayer while the rest of the economy struggles. President Bush has exhibited extraordinary leadership and resolve in the face of the attacks, but he should halt his recent liberal policies and consider rejoining the conservative Republican Party. □

Mr. Holroyd is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major.

President Bush should remember his platform and not expand government.

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President Bush should remember his platform and not expand government.

*"It is wrong to be French."*

—Al Bundy

# French, Fried

by Stephen Tempesta

In every society there has to be someone to blame, someone about whom you can say, "Well, at least we're not like them." For the entire history of our great country and even today, it has been the French. Blaming the French is perfectly legitimate.

It is not because of their ideas or the way they think. It is because they attempt to push these ideas onto us, as if revelations from Heaven were handed to the French people. When the United States asked France to extradite several escaped criminals who fled to France and would receive capital punishment in the US, the French refused, saying that they did not support capital punishment. Well, we don't support the idea of throwing our hands and white flags in the air, yet many of our sons and fathers gave their lives liberating France. Of course, the French have the audacity to claim they liberated themselves, with, of course, some administrative help from the US Third Army. The Simpsons said it best: "Damn cheese-eating surrender monkeys." Some French did fight in uniform: when they fired on American forces during Operation Torch in North Africa, for example. Good job, morons. As one would expect, being French, they didn't fight for long. Despite what most people have heard from the French, most citizens didn't join the Resistance until America pushed the Germans back and the war was over. At that point, thousands of French citizens claimed they fought the Germans to the bitter end, when the best they did was serve their German occupiers

**Why don't you tell us how impressive the French army was against Germany? Or are you still bitter that Hitler walked through Belgium and bitch-slapped you?**

day-old baguettes with runny brie.

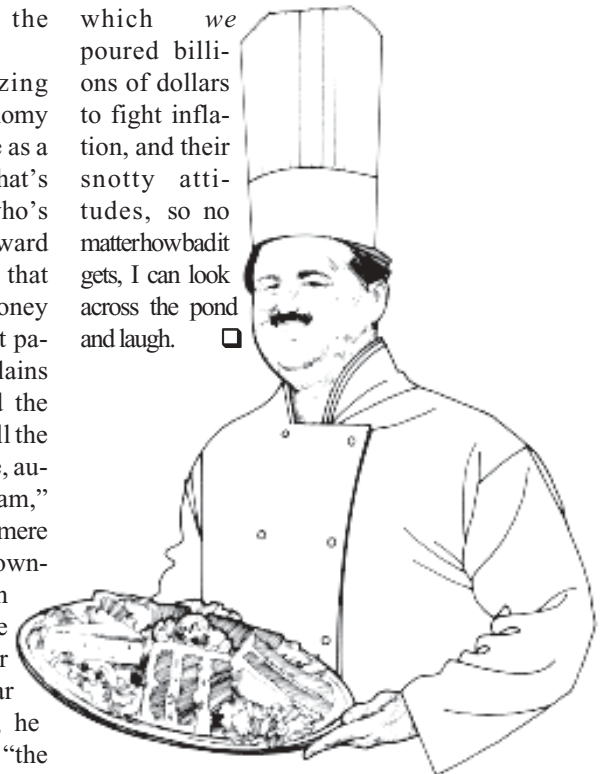
After the World Trade Center disaster and Bush's promised retaliation against whomever committed the act, the French announced that though they do "support" us, they would refrain from using armed troops, as if Uncle Sam was biting his nails

hoping that the impressive French army would come to our aid and help teach us how to surrender our entire country in less than a month. Do you know why the streets in Paris are lined with trees? So the Germans can march in the shade.

It is amazing how, especially after WWII, the US economy stepped into over-drive leaving France as a distant speck in our rear-view mirror. That's why Americans hold a certain "look who's king of the mountain *now*" attitude toward the French. Billy Wilder once noted that France "is the only country where the money falls apart and you can't tear the toilet paper." This economic inferiority explains why the French are so nasty toward the United States. Anti-American books fill the bestseller lists in France. Noel Mamere, author of the book "No Thanks, Uncle Sam," is a member of the French Parliament. Mamere concludes, "It is appropriate to be downright anti-American." When the French Minister of Defense, Jean-Pierre Chevenement, resigned in protest over America's attempt during the Gulf War to liberate a country other than his, he declared that America is dedicated to "the organized cretinization of our people." Oh, please. Why don't you tell us how impressive the French army was against Germany? Or are you still bitter that Hitler walked through Belgium and bitch-slapped you?

