

I PRESSED THE FIRE CONTROL... AND AHEAD OF ME ROCKETS BLAZED THROUGH THE SKY...

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

VERITAS SINE DOLO

The Arts Issue

ALSO INSIDE:

- The Great Culture Compromise
- Block of Wood runs for TCU prez...again
- The Source Turns 21!

My Goodness **My SOURCE**



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THE PRIMARY SOURCE

Vol. XXI • The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University • No. #

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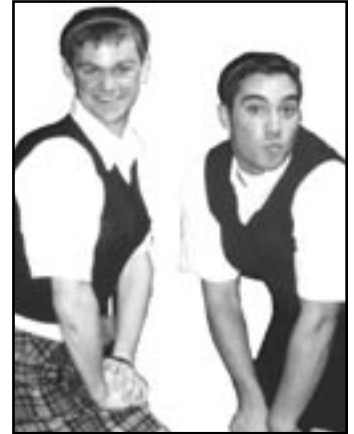
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Wood for President

The TCU senate presidential election approaches, and the choice seems rather obvious. (At least, it does if you've seen page 11 of this issue.) That's right, the BLOCK OF WOOD is the ideal candidate. Imagine an academic year in which we can live comfortably without the fear that, late on a Sunday night, the senate might pass a resolution on national or international politics or, even worse, send Student Activities funds overseas. Wait a second—Pritesh Gandhi won't be on the senate next year. Still, the BLOCK OF WOOD would not propose anything of the sort. Of course, it also cannot oversee any of the good things the senate does for us, like getting a new and improved constitution, although, after president Melissa Carson resigned, vice president Andrew Potts did very little toward accomplishing that specific goal. At least, he was rarely at the meetings, which is where the real progress took place. When you vote for BLOCK OF WOOD, what you see is exactly what you will get.

Judging by student participation, *nothing* is exactly the platform most voters endorse. At the first constitutional reform meeting, attendance was very high, but rapidly declined after that. Throughout the semester, meetings were held on Friday afternoons, and the topics to be discussed were announced in a timely fashion so students could adjust their schedule so they could attend. Given the strong opposition to the addition of a conservative culture rep and to amendments in past semesters to get rid of culture reps—and then to end their voting status—one would have expected constitutional reform meeting attendance to be high, with defenders of the status quo determined to block change.

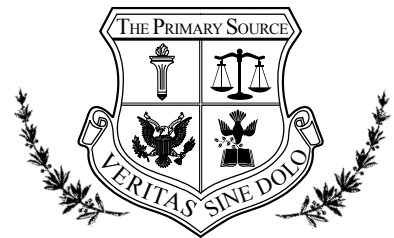
Often dominated by SOURCE staffers, attendance at the constitutional reform meetings included a decent portion of the senate and occasionally a few members of designated "culture" groups. All in all, it was a surprisingly low turnout considering

the hardline stance so many students have expressed in the past about the system.

Such lack of interest becomes evident when one recognizes the lack of participation in student government. Some students are legitimately interested in serious accomplishments, and they campaign for positions, while others aid senators in their projects. A much larger group on campus, however, does not show much interest at all. As a result, the Committee on Student Life, the Judiciary (at this writing, there are still two open seats), and many class senate seats went uncontested in this year's elections. The only battles were among members of next year's sophomore class, which offered fourteen candidates for twelve senate seats. This is hardly fierce competition. Anyone running on the infamous "paper towel platform" has the law of probability is on his side.

Senators try to represent their constituents, but culture rep defenders argue that is impossible. It is undemocratic to allow those culture reps to have votes equal to those of senators when student government seats remain open. Fortunately, the new constitution goes a long way towards correcting that. We should, however, consider replacing all community reps with something that cares about government as much as the rest of the campus: the BLOCK OF WOOD. Who better to represent such apathy? Realistically, the BLOCK OF WOOD will not win, but I strongly encourage next year's president to keep the BLOCK close at hand as an advisor for when the students don't seem to care.

Good luck, Randy!

