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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

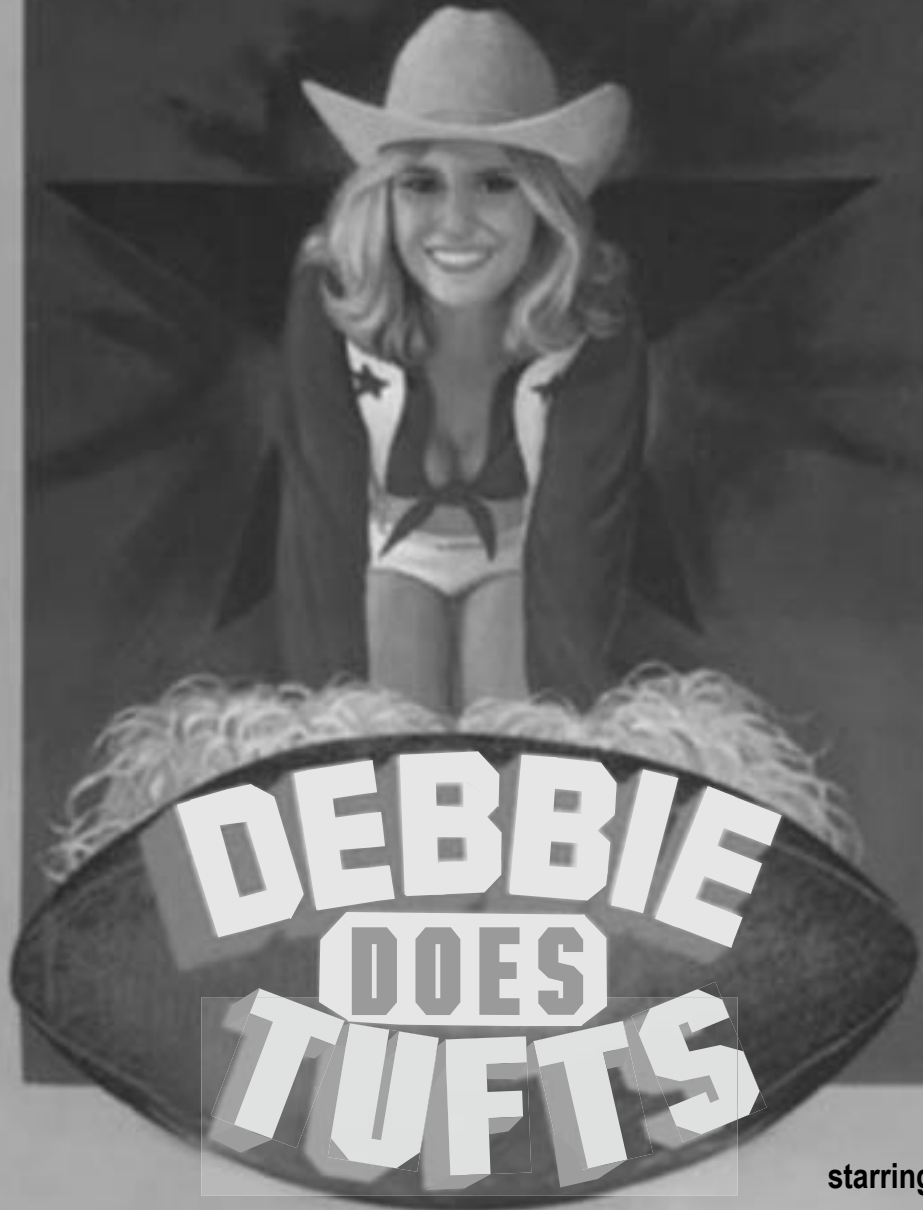
VERITAS SINE DOLO

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TUFTS STUDENTS AGREE,
I'M REPLACING YOU AS
TUFTS' MASCOT.**

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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

VOL. XXII • THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY • NO. 3

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Minority Report

Objective students have long known the political atmosphere at Tufts favors the Left. But to ensure that our suspicions are correct, every so often it is necessary to take stock of campus opinion. This is just what we at the *SOURCE*, with the help of Tufts Republicans, have done by polling the campus over the past few weeks. For the most part, our results confirm the story we tell you all the time: conservatives are a minority on a liberal campus. What you might not know, however, is that conservatives actually make up a rather sizable portion of the student body. They are a group not to be ignored.

Our study showed that 50% of registered student voters are Democrats while 15% of students are registered Republicans. 17% are unaffiliated. Tufts students are generally more conservative on economic issues than they are on social issues. Only 46% of students hold liberal or very liberal views on economic issues while 67% hold liberal views on social issues. The study shows clearly that the Tufts campus is liberal, and that the Tufts students recognize this fact; 69% of students classify the student body as liberal or very liberal. Tufts should recognize, however, that the conservative population does not consist merely of *PRIMARY SOURCE* and Tufts Republicans members; 22% and 12% of the campus hold conservative views on economic and social issues, respectively. See page 12 for this survey's methods and error.

All too often, the University silences or underestimates our masses. They sanction events like "Presidential Politics at Tufts," which welcomed the campaign staffs of Democratic candidates for president only. Billed as an opportunity for students to hear about life on the campaign trail, our campus was actually treated to a mock Democratic convention. The participants argued the future of the party, Democratic leadership, and the best way to rid the country of President Bush. The event, sponsored by UCCPS, was aimed at the majority of Democratic students, but should not the University be asked to

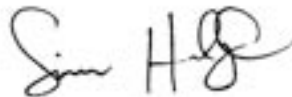
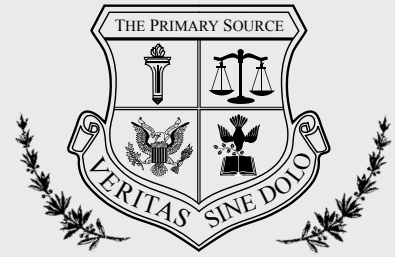
at least feign impartiality when it comes to presidential politics?

The *SOURCE* finds some consolation in the fact that not all students believe that this university acts impartially. 49% of Tufts students recognize the obvious truth that this university cannot hide its left-leaning political bias. One would hope that the administration would take this information to heart and provide more evenhanded debate on political issues.

Possibly the most surprising characteristic of our student body revealed by this survey was a decisive rejection of affirmative action. 56% of students feel that race should not be a factor in admissions policies. Only 34% feel that the use of race is acceptable. Though the University uses no official racial quota system, the administration admits to using race as a factor. Students recognize the racism inherent in judging people by minority status. In fact, they seem to stand to the right of California, where Proposition 54, banning the use of race as a factor in education or employment in the public sector, failed to amass 50% of the votes.

Consider all this a call to arms—quite literally. The Tufts campus is generally split on gun rights and newly recognized Tufts group, Tufts Rights to Arms, will attempt to educate our campus to ensure any split is not a result of an irrational fear of weaponry. Their efforts may be snuffed by the liberal student government groups, yet their support on campus is significant.

If Tufts wishes to truly listen to its student body, it must recognize that the conservative faction it portrays as a fringe minority is actually a significant portion of the campus and, on some issues, a majority. Ending affirmative action policies at Tufts is in the interests of equality and has the support of the student body. Tufts cannot continue to promote a one-sided political agenda when it so clearly turns a deaf ear toward a significant portion of our campus.

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE
THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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To the Editor:

Forgive me for being ignorant, but I fail to find anything remotely amusing or humorous about the "TPSN Sourcecenter Top Ten Plays" selection number six, regarding Venus Williams and her recently deceased sister Yetunde, in the September 18, 2003 issue of THE PRIMARY SOURCE.

There is a line between intelligent humor and cheap bad taste, and the SOURCE has yet again managed to traverse that line by a very large step.

Creating a joke out of the death of any person, famous or not, is immature and disgusting. Stop trying to be funny until you know where the line is, and how to stay on the appropriate side of it.

Sincerely,
Jesse Gerner, (LA '06)
Assistant Sports Editor
The Tufts Daily

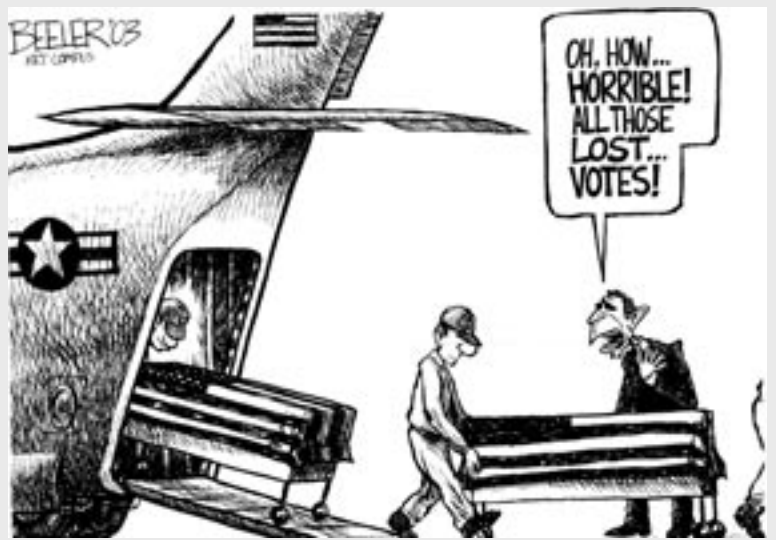
Editor's Note:

Jesse, *THE PRIMARY SOURCE* rarely forgives ignorance. Please remove your foot from your mouth and actually pick up a copy of the *Daily*. As their Assistant Sports Editor, you may have little control over editorial cartoons, but you might consider at least encouraging your own publication to uphold the standards you claim we "traverse."

Note specifically the September 25, 2003 issue of *The Tufts Daily*. Now, we at the SOURCE have known for a long time that the *Daily* is hardly a bastion of unbiased reporting. And the cartoon you printed on page 10 of said issue (pictured right), and its chimp-like depiction of George W. Bush does nothing to veil the newspaper's stance on national politics.

Of course, the *Daily's* bias is to be expected. With a predominantly liberal campus and an overwhelmingly liberal media, the *Daily* simply falls into political line. Not all your readers are duped by the editorial board's obvious bias, however. Directly below the cartoon appears a letter to the editor artfully responding to yet another liberal *Daily* editorial criticizing the rebuilding of Iraq.

But it is the content of the cartoon, not its political point of view, which is most troubling. The SOURCE may have crossed the line of bad-taste. The *Daily*, however, is entering uncharted territory when they suggest that George W. Bush, and by extension conservatives, equate fallen soldiers to lost votes. Trivializing the lives of those who die to protect this country can only be described as immature and disgusting; Yetunde is rolling over in her grave.