And to most of those who still think France is better than the US, I offer this: France has burned through four republics while we've only required one. France is no longer a superpower, and it's time they came to terms with that. We've never been conquered by the Germans. They've been conquered twice. Their greatest military hero was Corsican. They impose a humiliating peace treaty on their greatest enemy (the terms of which include several hundred thousand telephone poles), make them pay a enormous war indemnity, confiscate important industrial centers so as to make it even less likely that they will ever pay that war indemnity, laugh as their inflation hits a record high, and then are surprised when World War II happens. And finally, France spent the entire period between the wars building what is essentially the biggest, best fortified ditch in the world and then were shocked when the Germans walked through Belgium because, after all, that's what they did the last time.

In short, the US should never ask for the aid of the French so that Americans can gloat as long as possible. I don't want to owe them anything. They can keep their country that *we* liberated, their worthless franc into which *we* poured billions of dollars to fight inflation, and their snotty attitudes, so no matter how bad it gets, I can look across the pond and laugh. □



**"Oh ho ho, Monsieur Hit-lair. You would like to try zees delicacies, non? Oh ho ho. Ze underwear, we do not change eem. Oh ho ho."**

*Mr. Tempesta is a junior majoring in History.*

*Out of the ashes, Big Brother reemerges.*

# Tapping Civil Liberties

*by Gerard Balan*

The tragic events of September 11th have left Americans scrambling for ways to improve the security of their homeland. Among the ideas coming to fruition, the FAA is considering ordering airports and airlines to perform more comprehensive background checks. In addition, all knives, the terrorists' weapons of choice, have been banned from flights, and stronger cockpit doors will be installed on airliners to keep would-be hijackers from bursting in and seizing control. Police

officers are being trained as armed sky marshals to fly on randomly chosen domestic flights, and pilots themselves are flirting with the idea of arming themselves while on duty. While these sensible measures are being put in place to restore consumer confidence in homeland security, other anti-terrorism measures are slithering their way up the steps of Capitol Hill which will, unless something is done, wreak havoc on an unsuspecting and vulnerable public.

During this time of heightened agitation, the Bush administration, contrary to true conservative principles, is proposing giving government greatly expanded powers. These include broader authority for electronic surveillance and the ability to detain and expel immi-

grants for their associations. Among Attorney General Ashcroft's proposals, cleverly called "Provide Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Acts" or PATRIOT, are calls

for wiretap evidence obtained in other countries, clearly a violation of the Fourth Amendment. In addition, the government would have access to users' Internet information without a court order. Most disturbingly, government would have the authority to detain aliens indefinitely on the

mere suspicion of having ties to suspected terrorist groups. Even fellow Jumbos and other college students aren't safe: Ashcroft has also requested that federal officials be given the authority to search students' private records without probable cause.

In defense of these alarming measures, Ashcroft argues that "the United States will remain vulnerable to terrorist attacks until law enforcement agencies are given a wide range of new counterterrorism tools." Indeed, the government should be given the means to prevent atrocities such as those committed on September 11<sup>th</sup> from happening again. However, Ashcroft has failed to demonstrate how these new provisions would truly protect Americans from further terrorist attacks. The government already has extraordinarily broad powers to wiretap, investigate, detain, de-

port, and prosecute American residents. Past experience has shown that today's weapon against terrorism may be tomorrow's weapon against law-abiding Americans.

It seems that Ashcroft borrowed an idea from the 1860s when, while the US was on the verge of a civil war, the writ of *habeas corpus* was suspended, allowing people to be imprisoned without any charges being filed. Dating back as far as the 1790s, government has showcased the havoc it can wreak in the name of security. Then-President John Adams utilized the infamous Alien and Sedition Acts to imprison domestic critics and expel foreigners. Then there were the notorious Palmer raids of the 1920s where the United States, shaken by a series of politically motivated bombings, arrested 6,000 people, most of them immigrants, on suspicion of connections to radical causes. Suspects were beaten, detained, and forced to sign confessions.