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE
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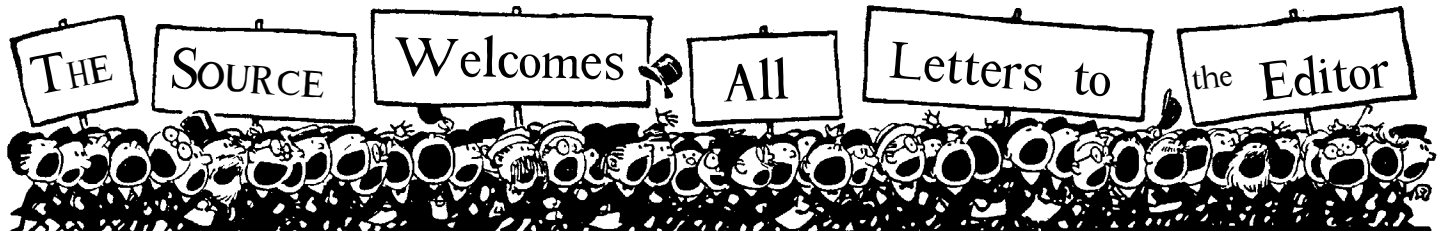
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NOT MAKING THIS UP!**



Medford responds to the Association of Student Employees of Tufts.



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Commentary

Rethinking Registration

Forget UMich and the Supreme Court for five seconds. Tufts' deans have officially lost it, establishing a new affirmative action policy at Tufts that is an absolute absurdity, and it touches each and every student on campus.

Minority admission—ha! Special attention for women—not even close. The policy in question is the new registration system. This year, all Tufts students who received registration times got them by random lottery instead of according to earned credit hours. The result is a system that Dean Jeanne Dillon told the *Daily* (“Registration system changed,” April 3—just a couple of days before registration started) would replace one that was not “equitable.” Apparently, it marginalized underachievers.

In the old system, students with more credits got earlier times, the reason being that these students obviously need to take some of the higher level courses, most of which have very limited capacity. They picked first because once these spots are gone, these students would have to settle for classes that might not count for them. Students with fewer credits picked later because presumably they still have to take some of the lower level classes before moving onto some of the advanced—and possibly more desirable—ones. The old system allowed students to accelerate their own degree, since a semester's credit load is the free choice of the student. Over time, natural variation will occur. The new system unnecessarily pigeonholes students into only four categories according to class year. Now a bunch of whiners have apparently complained that students who cannot afford to take extra credits over the summer or whose high schools did not offer enough AP courses are at an unfair disadvantage when it comes to credits. And the administration bought right into the sob story, ignoring any logic that might have gone into an improvement.

Students are not denied the opportunity to take more popular classes in the old system; their opportunity is simply postponed until they have more credits, which, if they continue to take classes, they will earn in a semester or two. Besides this, many professors will gladly add students after the capacity of the class is filled, provided the classroom is not overflowing. These spoiled students are simply lacking forethought and energy. But this is hardly a surprise at Tufts: the land of admissions-hijacking, war-protesting, vitamin-deficient vegans. God forbid anyone use something more substantive than five minutes of crying to establish their principles, let alone their registration policy.

As a result, people just a few credits shy of graduating might find themselves forced to stick around for an extra session or two just to satisfy their requirements, while impatient underclassmen will find open spots in classes for which they have not fulfilled the prerequisites. The administration needs to go back to the drawing board on this one. This “experiment,” as Dean Dillon calls it, is yet another Tufts failure at thinking through apparent problems. But maybe the Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience needed something to do next year.

All's Well That Ends Well

Operation Iraqi Freedom appears to be drawing to a rapid conclusion. The events in Baghdad on April 9, 2003 authenticated the aptly titled military campaign. The people of Baghdad were able to publicly display their disdain for the crumbling regime's ruthless leader, Saddam Hussein. An oppressive regime that egregiously violated its citizen's fundamental human rights ended its reign of terror in the capitol city. Iraqis were finally able to enjoy the right to publicly protest. This was already available to the swarms of US anti-war protestors who openly rebuked the

Bush administration's decision to go to war. Various elements of society quickly attempted to salvage their anti-war stances by dismissing the jubilations as unrepresentative of the Baghdad populace. Unfortunately, this ploy was reminiscent only of the vibrant Mohammad Said al-Sahhaf, former Iraqi information minister.

The toppling of Saddam's statue was a wakeup call to those who vehemently opposed the war and tried to use it as the basis for publicly discrediting the Bush Administration. Evidence demonstrating what President Bush maintained from the beginning was finally provided: the Iraqi people desired freedom. The scenes televised across the world must have caused opponents



of the war to pause and question their personal motives. The biggest shock came when French President Jacques Chirac publicly hailed the fall of Saddam—an impossibility without the war. These mighty words came from a leader who had a significant role in frustrating efforts to gain UN authorization for a pre-emptive strike on Iraq. This begs the question of whether he was trying to comfortably position himself so his nation can profit from the reconstruction of Iraq.