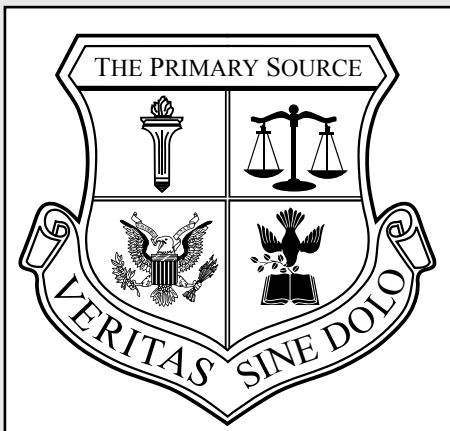


The *Daily* makes fun of countless dead people.

The SOURCE welcomes all letters to the editor. Please address all correspondence to submissions@TuftsPrimarySource.org

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*But Everyone Else Was Afraid to Tell You

TUFTS*



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Conspiracy Theory?

In a *Tufts Daily Viewpoint*, junior Sarah Hoffman expressed her fear that Mel Gibson's upcoming movie, *The Passion*, will increase anti-Semitism. And Miss Hoffman is not the only one worried. The film, which depicts the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's life, has been slammed by liberals, both Christian and non-Christian. These critics frown upon the portrayal of Jews as "bloodthirsty, vengeful, and money-hungry."

Gibson has gone out of his way to appease the culturally-conscious by filming the entire movie in Aramaic without English subtitles. Gibson's movie focuses on cinematography and portraying emotion in an artistic manner. But religious works are judged differently from other art work. We live in a society in which elephant dung on a portrait of the Virgin Mary is labeled "art," and those who value traditional Christian icons are considered stubborn or culturally-disabled. Perhaps if Gibson had portrayed Christ as a windsurfer questioning his gender, he would win an Oscar.

Gibson did not abandon the religious theme of the movie, and we should applaud him for standing strong. *The Passion* could not come at a better time. American Catholics, especially in Boston, have lacked real leaders of late. Furthermore, sexual deviancy and subsequent cover-ups have made the Church the subject of harsh criticism. While it is now acceptable to blame one's mental trauma on one's pedophile priest, it is somehow unacceptable to blame the death of one's Messiah on the people who killed him. Sure, the Vatican absolved Jews as a whole of deicide, but Christians believe that Christ was killed by people who happened to be Jewish. Similarly, many of us believe Nicole Brown Simpson was killed by OJ, who happens to be black. It does not logically follow that all Jews, or all black Heisman Trophy winners, are killers. And one should trust right-minded people to properly interpret such a story, whether presented as a Passion Play or a *Lifetime* made-for-TV movie.

Strangely enough, Miss Hoffman begins her Viewpoint, "*Braveheart* is my favorite movie." While this is a superior choice, it certainly brings into question her qualifications as a movie critic—unless she truly thinks all British people are

ruthless rapists and murderers. After all, the extremely gory movie portrays a group of people as "bloodthirsty, vengeful, and money-hungry" killers of Scotsmen. It even presents some Hollywood fiction as historical fact. How despicable.

PAArty

Tufts Homecoming weekend is the most celebrated school-sanctioned weekend of the year. Although it began overcast and rainy, it turned into a decent day for a football game. That day then turned into an uneventful night as herds of students roamed the streets in search of a party, since every fraternity party was prematurely shut down by TUPD.

In addition to regular Saturday night events, the Pan-African Alliance planned on hosting a non-alcoholic party. As a result of a new University policy, the PAA was required to register its party with the Dean of Students office. This new policy is intended to keep parties safe and closely monitored by TUPD. Much to the dismay of the PAA, however, the party never occurred because it was shut down before it even started.

The PAA planned the event well in advance and it advertised effectively at other Boston-area schools, as it does for all of its parties. Non-Tufts students still came in search of the party, only to be told that it had been canceled. One would ponder what is wrong with having a non-alcoholic party on a campus that is looking to moderate its level of alcohol consumption. After looking for reasons for the party's closing, organizers discovered two poor excuses. Initially, TUPD claimed it could not send three officers to monitor the party because of understaffing. Later, after much hoopla, the PAA discovered the University simply did not want non-Tufts students in attendance on Homecoming weekend.

Though TUPD seems to be at fault for poor planning, the heart of the problem lies in the policy itself. Party registration is well-intended, but if groups who abide by the policy's rules are shut down, the policy is rendered useless. Rather than give groups a good reason to register their parties, groups will be deterred from doing so for fear that the registration process will just attract more attention from TUPD and inevitably ruin their night. The University should reconsider their party policy if it cannot be consistently enforced. Moreover, Tufts needs to be flexible with students' social lives, especially on Homecoming night.

Do Not Call

Everyone has suffered the annoying interruption of a telemarketer, but if the Federal Trade Commission's National Do Not Call Registry goes into full effect, the frequency of marketing calls should drop dramatically. While charities, pollsters, and companies with which those called have done business in the past 18 months are exempted, most telemarketers will be fined thousands of dollars for calling someone on the list. The list has received a tremendous amount of support from the public, Congress, and even President Bush.

Even though over 50 million people have signed up and the registry is currently functional, a US appeals court is deciding whether



GRAFFITI

or not it violates the First Amendment. This is a tenuous point in comparison to the greater value of personal privacy, especially since marketing companies can still say whatever they want without making your phone ring. The list will save telemarketers time and money—if people are willing to actively register, it is safe to say that they never paid phone solicitation much heed in the first place. Possessing the list gives telemarketers the very numbers that would have resulted in a quick hang-up or rude exchange.

The registry is the telephone equivalent of having a “no soliciting” sign on one’s front door. It is only logical to have a system that enforces the same kind of privacy from would-be trespassers. Curiously enough, an analysis of the registry by *The Hartford Courant* found that the home phone numbers of eleven top telemarketing executives are on the Do Not Call list. If those in charge of the telemarketing industry feel the need to protect themselves from each other, then it is fair to say that the rest of us deserve the same treatment.

It Was the Best of Times; It Was the Worst of Times

Tuesday, October 7 marked a historical day in the American democratic process. Democrat Gray Davis suffered the historical ignominy of being the second governor ever recalled. Californians mobilized to replace a politician who they blamed for an unfavorable economic climate, soaring budget deficits and increased taxation. Even more remarkable was the ascension of Arnold Schwarzenegger from Hollywood superstar to governor-elect. The recall initially had a carnival-like atmosphere as a total of 135 hopefuls vied for the opportunity to replace Davis. The comical atmosphere eventually evolved into a serious one as the hacks were separated from the serious contenders.

The ACLU sought a court injunction to have the process delayed on grounds that antiquated voting machines would

disenfranchise a segment of the electorate. This injunction was initially granted to the ACLU but later overturned by the full 9th Circuit Court. The ACLU’s political bias shows through when one considers that the very same voting apparatus was good enough to re-elect Davis last November. The date suggested for the rescheduled election was next March; this would have coincided with the California Democratic presidential primary. The recall proponents were fortunate not to have their hopes dashed by the new breed of judges legislating from the bench.

In the days leading up to the election, Schwarzenegger became the focus of a vicious smear campaign questioning his moral conduct. Approximately 15 women came forward with allegations that they had previously been groped by Schwarzenegger. Sexual harassment is reprehensible but it should be viewed with suspicion when the accusers decide to make these allegations public a week prior to a crucial vote. Even more outrageous were some of former Presidents Clinton’s staunchest defenders during the Lewinsky saga were quick to publicly condemn Schwarzenegger for his sexual misconduct.

The *LA Times* was at the forefront of the collusive effort to derail Republican candidates’ attempts to replace Davis. The *Times* made sure that the groping allegations were front page headlines. It has been reported that the *Times* gave away free copies in an attempt to maximize potential fallout. The paper decided, however, not to report allegations involving Davis’ abusiveness towards his own staff. The *LA Times* was barraged by phone calls from angry readers complaining about the publication’s tabloid content. An estimated one thousand patrons cancelled their subscriptions due to the *Times*’ unprofessional conduct.

When judgment day came, the desperate campaign to ensure Schwarzenegger’s demise resulted in a spectacular failure. A solid 53% percent of voters opted to recall Davis while 48% chose Schwarzenegger as his replacement. More people favored having the Hollywood megastar as governor than retaining Davis. The 48% figure was even more astonishing

considering 18% of the potential votes were siphoned by GOP rival, State Senator Tom McClintock. Despite the anti-female campaign against Schwarzenegger, he garnered more women’s votes than Democratic rival Cruz Bustamante.

The results of the California gubernatorial race showed that subjective journalism is not guaranteed to sway the outcome of an election. The voters saw the smear campaign for what it was, a politically motivated attack. Schwarzenegger’s support increased as a result of the attempt to discredit him. Hopefully, the liberal leaning media will think twice about sitting on allegations of sexual misconduct until the waning days of a campaign.



Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS Nokia pointed the finger at unauthorized, counterfeit batteries after another of its phones exploded and burnt its user. In a related story, an Israeli soldier reported getting knocked in the head with a Nokia 3300.

PS Diana Napolis has pleaded guilty to stalking Jennifer Love Hewitt and yelling “Murderer!” and “Killer!” at the actress. Apparently, Napolis knew what Hewitt did last summer.

PS Tokyo officials are trying to quell rising anti-Japanese sentiments in China after a sex orgy involving 400 Japanese tourists and 500 local prostitutes in a Chinese hotel last month. “Unlike the Rape of Nanking, *these* acts were consensual,” explained Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi.

PS Research published by the State Family Planning Association showed 65% of Chinese men and women engaged to be married had previous sexual experience. The other 35% had never met anyone from Japan.

PS After being thrown to the ground by Pedro Martinez, Yankees Coach Don Zimmer (pictured below) sat through the rest of Game 3 of the ALCS with a scratch on his face. He was later carted out of Fenway on a stretcher. Doctors reported that flab from his fifth chin would be grafted to his nose in an attempt to reduce physical and emotional scarring.

PS Police in a quiet Florida neighborhood are searching for vandals who covered the home of Wayne Edwards with swastikas and hate messages. “I’m very surprised it happened to him,” one Deland police officer said. “I had no idea there were Jews named Wayne.”

PS Female Dutch athletes are posing nude on a pay-per-view website to fund training abroad after reduced budgets left them in the cold. In related news, Simon Holroyd has demanded that Tufts cut all women’s athletic funding.

PS Lloyd Scott says his trek through Loch Ness was much different than wearing his lead diving suit in above-ground marathons. Scott explained, “There are all number of problems that actually make it far more difficult than doing it on land,” adding, “Such as the gigantic lake monster that keeps trying to eat me.”