**The government already has extraordinarily broad powers to wiretap, investigate, detain, deport, and prosecute American residents. Past experience has shown that today's weapon against terrorism may be tomorrow's weapon against law-abiding Americans.**



**The next weapon of global terrorism, available at any airport salad bar.**

*Mr. Balan is a junior majoring in Psychology.*

Thousands of Japanese-Americans were interned in camps during World War II, not because of any evidence of treason, but because they were of Japanese ancestry. While facing the Soviet threat, the US imposed criminal and civil penalties on individuals for mere association with the Communist Party even if those dealings were limited to the party's lawful activities. Despite all these abuses, Big Brother was not yet satiated.

In retrospect, the US has acknowledged most of these embarrassing mishaps and has even paid restitution to certain groups, such as the Japanese internees in 1989. In addition, the anti-Communist laws were eventually declared unconstitutional, and even President Bush has expressed concern about the INS's practice of using "secret evidence." It appears, however, that although the US has paid for its past mistakes, it is doomed to repeat them anyway. As of this writing, legislators are poised to pass a compromise bill that would grant Ashcroft most of the powers he has requested. Though the detainment of immigrants has been scaled down to a mere seven days, most of the other provisions of the bill have passed.

Liberty and security are not mutually exclusive. The terrorist attacks in New York and Washington should prompt a re-examination of the ability of law enforcement to protect American citizens against terrorists. This re-examination, however, should be conducted carefully, and any new proposals should be sharply focused on the problems they purport to address. In addition, anti-terrorism measures should be imposed uniformly. Airport security measures, for example, are likely to reflect a proper balance between security and freedom because the US has a stake in maintaining that balance. However, measures targeted at particular groups or individuals are susceptible to abuse.

George Washington once said, "Government is not reason. It is not eloquence. It is force; like fire, a troublesome servant and a fearful master. Never for a moment should it be left to irresponsible action." Indeed, history has shown the horrors and abuses that can occur when, in times of fear and uncertainty, we Americans too willingly surrender our liberties. □

*Tax cuts—now more than ever.*

## Making Gains

*by Tara Heumann*

Recent reports of decreases in consumer confidence seem to have politicians and economists flustered. As the economy teeters on the verge of a recession, too little attention has been paid to the need to stimulate investment and encourage the generation of venture capital. Entrepreneurs and smaller investors alike are anxious for the government to give stocks and mutual funds a strong shot in the arm. According to *National Review Online* columnist Stephen Moore, "The single most effective policy tool to revive a sagging stock market, particularly for the high-tech firms that have tanked the most, is a capital-gains tax cut." In order for an investment-led recovery to occur, these cuts are vital. Support on Capitol Hill is growing with increasing momentum. Trent Lott, Orrin Hatch, and Dick Armey have all proposed variations on a capital-gains reduction bill. Even Democratic Senators Torricelli and Lieberman agree that capital gains cuts may help to revive the lagging economy. No other tax proposal could provide the kind of immediate stimulus needed to jump-start the economy or the stock market.

Why does a capital gains tax cut encourage investment spending and raise asset values? The answer is that a cut increases the after-tax rate of returns on real assets, like equipment and technology, and stock values rise. The lower the tax, the greater the rate of return on venture-capital investments. Investors take risks on businesses because they hope to cash in when the firm succeeds. If the capital-gains tax they pay on their earnings is large, the government robs the

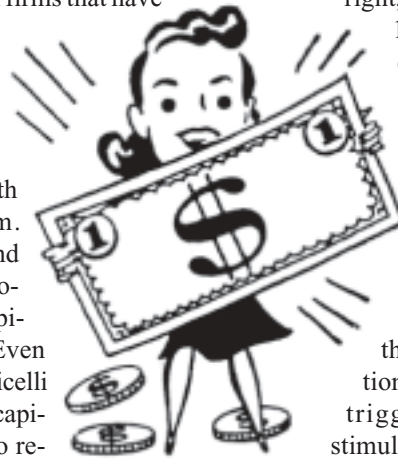
smart investor of a great portion of his profit. High rates eat away at incentives. When investors take a chance, they want to know that success will pay off. Nobody wants to risk their money for a chance to fundraise for the government. A tax on capital gains is, in essence, a second tax on assets; a premium paid on income received from an asset that has already been taxed on its value.

Those who argue against a capital gains cut most frequently cite the fact that a similar cut was enacted five years ago as their main reason for opposing another. They are right, rates were cut

in 1996—and it was a tremendous success. Congressional Republicans passed legislation that lowered the tax rate from 28 to 20 percent. Between 1997 and 1999, tax receipts rose by over 70 percent, though the rate of taxation dropped by nearly one third. Even more, the reduction in the capital gains rate triggered other economic stimuli. In the three years directly

following the cut, venture capital funding shot up by nearly 50 percent, making it easier for new businesses to get off the ground. The Nasdaq showed an overwhelming response to the cut, as well, surging from 2,400 in 1997 to 5,000 three years later. The recent plunge has left the market begging for a similar remedy.