Looting and anarchy are an unfortunate consequence of the liberation of the Iraqi capital. The genesis of the situation is rooted in the local police's failure to show up to work. The Marines are in a no-win situation. If they get involved, they will be accused of brutality against the civilian population, fueling the misguided perception that the United States are the imperialistic bullies of the world.

On the other hand, not getting involved will provide ammunition for critics of the war. The Marines will be accused of condoning anarchy and exacerbating the condition of the Iraqi people.

Substantial evidence pointing to weapons of mass destructions has yet to be unearthed, but there have been other measurements of success. More atrocities are being uncovered as more of Iraq falls under coalition control. Marines freeing 150 children who were detained because of their refusal to join the Ba'ath youth party illustrate the unthinkable brutalities of the grasping regime. Operation Iraqi Freedom is succeeding in putting an end to one of the most brutal regimes and providing the Iraqi people with hope for a better future.

A Tale of Two Governors

While former Governor of New Hampshire John H. Sununu has long been affiliated with Tufts University, launching his political career while a Professor of Mechanical Engineering on the Hill, only recently has former New Hampshire Governor Jeanne Shaheen lent her name to Tufts' faculty roster. According to the *Daily*, Shaheen will be teaching a political science class next fall entitled "Governing in a Partisan Environment." In the SOURCE's opinion, Tufts picked the wrong former governor to teach such a class.

During her time as New Hampshire's Governor, Jeanne Shaheen proved that she did not have the ability or convictions necessary ever to "govern in a partisan environment." Her election in 1996 as the first Democratic governor since 1978 in the staunchly Republican state showed that Shaheen had well-honed campaigning skills, but her actions thereafter fell far short of effective governing. In 1997, New Hampshire faced a crisis when the state's Supreme Court declared that education was a constitutional right, and that the state was obligated to fund it.



In the wake of the "Claremont II" decision, Governor Shaheen proposed a school funding system that knowingly did not meet the Supreme Court's standards, unnecessarily prolonging the crisis. Subsequently, Shaheen rejected an equitable flat income tax in favor of broad-based property taxes. As a result, several municipalities balked at Shaheen's handling of the crisis and refused for a time to hand over their state taxes. Only a politician as inept as Shaheen could have lost control to the degree that towns talked openly—and only half in jest—of secession from the state of New Hampshire. Shaheen left office before solving the problem, leaving the mess to the current New Hampshire Governor, Republican Craig Benson.

In contrast, John H. Sununu's time as Governor of New Hampshire was relatively calm. Between 1983, when he was first elected, until 1989, when he decided not to run for a fourth term, New Hampshire underwent an economic transformation driven by expansion in high tech fields. Shortly after his time as governor, Sununu became White House Chief of Staff under George H.W. Bush. In this role, Sununu was responsible for overseeing Bush's team of advisors as they sought to govern our nation in the face of a Democratic stranglehold on Congress. President Bush would later cite Sununu's work as instrumental to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991 and reform in child care legislation.

Recently, at the invitation of the Tufts Republicans, Sununu spoke on campus about the changing nature of international politics after the Cold War. Many in attendance considered his speech both engaging and thoughtful. That Tufts University has chosen to hire the former New Hampshire governor who left her state in crisis rather than the former New Hampshire governor who effectively guided our nation—not to mention once graced its halls—is a disservice to students who truly wish to learn about "governing in a partisan environment."

Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.

—Aristophanes

PS It's that time of year again: Gaypril! In honor of the leftists who feel the need to make their sexuality part of their calendar, the SOURCE presents:

The Top Twelve Months of the Year

12. Trojanuary
11. Crabruary
10. Gay-Pride-March
9. Straightpril
8. May-ke up your mind about your gender, already!
7. June-o they sell a cream for that?
6. KY July
5. Shock-and-awe-gust
4. Contraceptember
3. Time-to-go-see-the-doc-tober
2. No-means-november
1. STD-cember

PS A Chicago woman has filed a \$150,000 malpractice suit against a vet in the death of her ten-year-old Persian cat. Although the vet's office refused to make a deal, Kee Kar Lau has offered five bucks for the carcass.

PS Three gunmen shot at a convoy of cars, one of which was carrying Snoop Dogg. The rap star wasn't hit but one of his bodyguards was injured. Snoop later told journalists that he had no fear of death since it didn't seem to be keeping Tupac from putting out albums.