PS A game called “Creepy Freaks” for children ages five to eleven offers several disgusting characters. Frosty the Snotman attacks with sneezes, Headley flings brains, and Spitty Cat throws the contents of cat litter boxes. Retired Father O’Doul, the “friendly” priest, makes bath time more fun.

PS Singapore began a wedding “punctuality drive” to encourage guests to turn up on time for couples’ big day. Guests arriving more than 15 minutes late to a wedding will be caned by the officiating clergyman and lose a finger for each extra minute.

PS Ashton Kutcher and girlfriend Demi Moore enjoyed a homecoming weekend with all the Iowa fixings—pork, Hawkeye football, and cradle robbing.

PS London scientists say the universe could be spherical and patched together like a soccer ball. Upon hearing this news, American astronomers suggested our universe may be the plaything of larger, Latin American universes.

PS An art jeweler who gilds her work with mouse droppings, toenail clippings, dead insects, and pubic hair has received a \$3,760 grant from a Canadian funding agency. In related news, ResLife is firing OneSource and renaming campus bathrooms “art galleries.”



“20cc’s of Neosporin, STAT!”

PS British Supermarket Tesco is boosting security to protect cardboard cutouts of David Beckham. The call for security came after Elton John was caught in a parking lot with one of the Beckham doubles, yelling "I'm more posh than Posh, baby!"

PS Texas medical examiner Jerry Spencer kept the breast implants of a dead woman. He was questioned after a visitor to his office discovered he was displaying the implants. The visitor was taken aback when she realized that wasn't Silly Putty on his desk between the Newton's Cradle and Rubik's Cube.

PS Tourists have found 70 pairs of shoes filled with butter on an isolated mountaintop in northern Sweden. When reporters asked locals how they felt about the discovery, they responded with a unanimous "sounds delicious."

PS A Michigan man hung 50 brassieres from the dead tree outside his avant-garde clothing store, in an attempt to prompt the city to replace the tree. If that fails, at least the feminists will burn it.

PS Aristotelis Belavilas won a \$250 judgment after filing a \$5,000 small claim against Dr. Ty Weller, who kept him waiting three hours for an appointment. "That's exactly what I was looking for," said Belavilas. When asked to define "exactly", Mr. Belavilas referred us to *Bill Clinton's Dictionary for Dummies*.

PS German women who wish to shop alone can now dump their men at a special kindergarten. The adult day-care costs 10 euros for two beers, a hot meal, televised football, and games. Release is 15 euros extra.

PS Tina Keeney claims she found a human tooth in a can of Campbell's chicken noodle soup. Campbell's has reportedly cancelled their new line of Chunky Adolescent and Vegetable.

PS A 91-year-old Texas man tried to steal nearly \$2,000 from a bank. Twice the teller asked if he was kidding. After the first time, the man said, "Hurry up or you will get hurt." After the second, he yelled, "This is the worst pharmacy I've ever been to!"

From the Elephant's Mouth

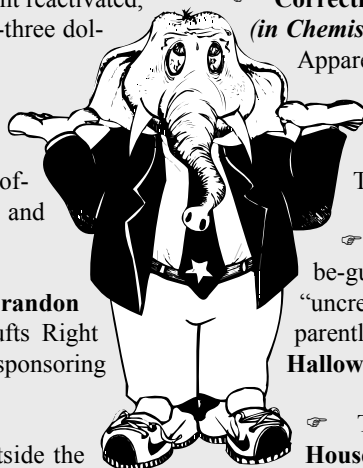
☞ **Coming Out Day** ended with a bang last week when the guest speaker came out of the closet. He saw his shadow, thus predicting six more weeks of **bad fashion**... Event organizers tried to prevent him from seeing his shadow, but their efforts were fruitless... What a **drag**: Homecoming King(s) and Queen(s) **Tyler Duckworth** and **Stacey Ulrich** switched crowns at the coronation ceremony. No word on where the **scepter** went...

☞ **On the rocks**: TASA's account was frozen late last semester after the group's officers tried to use almost **\$100** of TCU funds to purchase **alcohol**. With their account reactivated, club officers celebrated by singing "Ninety-three dollars of beer on the wall"...

☞ Co-founder of **SoBe**, John Bello, spoke at Tufts last week. Students suspected he was just reading from bottlecaps when he offered advice such as "**Drain the Lizard**" and "**Quench your Scaly Obsession**"...

☞ Group of Six-Shooters: SOURCERS **Brandon Balkind** and **Nick Boyd** are founding Tufts Right to Arms. The group looks forward to co-sponsoring events with the **Latin Kings** and **Crips**...

☞ What a riot! Students congregated outside the **I-House**, shouting and throwing bottles. Guess they ran out of **pancakes**... Sox fans gathered on the President's lawn to celebrate Boston's **victory over the A's**. The administration is not concerned about a **repeat** occurrence... Former Tufts Prez **John DiBiaggio** has been named a Trustee of UMass. This clears up all doubt that D-Bags was lured away from Walnut Hill two years ago by the bigger **party scene** only a state school can offer...



☞ **Booze balked?** The senate hopes to work with the administration to outline a new alcohol policy. **THE ELEPHANT** predicts: **Jose Vazquez** is unable to submit his proposal in time for Sunday's meeting, while **Randy Newsom** drafts a document as promised, which he immediately **withdraws**...

☞ **3Ps** will be performing **Seven Blowjob**s. Unfortunately, most freshwomyn who showed up for auditions were confused **frat-hoppers**... And Torn Ticket II is doing **Debbie Does Dallas**. To which **THE ELEPHANT** gives an enthusiastic "**Cowboy up!**"

☞ **Corrections**: *Daily* headline awards Nobel **Peace Prize (in Chemistry)** to Med. School alum **Roderick MacKinnon**. Apparently, editors were confused when told that no one else could get atoms to **share electrons** like MacKinnon... **Omissions?** In a *Daily Viewpoint* **Matt Edmundson** listed things that don't suck at Tufts. No mention of his *Observer* **cover photos**...

☞ Holy **hate-speech**, Reitman! Innocent would-be-guests at a **Crafts House** party were told they were "uncreative," "lazy," and "didn't have costumes." Apparently, they haven't noticed that the rest of us celebrate **Halloween** only once a year...

☞ They got worms: Nematode colonies in **Carpenter House** showers were recently **exterminated**. Still no word on the Wren bugs, the Metcalf mice, or the **Crafts House residents**...

☞ Tufts has finally liberated its **Talloires** campus, and will renovate it by next Summer. **TCOWWII** opposes reconstruction of the formerly **occupied territory**...

☞ **THE ELEPHANT** never forgets.

Town-Gown relations strained by taxes in lieu of taxes.

PILOT Crashes into Tufts

by Jordana Starr

Residents of Tufts' neighboring towns have geared up and are ready to fight the University in what is promising to be a fairly pointless battle. "Give back to the community!" they say; a typical battle cry of struggling town treasuries attempting to extort funding from area businesses and schools.

This time, though, the demand is not as simple—or reasonable—as renovating a playground, adding lights to a baseball field, or providing hundreds of jobs for the community—all of which Tufts has done, and more. Envious of their

Cambridge neighbors who receive a total of \$3 million from Harvard and MIT combined, Somerville and Medford residents want Tufts to pay up. So far, Medford has requested a sum totaling over \$1 million per semester in Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) for the half of campus that lies within its borders. The figure is the product of an elaborate per-student charge for town services. Though Somerville expressed interest in a PILOT program, it has not yet requested a specific sum.

Unlike Harvard's \$18.3 billion and MIT's \$1.4 billion endowments, Tufts' endowment is a meager \$677 million. Citing Harvard's and MIT's donations can hardly help Medford's case since Cambridge receives only 0.01% and 0.07% of Harvard's and MIT's endowments, respectively. If Tufts were to pay Medford through its endowment, PILOT would cost 0.14% of Tufts' endowment. This is ridiculous since the amount is fourteen times Harvard's payment and twice MIT's, not to mention that half of Tufts' main campus property lies in Somerville, with two oth-

er campuses in Boston and Grafton. If Tufts were to agree to these payments, instead of being absorbed by the non-existent University endowment, the fee would be directly passed on to the students. Although Medford town

councilman Michael Marks claims the cost would be an additional \$75 for each student living in Medford, further calculations have yielded a figure as high as \$222.

Medford complains that the University's presence places a burden on the community, citing Tufts' use of municipal services. The \$1

million figure, however, would also charge 416 students living off campus who reside in Medford—effectively double-charging students who already pay for municipal services through property taxes. A more equitable plan would involve Tufts paying Medford a per-use fee for expenses incurred by Fire and Police response.

Residents of Medford also bemoan the demand Tufts students add to the housing market, making local property more expensive. This argument ignores the disadvantages of Tufts students, the majority of whom, unlike other Medford residents, do not have any income. Students compete in the same market as non-students, pay property

tax (only the campus itself is tax-exempt), and are technically Medford residents. If Medford sees this as a major problem, perhaps officials would want to have a talk with their neighbors over in Somerville regarding

the Historic Preservation Commission's attempts to block the building of a new dorm on campus. Surely, Somerville could not use Medford's housing argument to back its request for PILOTs.

In fact, the University's presence benefits the communities of Medford and Somerville. Tufts is one of the largest industries in the two towns, employing over 350 Medford residents alone. Student groups like Leonard Carmichael Society pour countless hours into community service, and the University coordinates a number of community-outreach programs for Medford, Somerville, and other area towns. Additionally, businesses surrounding Tufts like Espresso Pizza, Jay's Deli, and Gnomon Copy thrive on the patronage of the Tufts community, not to mention the business Tufts provides for Davis Square's Somerville Theatre, Diesel Cafe, and J.P. Licks. Certainly, Tufts "gives back to the community" in the form of economic prosperity. Forget begging for more money—Medford and Somerville should thank us.

Perhaps Tufts should demand that its neighboring towns *give back to Tufts*—how about the Somerville and Medford "townies" refrain from breaking into Tufts student dorms, frats, and homes to commit theft? Also, it would be nice if local residents would cease starting fights at frat parties, mugging students, and filming the Naked Quad Run for *Girls Gone Wild* material.

Luckily for Tufts, Medford's and Somerville's whines have no legal status. Mayoral and city council candidates, however, would probably turn a kinder ear towards Tufts, or at the very least explain themselves better, if students registered to vote. With nearly 5,000 residents, Tufts would have a considerable

amount of voting power and the ability to demand that local governments treat the University with more respect.