A capital-gains cut would encourage entrepreneurial risk-taking and reinvigorate the entire economy. As more than half of the American people are now investors, a capital-gains tax cut can no longer be called a break for "the richest one percent." The additional revenue generated by the cut could be used to phase in President Bush's tax cuts even faster. Everyone wins. This is supply-side economics at its finest. □



*Miss Heumann is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major.*

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# FOOL ON

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It was one of the most chilling things ever printed in our typically dull daily paper: “If I or someone I love dies in a future attack, so be it.” Chilling not only in the speaker’s disregard for human life, but also for the abject stupidity framing this grim declaration. The source of this spew: the twisted, sour mouth of sophomore and Fool on the Hill winner Bethany Arrand. Long may it remain shut!

Her middle name is Peacemaker. It’s true, you know—look her up in the Tufts online directory. But no creator of peace or her namesake would ever think so lowly of the tranquility that Americans enjoyed before September 11 as to do nothing to defend it. Yet her passion for peace (or her hatred of war) is so strong she’s willing to make the ultimate sacrifice: surrender her dignity in a *Daily Viewpoint*.

Her editorial is a rogue’s gallery of misstatements varying from ignorant slip-ups to conspiratorial lies. Bethany employs a range of emotions infrequently seen in a political argument. Pity: “The 150,000 refugees who are now fleeing for their lives, desperate to clear out of Afghanistan’s major cities, didn’t even elect their own government.” Sardonicism: “The Taliban may be responsible either for the attacks or for sheltering Osama bin Laden, which by Islamic tradition, it is bound to do. It seems, for a nation that prides itself on religious freedom, interesting that we’re demanding that the Taliban abandon its own religious principles.” Anger: “Those of you who are chanting ‘retaliate!’ are calling for a lynching—you want to ex-



change death for death, blood for blood.” Innocence: “What is it that we’re doing wrong, that has caused someone to hate us *so much*?”

She decries eye-for-eye tactics. Ah! But they work so well in refuting her. Pity: President Bush is complementing military strikes with humanitarian aid to Afghani civilians, an unprecedented wartime maneuver. And when the Taliban falls, no doubt he will see those refugees *elect* their replacements. Sardoni-

cism: Funny, ain’t it, that many other Arab countries have abandoned Islamic tradition and demanded that the Taliban turn over bin Laden. Anger: Bethany forgets that in Kabul and Kansas City there exists a criminal justice system. In both places, mass murder warrants capitol punishment. Innocence: All we’re doing wrong is acting American; Bethany hopes the families of 6,000 victims (and counting) will be sure to never make that mistake again.

By the way, Bethany, a lynching refers to the murder of innocent blacks. Victims of lynchings were killed for being the wrong color, not for the murder of thousands.

One must ask where Bethany Peacemaker developed such gumption. How dare little Miss Arrand take up her pen and defame everyone from victims of the recent attacks to lynched blacks to innocent Afghani sufferers of the Taliban. Did she learn it at Tufts? Fire her professors! Did she learn it from the pair who combined their genetic material and named it “Peacemaker?” In that case, find her a foster family for the parents’ sake—Bethany can’t *wait* to prove

her point by seeing a loved one destroyed by terrorism. Then she can show how strong she is and wish the murderers well.

Bethany Peacemaker Arrand has declared war on common sense. She is worthy of far more scorn than can ever fit in these pages. She deserves a title unprintable in the *SOURCE*. She merits far worse than this award, but until we find words for her, Bethany Peacemaker Arrand has a new name: Fool on the Hill. □

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# THE HILL

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Our second Fool on the Hill campaigns for President of the Flat Earth Society. Junior Josh Cohen wrote a vitriolic *Viewpoint* slamming Christopher Columbus, “one of the greatest destroyers of human rights.” Cohen urges professors to teach on Columbus Day “to ensure that Columbus does not receive the respect that this holiday grants him.”