Regardless, PILOTs are completely voluntary and institutions of higher learning, such as Tufts, are tax-exempt for a reason—they are educational and research institutions, and state and federal govern-

ments have a vested interest in their prosperity. Forcing a cash-strapped, tax-exempt school like Tufts to pay PILOT fees (read: taxes) would impede its mission—to educate its students. ■

Perhaps Tufts should demand that its neighboring towns give back to Tufts—how about the Somerville and Medford "townies" refrain from breaking into Tufts student dorms, frats, and homes to commit theft?



One miillion dollars.

Miss Starr is a sophomore who has not yet declared a major.

The war against Saddam is over and reconstruction is underway, but the Tufts Coalition to Oppose the War in Iraq (TCOWI) is still recruiting members. The SOURCE would like to suggest some new ideas for the sentimental Coalition.

TCOWWII

TUFTS COALITION TO OPPOSE WORLD WAR II

Join us for the 57-years-after moratorium!



Remember to come next week, when we will protest the American Revolution, the War of 1812, and the Civil War!



The Roosevelt administration has failed to provide proof that there is a link between Hitler and the attack on Pearl Harbor.

No credible evidence exists suggesting the peace-loving German people are a threat to American security.

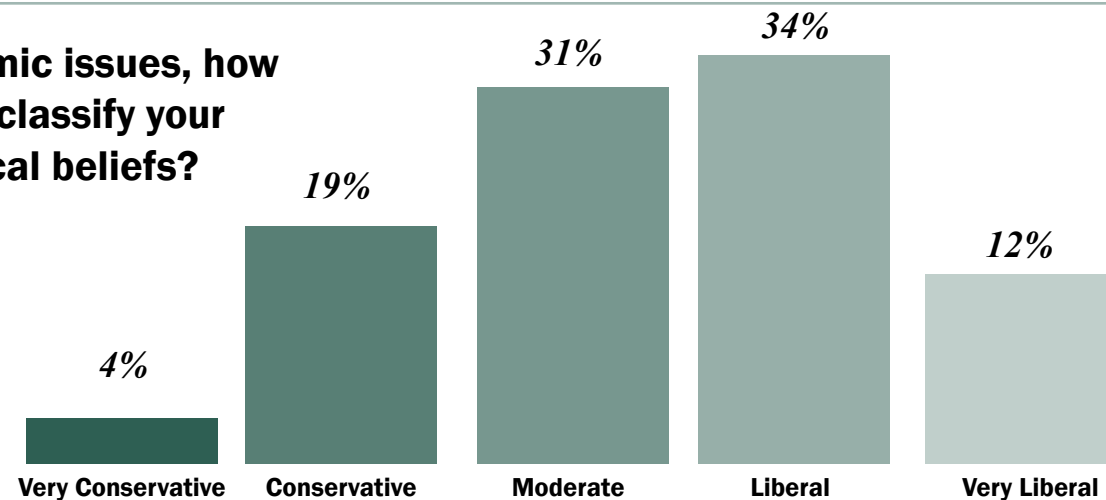
Show your support for the anti-world-war movement by participating in our moratorium. We don't need a new war to continue our protests! The fighting has ended but the TCOW moos on.

*November 11, 11:00 AM at the Memorial Steps
Co-sponsored by the Tufts Coalition to Oppose Reconstruction of Iraq*

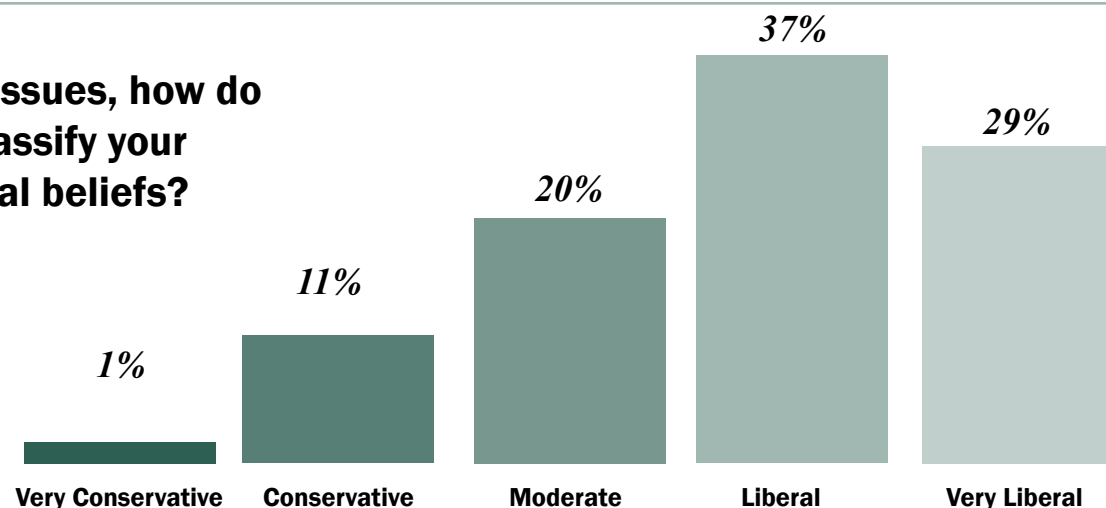
SURVEYING THE CAMPUS:

THE POLITICAL LEANINGS OF TUFTS STUDENTS

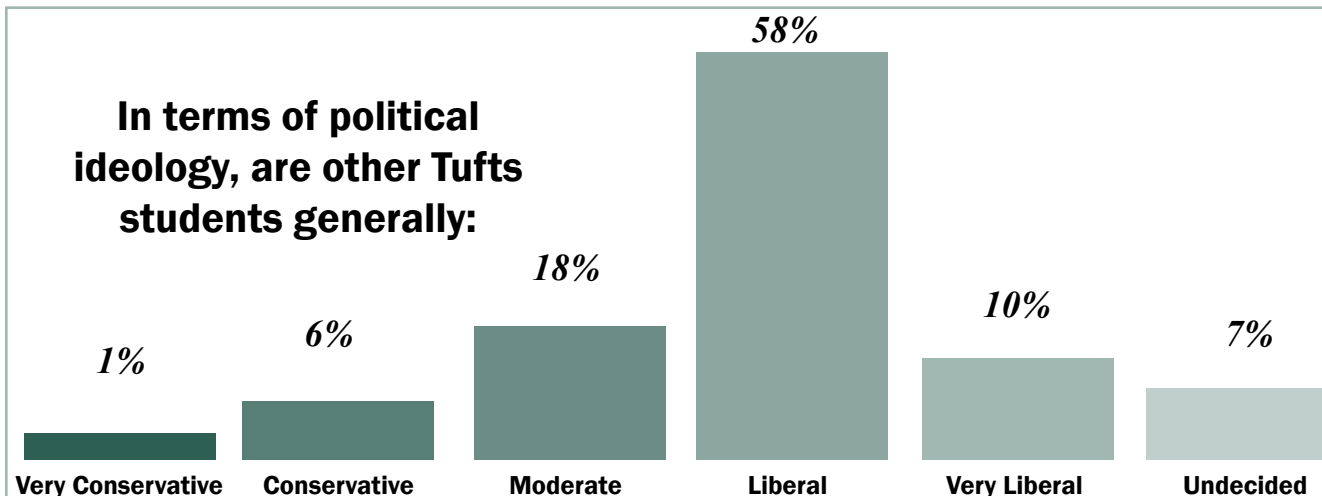
On economic issues, how do you classify your political beliefs?



On social issues, how do you classify your political beliefs?



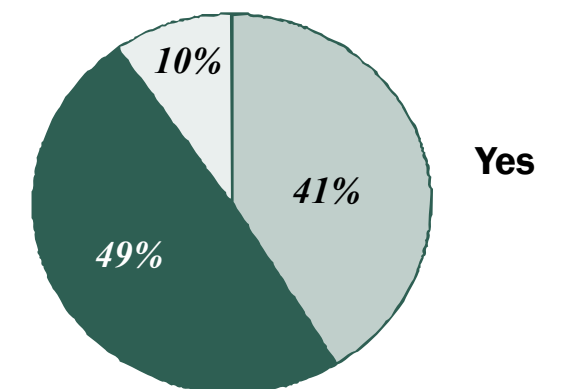
In terms of political ideology, are other Tufts students generally:



Do you feel the University holds a neutral political position?

No—leans liberal

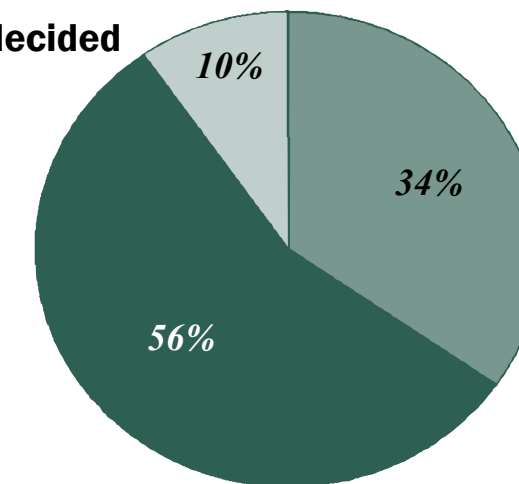
No—leans conservative



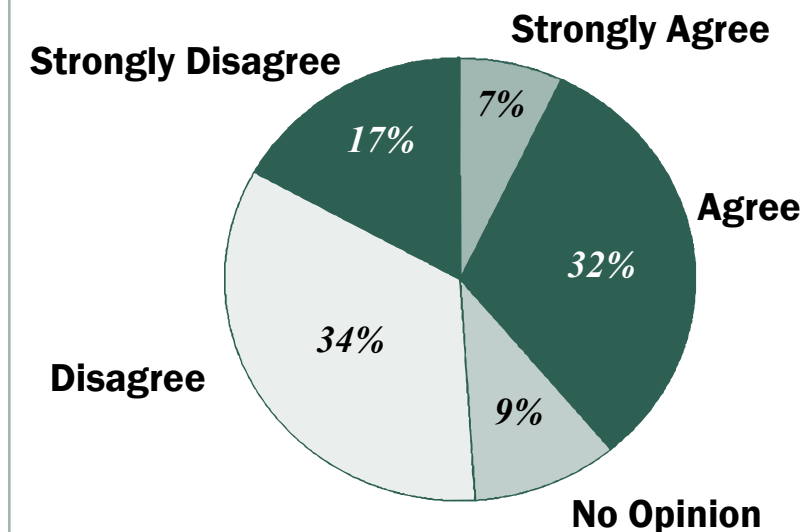
Should Tufts use race as a factor in admissions?

Undecided

NO



The Second Amendment of the Constitution guarantees all citizens the right to own a gun.



Methods and Sources of Error

This survey was presented to a random sample of Tufts students. The surveys were distributed in dining halls and dorms across campus in order to get a cross-sample of classes. 130 surveys were tabulated. The results have a confidence level of 95% and a confidence interval of 8.6.

Error may be introduced into this survey because of sampling techniques. Though the study was conducted by THE PRIMARY SOURCE and the Tufts Republicans, considerable effort was made to avoid sampling from these groups' members and their friends. Pollsters therefore conducted most surveys in dining halls. This reduced the number of upperclassmen sampled. If differences between classes exist, the results may not reflect the true political opinions of the school as a whole.

Education should always precede judgment.

Right to Know

by Nicholas Boyd and Brandon Balkind

Throughout the recent controversies regarding civil liberties in America, many issues have been discussed at length. College campuses have traditionally played an essential role in debating these issues on an academic level. The issue of a citizen's right to firearms however, has been all but ignored in the realm of higher education. The consensus that there is an undisputed need for more stringent gun laws and that gun ownership is universally harmful to society has permeated higher academia for several decades. It has been elevated to a level at which it is considered to be beyond discussion.

The students of Tufts University have a reputation for academically striving beyond the standards of their peers and a willingness to tackle important social and political issues. When it comes to guns and gun control however, the exchange has been strangely silent. *Bowling for Columbine*, a film by rabid anti-gun activist Michael Moore, was recently shown on campus, officially sponsored by the Office of Residential Life and Learning. The event description indicated the film viewing would be followed by a discussion, though made it very clear that the target audience was Moore enthusiasts. Christina Sharpe, whose expertise resides primarily in multi-ethnic literature, took it upon herself to moderate this one-sided discourse, reflecting the level of importance and sincerity the University attributes to this issue.

These tendencies are mirrored by the findings of a recent campus survey in which four out of five students felt they were not well informed about guns and gun control.

Mr. Balkind is a junior majoring in Computer Engineering.

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

The few students who stated they were "well informed" offered inconsistent and often-incorrect responses to data-driven questions. Roughly half of these students could not reasonably estimate the ownership rate of guns in American households (about 40%).

Alarming, two-thirds of those who felt they were uninformed still felt comfortable advocating additional gun control legislation. Students have been taught to advocate a specific solution to a problem about which they know very little. Education should always precede judgment, and it is the responsibility of the University to ensure its students are educated.

This liberal leaning university is wary, however, of encouraging dissenting thought on gun control, and often misrepresents the truth. A groundbreaking study by the Centers for Disease Control, initiated under the Clinton administration and completed just this month, has concluded that gun control legislation in fact does *nothing* to lower violent crime rates. Granted, this story received so little national media attention it may not even have gotten the faculty's attention—apparently, universities aren't the only institutions with a vested interest in advancing gun control.

Likely, the campus survey will be not cited in future Tufts lectures. Similarly doubtful is that students will be learning that the violent crime rate in various Western European countries, where gun laws are almost universally more stringent, is higher than it is in the United States. In Sweden, for example, where there are far fewer guns and much stricter gun laws, the violent crime rate is *twice* that of the US.

One particular survey finding may be even more revealing than these poorly advertised studies. A direct link exists between respondents' views on the effects of guns on society and their levels of gun education. Of those not considering themselves well-informed, 67% also felt guns make society a more dangerous place. Conversely, only 29% of those considering themselves very informed felt the same way about guns. This is a clear case of students fearing what they do not know. The data makes the strong argument that as gun education becomes more widespread, people feel more comfortable with guns and their effects on society.

A new Tufts student organization, Right to Arms, is answering the call for an uninhibited and thorough program addressing gun rights, education, and training. Though the group will undoubtedly face stiff resistance from the TCU Judiciary, the club has already garnered the support of dozens. Only a display of political bias on the J's part could conceivably prevent recognition.

By arranging hands-on training sessions at actual firing ranges, Right to Arms will be providing students with a chance to become familiar and comfortable with the use of firearms, regardless of their political views on gun control. This opportunity is not normally afforded to on-campus students due to restrictive state and University gun laws.

Surely, knowing the basics of securely operating a firearm, or at least disabling one, could be of critical importance in any number of potential emergencies. Accidents are a leading cause of firearms injury, as any gun control advocate will eagerly point out. Effective training can help further reduce crime and accidents without the need for infringing upon citizens rights to bear arms.

Gun control is a valid topic of discussion, and indeed there may be valid arguments on both sides. In this discussion, as in any other, knowledge and a firm grasp of the issue are attributes to be commended and sought after. Yet, many gun control advocates fall far short of supporting firearms education. In the academic spirit of education preceding judgment, let the students of Tufts learn about guns before they make up their minds about gun control.



Protecting the least among us.

S.3: Banning Partial Birth Abortion

by Christian Miller

In 1973 the US Supreme Court struck down a Texas law criminalizing all abortive techniques excepting the situation in which the mother's life was at stake. The majority opinion ruled that "State criminal abortion laws...violate the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment...which protects against state action the right to privacy, including a woman's qualified right to terminate her pregnancy." Three decades later, this precedent set by *Roe v. Wade* and subsequent court cases have resulted

in a complete reversal of state and federal attitude towards abortion. Whereas prior to 1973 legalized abortion was simply unheard of, now just the opposite is the case.

The newly redefined Fourteenth Amendment protects the practice of abortion up until the time that the fetus is viable, or as the *Roe v. Wade* ruling states, "potentially able to live outside the mother's womb [that is, can survive], albeit with artificial help." The source of contention over abortion therefore rests on the precarious definition of "viability" and "life." Assuming for argument that the Constitution declared life to begin at a time prior to the point at which the fetus is viable, then abortion would be outlawed on the grounds that it is murder.

Equating viability with life provides the current framework for ensuring that abortion is legal. Unfortunately, built into the Court's interpretation of the law is a blaring contradiction: viability, as currently defined by the courts, does not allow for certain abortive methods currently used, specifically partial birth abortion, or in medical terms, dilation and extraction, intact dilation and evacuation and intrauterine cranial decompression.

Enter S. 3, a bill proposed by Senator Santorum on February 14th defining partial birth

abortion. This bill just recently cleared both houses of the United States Congress on September 30th. The bill is now slated to be heard by the Conference Committee to resolve the differences between the two houses. As of now, the legislation proposes the following classification for partial birth abortion: "deliberately and intentionally delivering into the vagina a living fetus, or a substantial portion thereof, for the purpose of performing a procedure the physician knows will kill the fetus, and killing the fetus."

Essentially, the intent of the bill is to remove the inconsistency by limiting abortion practices in a specific way—criminalizing this particular abortive technique.

Legally, what the proposed bill does is take the pro-choice perspective and clarify the relationship between "life" and "viability" within the Constitution. The bill makes "life" and "viability" indistinguishable. As soon as the fetus is viable, and most importantly, partially birthed, the fetus is considered human and alive in the eyes of the government, and therefore entitled to the same rights as any other person.

Consequently, any abortive technique that first induces a viable fetus to be birthed would be considered illegal. There are two other key aspects of the bill that should be noted. First is that abortion is not made illegal after the fetus is viable, only the methods that fall under the category of partial birth abortion as defined by the bill. Also, the bill declares only those doctors that perform the procedure prosecutable, while would-be mothers are granted immunity.

What is the connection with viability? According to statistics garnered from

hospitals like Johns Hopkins, the medical profession generally considers 21 weeks to be the point after which most fetuses will survive, not accounting for the relative health of the fetus.

Reviewing statistics cited from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) will help to put viability and partial birth abortion into perspective. Of the approximately 3,500 partial birth abortions that occur, over 2,000 are conducted after the 16th week of gestation, over 1,000 of which take place after the 21st week. These numbers are not entirely accurate, since in 1995 one doctor, Dr. McMahon, publicly admitted to performing over 2,000 partial birth abortions on his own. Surely one doctor out of several hundred who perform abortions cannot account for two thirds of all partial birth abortions. In sum, the numbers imply that one third of all partial birth abortions happen after the medically accepted time at which fetuses are viable.

Even though a legal argument is necessary for the validity of S. 3, undoubtedly it will not be sufficient to persuade many. Consider the following then: The author of the late term abortion medical text, Dr. Warren Hern, said, "I would dispute any statement that this is the safest procedure to use [for the mother]." If the expert on late term abortions would advise against the use of this procedure, then one can easily conclude that it is certainly not necessary to keep this method on the books. Moreover, when partial birth abortion is performed, the viable fetus is only several inches from complete birth, which begs the question of why birth cannot be carried through, and the child given to adoption. Why would a person be insistent on eliminating a viable

fetus so late in term when so many people are seeking adoption? Currently there are 2 million parents waiting for adoption, and every year, according to the CDC, 1.5 million abortions are performed.

The next few months will decide whether or not the proposed bill will be carried forward

to the President's desk or expire on the House floor. Hopefully, the public and their representatives in the government will recognize the cruelty of such a practice and move swiftly to criminalize it, or at the very least, remove legal inconsistencies in the Constitution. We wouldn't want thinking, breathing Americans to be inconvenienced by the partial birth of a fetus.

Why would a person be insistent on eliminating a viable fetus so late in term when so many people are seeking adoption?



Mr. Miller is a senior majoring in Quantitative Economics.

He's not like Ike.

Wesley Clark: The Latest Democrat Fad

by Steve Bleiberg

The 2004 presidential election cycle is well under way and the Democrats have yet to rally around a single leader. The Democratic presidential primary's new frontrunner is also its latest entrant, General Wesley Clark. However, in this race, frontrunner status does not seem to last very long; just ask Joe Lieberman, John Kerry, and Howard Dean.

So, who is Wesley Clark? Bill Clinton has said that the General is one of the two stars of the Democratic Party (the other is Hillary). On paper, Clark's credentials are very impressive: top of his class at West Point, Rhodes Scholar, Vietnam veteran, Supreme Allied Commander of NATO under Clinton, and CNN military analyst during the war in Iraq.

Many Democrats contend that Clark's military background makes him the ideal candidate to challenge Bush on national security, considered to be the President's strength. Those Democrats should keep in mind that military experience alone does not necessarily guarantee strength on national security issues. In the 2002 US Senate race in Georgia, incumbent Democratic Senator Max Cleland, a disabled war veteran, was defeated by Representative Saxby Chambliss in a campaign marked by debate on national security issues such as the establishment of the Department of Homeland Security.