Our Fool completely lacks originality. Each October some leftist nitwit decries old Chris, and Cohen offers nothing but second-hand, spleen-derived rants. Like all multiculturalists, he obstinately insists “indigenous” equals “innocent.” “Which text explains that the natives’ society was more egalitarian and peaceful than that of any European nation?” Cohen sobs. Ironically, he should know better; Cohen is a history major.

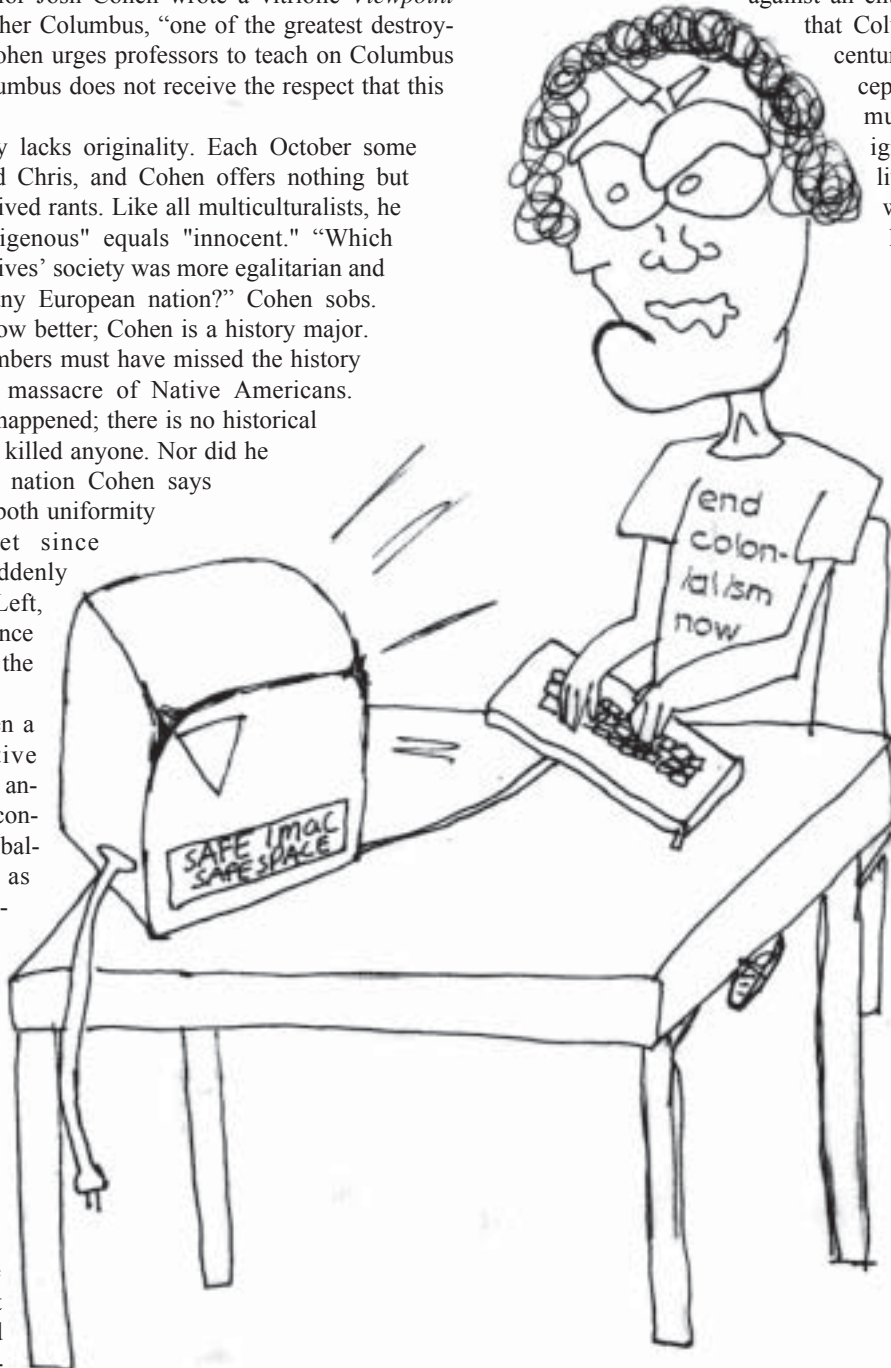
Indeed, SOURCE members must have missed the history chapter on Columbus’ massacre of Native Americans. That’s because it never happened; there is no historical evidence that Columbus killed anyone. Nor did he ever set foot upon the nation Cohen says “praises and thrives on both uniformity and conformity.” Yet since America-bashing is suddenly very chic among the Left, Cohen relishes the chance to mop his drool with the Stars and Stripes.