In addition, General Clark's remarkable military career has a few blemishes that his supporters appear to have overlooked. Clark was often engaged in conflict with his fellow officers and was fired from his NATO command by the Clinton Administration. In the Army,

Clark was known for his arrogance and was considered very difficult to work with. During the Kosovo war top Pentagon officials chastised him for insubordination and trying to go over the heads of the military leadership to appeal directly to the White House. Clark was dismissed by Secretary of Defense William Cohen (with permission from President Clinton) before his term expired. Retired General Hugh Shelton, a

former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Army Chief of Staff, recently made the following comments about Clark:

"I've known Wes for a long time. I will tell you the reason he came out of Europe early had to do with integrity and character issues, things that are very near and dear to my heart. I'm not going to say whether I'm a Republican or a Democrat. I'll just say Wes won't get my vote."

Another retired general told *The Washington Post* that, "There are an awful lot of people who believe Wes will tell anybody what they want to hear and tell somebody the exact opposite five minutes later. The people who have worked closely with him are the least complimentary, because he can be very abrasive, very domineering. And part of what you saw when he was relieved of command was all of the broken glass and broken china within the European alliance and the [US] European Command."

Wesley Clark's candidacy is still in its infancy, and that fact is definitely ap-

parent. The General has had some difficulty responding to reporters' questions about policy issues, including the war in Iraq. Clark's anti-war stance, which initially excited many Democratic voters, became a bit fuzzy when he told reporters that he would probably have supported the resolution authorizing President Bush to go to war with Iraq. A day later, Clark reversed himself saying that he "would never have voted for this war." At the Arizona Democratic debate, General Clark tried to clarify his position by saying that he would have supported a resolution authorizing the President to take his case to the United Nations. Clark's answer does not explain what he would have wanted the UN to do, and Clark had no substantive response when debate moderator Judy Woodruff pointed out that President Bush did in fact take his case to the UN.

Although Wesley Clark claims to have a grassroots campaign similar to that of Howard Dean, Clark's campaign bears little resemblance to the Internet-enabled mass movement that has made the former Vermont governor a top candidate. The Clark campaign appears to be run by members of the old Clinton-Gore team. General Clark seems to have been anointed as the candidate of the Clinton wing of the Democratic Party. Clinton-Gore veteran Chris Lehane's recent defection from the Kerry campaign is the latest example of Clinton allies rallying around Clark.

General Clark's entry into the Democratic primary have left some Democrats asking, "Is Wesley Clark even a Democrat?" As of October 1, Clark still had not changed his voter registration to the Democratic Party. He has admitted to having voted for Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. In addition, Clark has

praised President Bush and his team in the past, saying, "We need them there." General Clark still has not made a good argument as to why he should be the Democratic nominee or even why the President should be denied a second term. Clark's personal ambition is not nearly reason enough. ■

Clark has praised President Bush and his team in the past, saying, "We need them there."



The general has a way with the ladies.

Mr. Bleiberg is a senior majoring in Quantitative Economics.

The liberal sports media are not desperate for a black quarterback, just poor predictors of future performance.

Rushing the Quarterback

by Simon Holroyd

When Rush Limbaugh resigned from ESPN's *Sunday NFL Countdown*, he did a disservice to football fans and reaffirmed liberals' misperceptions that he is a racist bigot. After suggesting that the gentle treatment of Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb was racially motivated, the radio star quit the show, claiming, "this opinion has caused discomfort to the rest of the crew." Specifically, Limbaugh claimed that McNabb was over-

rated by the liberal sports media who were "desirous that a black quarterback can do well." In fact, McNabb's numbers actually support Limbaugh's assertions. McNabb is commonly believed to be one of the best quarterbacks in the league over the past three years, but his passer rating has been only average in each of the last three seasons and his offense has only ranked higher than 17th once. Though some have attributed his poor numbers to an adjustment period, he is now in his fifth season and his offense is ranked next to last.

Whether the sports media purposefully overrated McNabb, however, is unclear. There is no doubt that a dearth of black quarterbacks was a major issue in the late '80s. Hall of Famer Warren Moon, however, broke many of the old racial barriers. Today, arguably the best quarterback in the league is Steve McNair and one of the most promising future QBs is Michael Vick, both black. Purposefully overrating McNabb seems rather unnecessary.

Despite the NFL's racial preference in hiring coaches, it is highly unlikely that owners ignore performance in favor of race when picking their quarterback. Teams are judged directly on the skills their players exhibit on the field. Imagine, for instance, that all teams favor black quarterbacks over white ones. In such a world, prevalent racism would quickly

break down through natural forces. An outside team could ignore the common racial preferences and have access to all the better players who were passed over because of their color. These players would be undervalued and cheaper, and the outsider would have a distinct advantage over the rest of the pack.

All too often players are evaluated without much emphasis on actual statistics.

mimic the diversity in the population of quarterbacks. If quarterbacks were predominantly black, then neither NFL coaches nor economics could produce a colorful squad. This is similar to the situation facing Major League Baseball today. With dwindling interest among American black youths, the pool of black players is shallow. Meanwhile, interest among young players is skyrocketing in South and Central America and Asia. Dominican, Cuban, and Japanese players abound.

Of course, this hypothetical model assumes some equality between races. Much like Kenyan runners, if black quarterbacks hold a physical or mental advantage over white ones, coaches *should* favor a McNabb over a Bledsoe. At the moment, no such advantage seems to exist, but just look further down the offensive line to see how inferior whites are to blacks at the wide receiver position where speed and jumping ability is of the utmost importance.

Rush Limbaugh, however, was concerned with the *media's* racism, not owners'. More specifically, he suggests broadcasters were biased in their judgment of McNabb's future abilities. This argument may hold more water. The human mind is ill-equipped to make coherent predictions of the future from statistical data. Often

biases (racist or otherwise) are the results of heuristics the mind uses to avoid complex statistical computations rather than on some underlying evil motives. Psychological studies show that humans very often pick out single events rather than longer trends in order to make predictions.

Sportscasters are guilty of this type of behavior all the time. For instance, basketball announcers frequently refer to a phenomenon known as the "hot hand." Streaky shooters, they claim, can suddenly go "on fire" at which point they could throw bowling balls at the hoop from mid court and hit "nothing but net." Actually, basketball shots are surprisingly random. It is the human mind that reads patterns of consistency into the game (Tversky and Gilovich, 1985).

The same behavior may have occurred in evaluating McNabb. All too often players are evaluated without much emphasis on actual statistics. McNabb received high praise for his winning record with the Eagles and in college even though a wide variety of factors can contribute to a team's success. Though it seems unlikely that liberally minded sportscasters were desperate for another black quarterback to be successful, they may certainly have been predisposed to overrating him. Early in his career, McNabb was very inconsistent, sometimes showing flashes of brilliance, other times looking mediocre. Sportscasters, subconsciously wanting to see more black quarterbacks succeed, could have easily picked out the dazzling moments and concluded that McNabb is the next big

thing. Leading his team to two NFC championship games cemented this view, ignoring the fact that in each of those seasons the Eagle's defense was the strength of the team while McNabb's quarterback rating labored in the 50s.

Had Limbaugh been prepared to defend his claims with facts, he would have had a golden opportunity to

lead a frank discussion on the treatment of race in sports. Instead of attempting to combat mistaken praise and ignorance of statistics, Limbaugh preferred to throw charges of reverse racism. Unfortunately, in light of the success of other black quarterbacks, those allegations carry little weight. By resigning from *Countdown*, however, Limbaugh invalidates all of his accusations and appears as nothing more than a blowhard without the courage stand by his convictions.



Mr. Holroyd is a senior majoring in Computer Science.

Rich countries persist in global self-preservation.

Bitter Harvest

by Tara Heumann

In recent years, the World Trade Organization (WTO) has been plagued by controversy. The December 1999 negotiations in Seattle were fraught with bitter and violent protests. Unsolvable battles over industrial tariffs and agricultural trade at Doha, Qatar, in November 2001 rendered the preliminary meetings of the new negotiating round fruitless and placed added pressure on the WTO to make substantive achievements in Cancun this past September. Though Doha was hailed as a "development round," the results were far from friendly for less developed countries (LDCs) and the most important issue, agriculture, was tabled until Mexico.

Many less developed countries arrived in Cancun still sour from the raw deal they received in the 1995 Uruguay round, which required them to give up tariffs and protect international property rights without limiting foreign agricultural subsidies. Frustrated LDCs were reluctant to compromise on industry, anti-dumping regulations, and service negotiations until they saw serious progress on the farming agenda. LDCs understandably complained that competition and investment issues should take a back seat to their agricultural concerns and repeated their request for lowered trade barriers on farming goods and textiles. Though developed members of the WTO pledged cash and technological assistance to their poorer neighbors at Doha, the LDCs found those limited concessions insufficient.

Finally, at the end of August, small compromises regarding the import of generic

drugs and a general proposal for agricultural liberalization seemed to offer promise of a new commitment to success on the part of the US and European Union. When nations arrived in Cancun, however, the US and the EU spoke of liberalization but ultimately

acted on domestic priorities. Europe backed away from its agricultural commitments as Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schröder sealed a deal to protect the costly EU Common Agricultural Policy. Though US Trade Representative

Robert Zoellick said that America was ready to slash subsidies, President Bush signed a farm bill to increase assistance to domestic farmers last year.

LDC outrage over agriculture is easy to understand. While over four billion people worldwide rely on farming for their livelihood, *The Economist* notes that developed nations spend \$300 billion every year to help their own farmers while less than \$50 billion is earmarked for foreign aid. Government subsidies distort prices and prevent poor nations from accessing the world's largest markets. Even though the cost of cotton production is much higher in the US than in many African nations, the United States is the world's largest supplier. Twenty-five thousand cotton growers in the US share \$4 billion in subsidies to produce only \$3 billion of cotton while eleven million cotton growers in West Africa are left without buyers.

The agricultural impasse turned tragic on September 10, when Lee Kyung Hae, a 56 year-old Korean farmer, scaled a toppled protest barricade at the northern end of the Mexican island. Holding a sign that read "WTO Kills Farmers," Lee plunged a Swiss-Army knife into his chest and became an instant martyr for angry growers worldwide.

Analysts at the World Bank, however, do not cast the blame for welfare losses entirely on rich countries. Though the governments of LDCs are generally without the means to subsidize farmers, up to 80% of the benefits that would accrue to the developing world through agricultural reform would come from lowered barriers among these nations. Indeed, trade between LDCs now accounts for nearly 11% of world trade. The Bank's estimates are a strong motivation for continued multilateral efforts to complement bilateral and regional liberalization worldwide.

Among the more promising elements of the Cancun talks was the strong presence of the G-22, a newly assertive group led by Brazil, India, China, and South Africa that argued the need for greater concessions by richer countries. Though their demands may not have been met, Fletcher Professor Joel Trachtman noted the significance of a group of LDCs finally driving a piece of the WTO agenda. At a summit that hosted 700 Americans and to which 90 LDCs sent only two delegates, the need for coalition building among less represented countries is clear.

Only multilateral trade barrier reductions can affect the welfare improvements necessary to seriously combat world poverty and advance third world development. Linger questions from Cancun, however, will likely render impossible the completion of trade talks by January 2005. As Fletcher Professor Adil Najam suggests, if one can resist cynicism and avoid casting full blame on one of the warring factions, the Cancun ruin can only be seen as an advanced game of cat and mouse. LDCs, the world's once-timid rodent, will start fighting back once they have no place else to go. Precisely because they have little left to lose, the LDCs have begun to battle intensely for long overdue agricultural concessions. Until the US, Japan, and the EU acknowledge their own hypocrisy and assume real leadership in the global economy they rule, trade talks are doomed to stagnate and the developing world seems destined for starvation.



Man down.

Miss Heumann is a senior majoring in International Relations, Economics, and Spanish.

American farmers act rationally by serving the world's irrational fear.

Frankenfood

by Talia Alexander

A genetically modified (GM) organism is defined by the European Union as one whose "genetic material has been altered in a way that does not occur naturally by mating or natural recombination." The Europeans like to define genetically altered organisms because they are deathly afraid of them. They call fare made from these organisms "Frankenfoods" and require any food product

containing over 1% GM organisms to be expressly labeled. In the US, most of what we eat is Frankenfood.

Americans do not seem too worried. Our Frankenfood is tested extensively by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to make sure it contains no allergens. GM food, in this respect, is far safer than the formerly ubiquitous airline peanuts.

GM food is also far cheaper to produce. Much of it requires either no pesticides or a greatly reduced amount compared to non-GM crops, which should make environmentalists euphoric. The plants require less effort on the part of farmers because they tend to be extra-hardy. GM growers can therefore raise both their productivity and their profit. Finally, GM crops have the potential to increase the total food supply and help to combat starvation worldwide.

The most dangerous quality of GM food has nothing to do with the actual consumption of the stuff, despite European concern. Once GM seeds are released into the environment, they

spread like any other plant. These altered species, however, are far more successful procreators due to their genetic modifications and other genotypes tend to suffer. Reduced genetic diversity leaves the crops we most depend upon for food less capable of defending themselves against new parasites. Often, humans can act to minimize the negative repercussions, but who wants to

deliberately endanger our food supply?

GM plants are also overly prolific. Monsanto, the supplier of 95% of genetically modified seeds, requires farmers to sign contracts and pay a fee per acre of GM seed, standard procedure for any patented product. Unfortunately, Monsanto has failed to engineer its plants to avoid the natural process of reproduction. Monsanto seeds germinate in fields where they were not planted, giving the company the right to compensation from farmers who want nothing to do with its product. Monsanto's virtual monopoly on the GM seed market gives the company the tightest stranglehold on farmers since the days of sharecropping.

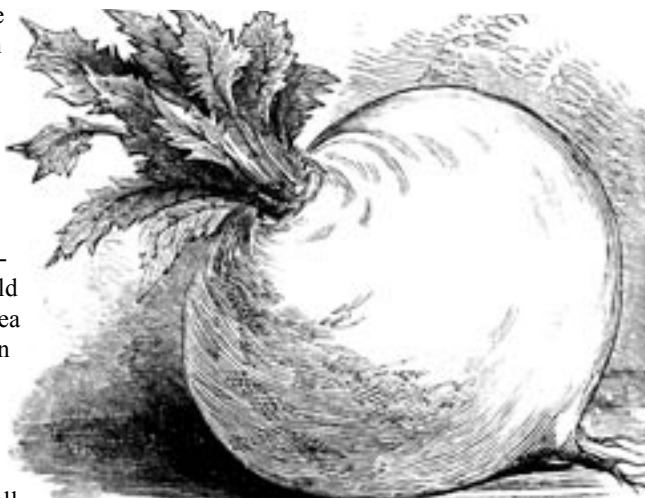
Even if Monsanto were not a monopoly and planting GM seeds did not risk a slide toward monoculture, GM food would still be a poor idea because its production is not profitable. It is very difficult to actually sell GM food today. The European market is all

but closed to American and Canadian GM products due to fear. The National Farmers Union in Canada determined that, should Canada permit genetically modified wheat, 82% of the international wheat market would go elsewhere for its bread. Far from making Canadian farmers richer, growing GM food would actually impoverish them.

GM products are supposed to be a boon for starving nations. Often, those same products actually prevent the US from helping hungry nations in crisis because third world countries refuse to accept GM food aid. Starving people apparently have the same irrational fear as Europeans.

Alternatively, as in the case of Malawi, countries will accept the GM food aid, but insist on milling the seeds before distributing them to the public. This prevents anyone from planting GM crops and keeps Malawi's struggling agricultural sector from indebtedness to Monsanto. Unfortunately, this policy also causes the death of many citizens who starve while the overburdened Malawi mills attempt to process the corn and other grains before distribution.

By insisting on using GM seeds and crops in the US, we are hampering our own agricultural industry both today and in the future. Although the international fear of GM seeds is itself irrational and unsubstantiated by science, the fear is so pervasive it makes good economic sense to pander to it. Paradoxically, by yielding to this fear, the US can better prevent the tragedy of starvation. It can also maintain a genetic diversity from which humans are only beginning to reap the rewards. US farmers would better serve themselves, and the agricultural industry, and the rest of the world by avoiding genetically modified seeds. ■



Miss Alexander is a senior majoring in Biology and Environmental Studies.

Diversity of thought is being ignored on college campuses.

Chocolate Chip Cookies

by J. Slavich

Freedom of thought is under fire at Southern Methodist University (SMU), where the Young Conservatives of Texas (YCT) held a bake sale to illustrate the inherent racism in affirmative action policies. As an analogy to the preference minorities are given over white males, the YCT sold cookies to different races and genders for different prices. White males were sold cookies for \$1.00, white women bought them for 75 cents, Hispanics bought them for 50 cents, and African Americans bought cookies for 25 cents. After only 45 minutes, SMU administrators shut down the bake sale, claiming, "we had a hostile environment being created that was potentially volatile."

YCT members reported that there were only a dozen students around the table and disagreed that a "hostile environment" was created. SMU's administration, however, saw politically incorrect speech as threatening and decided to squash the demonstration. But after this event, SMU cannot claim to be a campus that facilitates open dialogue and intellectual discourse. If the administration refuses to hear one point of view, even if it is unpopular, it threatens the freedom of thought and expression on the rest of the campus.

The idea of an affirmative action bake sale is nothing new. While what the SMU students attempted had already been done on many college campuses across the country, administrations on other campuses did not shut down the sales. The limitations on speech at SMU are similar to prior cases on the Tufts campus. In the late 1980s Tufts instituted a speech code

on campus. Certain places were deemed free speech zones. In other zones on campus, people were not allowed to talk about inflammatory issues or topics that could be understood as mean spirited or politically incorrect. Tufts tried to create "safe spaces"

for those who did not want to hear the other side of an argument. The protest of students and pressure from outside groups eventually brought the end of the infamous speech codes.

Similar limitations on free speech have occurred on other college campuses over the last few years. Last year at Minnesota State University the administration enacted speech codes to stop students from bringing up politically incorrect issues. Currently, Texas Tech University has speech free speech zones on campus. So, are college campuses trying to promote diversity of thought?

The answer at Tufts seems to be "no." Looking at the lineup of guest speakers seen on campus every week, the liberals have an overwhelming voice. The conservative viewpoint rarely comes across. The best example of this was last year. In the months leading up to the war on Iraq, guest speakers often reflected the liberal point of view. Speakers like Noam Chomsky and Howard Zinn represented the anti-war and far Left faction. The only conservative that had a widely attended lecture was the former President Bush. This one event brought protests from the Left, claiming it was too conservative.

Maybe the Tufts campus needs to test how willing it is to listen to different sides of the political spectrum. After erasing its speech codes in the previous decade, is Tufts still willing to protect freedom of speech on a college campus? At least Tufts is willing to allow politically moti-

vated bake sales. Over Women's Week, the Women's Center held a wage gap bake sale to show the wage gaps between men and women. If Tufts is willing to condone bake sales pointing out inequalities, maybe an affirmative action bake sale is necessary, too.

Intellectual freedom is a very important part of an academic community, but it is rarely defended. Cases like SMU's help to show that American universities have lost interest in hearing both points of view. From Massachusetts to Texas, administrations are afraid of allowing thoughts and discussion that may possibly offend others. The learning process should revolve around studying issues from many points of view. This is what allows one to come to the best solutions or conclusions.

The Young Conservatives bake sale at SMU may have had a greater effect than it intended. Instead of just protesting against affirmative action, the bake sale brought about the discussion of intellectual diversity and free speech on a national stage. The problems on the SMU campus were discussed across the country, from *Good Morning America* to editorials in many big city newspapers.

Maybe this is just what the movement for intellectual diversity needs. America needs to realize that when kids are sent off to college, they are not allowed to hear all sides of a story or openly discuss their viewpoints. The limits on speech and thought at universities across the US need to end. Universities must strive to promote diversity of thought to protect the integrity of American higher education. ■



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

Insecure voting machines pose a threat to open democracy.

Voting with Your Eyes Shut

by Alex Levy

In revolutionary times, citizens cast their votes using white and black fava beans. A switch to paper ballots and another to mechanical lever machines improved voting accuracy by a great magnitude. Now, a growing call for computerized voting machines has sparked a quiet controversy among the technical community, and called attention to an issue which concerns every American voter.

Eager to avoid another nationwide embarrassment like

we saw in the Florida fiasco of 2000, Congress passed the Helping Americans Vote Act (HAVA). HAVA sets various deadlines and requirements for states to update and standardize their voting procedures. At least \$1.5 billion in federal funds have been appropriated to help states implement these new guidelines.

Now, states are eager to upgrade to electronic voting systems in time for the 2004 elections. A small but tightly-knit industry has formed around providing these machines, with Diebold leading the pack. At least 37 states are already using touch-screen voting machines.

On the surface, computerized voting seems the next logical step for a technologically advanced democracy like the United States. But when subjected to even the most basic technical scrutiny, these machines fall short.