He should have taken a closer look at Native America. To insist that ancient tribes did not kill, conquer, enslave, and cannibalize—crimes every bit as brutal as those committed by Columbus’ *conquistador* successors—is clearly a selective reading of history. That is not to trivialize the savagery of Cortez and Pizarro, the actual perpetrators of Indian massacres. But most commonsense historians attribute such brutality to a primitive worldview, and admit these crimes should never be repeated nor ignored. Yet leftists like

Cohen use this sad chapter in ancient history as their cross to bear against an entire civilization. They ignore that Columbus lived in the fifteenth century, when there was no concept of human rights to halt the murder of pagans. They also ignore that American Indians lived in the Stone Age. And when civilizations clash, the less advanced society falls. Savages or not, we can only assume that Native Americans would have been capable of similar cruelty if they had horses, guns, and the ability to convince the Spanish they were gods.

Cohen fails to realize that history makes symbols of men. Christopher Columbus was indeed brave, eloquent, and quite clever, according to his numerous biographers. These qualities might not be virtues around the Cohen household, but true Americans hold these values dear. Still, Cohen would rather teach schoolchildren about massacres instead of the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria. We can only wonder what kind of carnage-filled bedtime stories he will someday read to little Joshy, Jr.

For throwing a small-pox-ridden blanket over campus political discourse, Cohen is more than worthy of his new title. To the Jews, Cohens are royalty. To everyone at Tufts, Josh Cohen will forever be known as the King of Fools. □



## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

About the worst advice you can give to some people is, "Be yourself."

—Tom Masson

One should always play fairly when one has the winning cards.

—Oscar Wilde

Take a chance—Columbus did.

—Bud Collins

Don't do anything you wouldn't be willing to explain on television.

—Arjay Miller

Even very young children need to be informed about dying. Explain the concept of death very carefully to your child. This will make threatening him with it much more effective.

—P.J. O'Rourke

Violet will be a good color for hair at just about the same time that brunette becomes a good color for flowers.

—Fran Lebowitz

We must respect the other fellow's religion, but only in the sense and to the extent that we respect his theory that his wife is beautiful and his children smart.

—H.L. Mencken

Real education must ultimately be limited to men who insist on knowing; the rest is mere sheep-herding.

—Ezra Pound

My definition of a free society is a society where it is safe to be unpopular.

—Adlai Stevenson

Discrimination on the basis of race is illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional, inherently wrong, and destructive of democratic society.

—William Bennett

A government is not legitimate merely because it exists.

—Jeane Kirkpatrick

I have one yardstick by which I test every major problem—and that yardstick is: Is it good for America?

—Dwight Eisenhower

Governments never learn. Only people learn.

—Milton Friedman

If you have always believed that everyone should play by the same rules and be judged by the same standards, that would have gotten you labeled a radical 60 years ago, a liberal 30 years ago and a racist today.

—Thomas Sowell

I dream of the day when conservatives learn the difference between a sin and a crime and liberals learn the difference between a virtue and a requirement.

—William A. Niskanen

Didn't you wonder why you were getting checks for doing absolutely nothing? I figured because the Democrats were in power again.

—Homer Simpson

The degree of a country's freedom is the degree of its prosperity.

—Ayn Rand

Was slavery a racist institution? No. Slavery was practiced for thousands of years in virtually all societies: in China, India, Europe, the Arab world, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Americas. In the United States, slave-holding was not confined to whites: American Indians and free blacks owned thousands of slaves. Thus slavery is neither distinctively Western nor racist. What is uniquely Western is the abolition of slavery.

—Dinesh D'Souza

The framers of the Constitution knew that free speech is the friend of change and revolution. But they also knew that it is always the deadliest enemy of tyranny.

—Hugo Black

You can't win through negotiations what you can't win on the battlefield.

—Henry Kissinger

We're still the party that wants to see an America in which people can still get rich.

—Ronald Reagan

History never looks like history when you are living through it. It always looks confusing and messy, and it always feels uncomfortable.

—John W. Gardener

Allah has brought justice upon America.

—Osama bin Laden

Let's not jump to conclusions. It might not have been Osama bin Laden.

—Scores of unnamed leftists