In August, a report from computer scientists at Johns Hopkins University confirmed what experts had already suspected: the machines responsible for recording votes are embarrassingly vulnerable to cracking. This report was a thorough and accurate analysis of the security problems plaguing computerized voting systems—problems that have already been seen, confirmed,

and summarily dismissed by the very companies that sell these faulty devices.

Critics of these systems are not simply taking stabs in the dark. Internal company memos have been leaked, exposing major design flaws in Diebold's AccuVote and GEMS voting platforms. Each computer

saves votes in unprotected Microsoft Access databases. These files could be altered by any state worker with physical access to the machines. Since these systems do not leave

a paper audit trail, changes to these databases would be nearly impossible to detect.

Some states (rightfully) require all systems go through a system test before any election. This means voting software should verify it is functioning properly before allowing people to use it. Diebold's solution to this requirement—which one employee referred to as “silly” and “pointless”—was to simply print “System Test Passed” whenever the computer was turned on.

Diebold's systems use smart cards—wallet-size cards with microchips inside them—for logging into the systems. The authors of the JHU report found that anybody with a working knowledge of Diebold systems and a few hundred dollars could create a stack of “voter” cards and vote as many times as they please. They could also impersonate a system administrator to shut down the polling station.

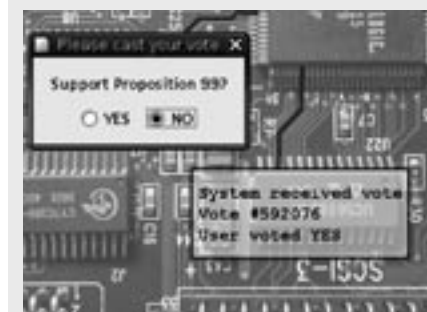
Most worrisome, though, is that Diebold's systems make virtually no effort to prevent tampering by poll workers. The JHU report found that poll workers could not only cast multiple votes but could also

alter nearly any data present on the system. Just one person could tamper audit logs, track votes to the individuals that cast them, and even *create, modify, or delete* votes stored in the system.

These security vulnerabilities do not lend themselves to quick fixes and are indicative of flawed and careless design practices. Security experts are aghast at the negligent use of easily-broken encryption in these machines (or, in some cases, the lack of any encryption at all). In many circumstances, a poll worker would not need physical access to tamper with voting machines. Instead, he could simply crack them over the network.

Opponents of today's computer voting machines have not agreed on an appropriate remedy for the situation. But to hide the inner workings of software that plays a crucial role in our nation's electoral process is to challenge a long American tradition of public oversight and government accountability. If voting machine software were made Open Source, anyone could view the system code and suggest improvements. Open Source software is heavily used by businesses in security-critical applications and is inexpensive to implement. Towns that could not afford professional services could even design their systems themselves. Companies like Diebold would still make money from sales of hardware and support services—already the source of most of their revenue. And if these firms are loathe to publish their source code, there is no question the Open Source community could design a stronger system within months, given reasonable funding.

America prides itself on its rich tradition of democracy. A computerized voting system that is easily corrupted would disrupt the electoral process much more than hanging chads. Congress is right to push for voting reform, but not at the expense of vot-



Is Open Source technology the answer?

ing accuracy. Yet there is great pressure to implement these systems by 2004, and companies like Diebold have hired very experienced lobbyists. Unless there is more public demand for open, accountable voting systems, terrible damage may soon be inflicted upon our nation's fundamental democratic institutions.

Mr. Levy is a senior majoring in Computer Science and Russian.

Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right

by Al Franken

E. P. Dutton, ISBN 0-525-94764-7

\$24.95, hardcover

I'll get this right out in the open: I don't *entirely* dislike Al Franken's new book. The fact remains that Al Franken is a very funny man. Wrong about nearly *everything*, yes. But hilarious. Okay, so Stuart Smalley was overplayed. But ever since *Rush Limbaugh is a Big Fat Idiot*, Franken has found his niche as the Left's unofficial official answer to every conservative who has ever written a book. Big shoes to fill, and *Lies* doesn't really size up.

Franken spends the second and third chapters of *Lies* assailing Ann Coulter for her book *Slander*, which he alleges is filled with nothing but lies. And yet in these two chapters Franken offers only two examples of actual false statements. First, Coulter claimed in one paragraph that *The New York Times* didn't cover NASCAR Dale Earnhardt's death until two days after the fact (it was one day); second, Coulter referred to Norman Thomas as the father of Evan Thomas (he was actually Evan's grandfather). That's it. The careful reader will note that he or she does not even know who Norm and Evan Thomas *are*, and that these missteps—or typos, even—hardly shake Coulter's research to its very foundations.

Franken takes the same distorted jabs at everyone else on the cover of *Lies*. By extrapolation, everything Bill O'Reilly says is a lie because: one, he said that he registered as an independent when he really registered as a Republican; two, he said that his former show *Inside Edition* won two Peabody awards when it really won one Polk award. These are apparently such career-destroying revelations that Franken harps on them for the rest of the book. Or maybe it's because Franken has a personal vendetta against O'Reilly and can't find any other evidence to support his claims. Anyway, he hates FOX News Channel, which he offers as *prima facie* evidence that the entire media is biased toward the Right.

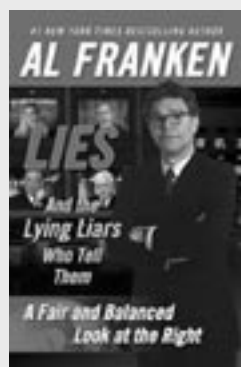
But in case you're worried about reading a book about lies with no lies in it, don't worry — there are plenty here. Of course, most of them are Franken's. Indeed, much like how the only stupid white man I found in Michael Moore's story was Moore himself, Al Franken is an unabashed liar. In *Lies*, he recounts how he fraudulently solicited stories about abstinence education from conservative leaders. He spends an entire chapter explaining how he defrauded Bob Jones University by taking a Harvard undergraduate with him on a campus tour, posing as a prospective student and father under assumed names. With not one iota of evidence to back it up, he continually refers to Bush as a cocaine abuser. And on and on.

"Ah-ha," some will inevitably say, "but it's *okay* that Franken lies and distorts, because this is a *humor* book." That it is. And I won't say that a humor book can't have a

serious message. But most of the humorous sections of *Lies*, well, don't have much of a message besides "look at how funny I am." It's a lot of self-back-patting-tinged reminiscing on all sorts of encounters between Al and prominent Republicans, usually with Al saying something provoking or jackassed at a cocktail party and the person's reaction, and then usually with a hefty amount of name calling thrown in for good measure. Al does the name-calling, of course.

In the end, *Lies* is the perfect "answer" to books like *Slander*, *Bias*, et cetera — but only for people who don't like those books in the first place. If liberals believe they found a good value for their \$24.95 because they feel that when Franken slaps himself on the back, he's really slapping *them* on the back, too, then fine. But, if you're looking for a reasoned, factual counterpoint to Coulter — look elsewhere.

—Chris Kohler



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Last semester, TASA used TCU funding to purchase alcohol at their club event. Though their treasurer, Suman Rao was not present at the function, he was there in spirit. Now, unable to legally purchase beer with group funds, TASA has decided instead to produce their own!



Never pass up an
opportunity for
an ice cold
Suman Adams...
especially when
it's on the
TCU tab.



Introducing TASA's newest brew,
Suman Adams Lager: Always a bad decision.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Now we have had 25 years of a failed Islamic revolution in Iran, and the people do not want an Islamic regime anymore.

—Hossein Khomeini, grandson of Iran's late Ayatollah Khomeini

They are against food.

—Cruz Bustamante, referring to recall candidates Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tom McClintock

Not an issue at all. I'd let him grope me any time!

—Schwarzenegger voter, Tiffany Lopez

We need immigrants to clean our hotels and office buildings and take care of the elderly... Whether people are janitors or maids or bus-boys or cooks, it's all part of the experience we enjoy when we're at a restaurant or a hotel.

—Gray Davis

And I'm very glad we've got the great team in office, men like Colin Powell, Don Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, Condoleezza Rice...people I know very well—our president George W. Bush. We need them there.

—General Wesley Clark

When I am President, we'll do executive orders to overcome any wrong thing the Supreme Court does tomorrow or any other day.

—Dick Gephardt

Like many of you, I grew up in a small town in North Carolina.

—John Edwards, at the 2002 California Democratic Convention

[Medicare is] one of the worst things that ever happened.

—Howard Dean

There is a level of cowardice lower than that of the conformist: the fashionable non-conformist.

—Ayn Rand

Beware of that condescension and remember that liberals always feel your pain unless of course they caused it.

—Dennis Miller

For example, all of bin Laden's apparently sincere talk of Americans as "crusaders" overlooks, completely, the inconvenient fact that nobody here has any frickin' clue as to what he's talking about.

—Jonah Goldberg

The government is unresponsive to the needs of the little man. Under 5'7", it is impossible to get your congressman on the phone.

—Woody Allen

I have always felt that a politician is to be judged by the animosities he excites among his opponents.

—Winston Churchill

I am a conservative to preserve all that is good in our constitution, a radical to remove all that is bad. I seek to preserve property and to respect order, and I equally decry the appeal to the passions of the many of the prejudices of the few.

—Benjamin Disraeli

Women should be obscene and not heard.

—Groucho Marx

I want to be American. America is the coolest place on the face of the Earth. You've got freedom of speech. You've got McDonald's.

—Ozzy Osbourne

Today, Clark time-traveled to the Democratic convention and found out he wasn't nominated because of stupid time-traveling remarks.

—David Letterman

Laws alone cannot secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population.

—Albert Einstein

Americans adore me and will go on adoring me until I say something nice about them.

—George Bernard Shaw

Diplomacy is the art of saying "Nice doggie" until you can find a rock.

—Will Rogers

I can win an argument on any topic, against any opponent. People know this, and steer clear of me at parties. Often, as a sign of their great respect, they don't even invite me.

—Dave Barry

I was a vegetarian until I started leaning toward the sunlight.

—Rita Rudner

The superior man, when resting in safety, does not forget that danger may come. When in a state of security he does not forget the possibility of ruin. When all is orderly, he does not forget that disorder may come. Thus his person is not endangered, and his States and all their clans are preserved.

—Confucius

In all due respect, you've got a beautiful face and everything.

—George W. Bush, apologizing to FOX's Brit Hume for not watching much TV news

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.

—Ronald Reagan

Any country who harbors terrorism, who trains [terrorists], supports, and encourages them will be responsible to answer for their actions.

—Avi Pazner, Israeli government spokesman

I'm still not sure who to vote for: you got Arnold who groped a few women, or Davis who screwed the whole state.

—Jay Leno

There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.

—John F. Kennedy