PS A Dutchman who ended up in court for going into a library with smelly feet had his fine more than doubled after he lost his appeal. There was nothing appealing about him to begin with.

PS People around the world have taken a unique liking to the public relations style of former Iraqi information minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf. In particular, Red Sox fans were delighted to hear that not only did Pedro *not* give up ten runs to Baltimore last week, but that the Orioles were "driven back with heavy losses."

PS Another notorious senior Iraqi official under Saddam, Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali" for ordering the poison gas attack

on the Kurds, was reported dead after a coalition airstrike on his villa. Because he was a cousin to the former dictator, Ali's remains will lie in state in the bucket they were collected in.

PS In other news, Ali's burial site is expected to bring thousands of site-seers each year as part of an all-expense-paid Kurdish "Tour of Graves I'd Like to Piss On."

PS The United States has delivered to troops decks of playing cards with pictures of wanted Iraqis. The deck features Saddam as the Ace of Spades and Peter Arnett and Geraldo Rivera as the jokers.

PS A homeless man billed for \$6 million in taxes by the Internal Revenue Service has been notified it was a mistake. Apparently, the man was much relieved since most patrons had balked at his insistence on \$100,000 per squeegee.

PS Meanwhile, a whistling Paul O'Neil mailed the IRS a dime and smiled for a good five minutes.

PS The Dixie Chicks might not be welcome in some parts of the country, but a Wisconsin politician wants the country music trio to know they have a home in Madison. He went on to extend his offer to any Americans, or foreigners, in the hopes of breaking Madison's population into the double digits.

PS A woman was awarded \$6,000 by a jury after suing a hair salon because her hair fell out in clumps after a straightening treatment. The salon was disappointed with the ruling but admitted that not everyone was ready for "cancer chic."

PS An Australian teenager who disappeared nearly five years ago turned up alive just as an alleged serial killer was standing trial for her murder. "You see," remarked an irate Gary Condit, "you always get in trouble for the ones you *don't* kill."

PS A German court has ordered a brothel to reimburse a man charged for sex he could not remember having after the establishment failed to provide an itemized receipt for the services rendered. Although not officially under German jurisdiction, hopefully that girl from accounting will stop calling now.

PS Organizers in Connecticut of an upcoming lecture series on French Impressionism debated not



Bling bling.

serving croissants at the event, fearing anti-France sentiment would keep people away. To further entice patriotic citizens, organizers have replaced Debussy with soft country, stapled an American flag to every haystack and replaced the phrase "French Impressionism" with "Would-Be-Speaking-German-Right-Now-If-It-Weren't-For-FUs Impressionism."

PS Sean Penn's car—with two guns inside—was stolen earlier this week from a busy Berkeley street while the actor was eating lunch at a nearby restaurant. When asked by reporters why he needed a handgun, Penn only suggested they take a picture and find out.

PS US representatives plan to meet with Iraqi opposition leaders this week in an attempt to form a government that would assume control of the country after an interim period of US military administration. Iraqi leaders agreed unanimously with plans to restore order and institute a temporary government but feeling somewhat cautious towards plans to annex Iraq as the 51st state, Oilabama.

PS Alaskan Governor Murkowski was listed in good condition after an angioplasty for a blocked artery, his office said. His office added that they didn't know when Murkowski would be out of the hospital but added that no one should worry since Alaska pretty much runs itself anyway.

PS Minnesotan Wayne Warden was charged with first-degree murder in the fatal shooting of his estranged wife as the couple's daughter ran to a neighbor for help, police said. Obviously she didn't run fast enough, they added.

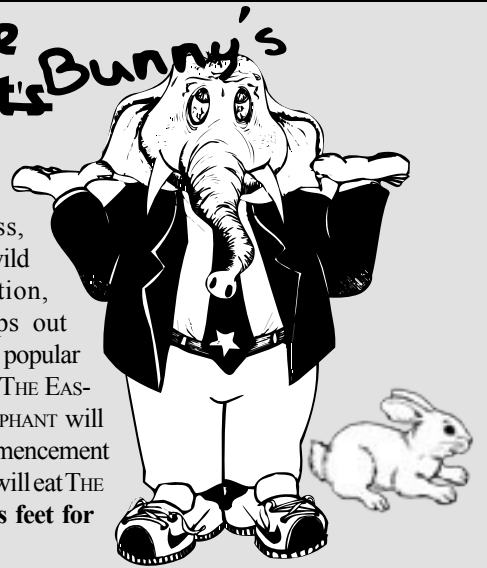
PS US troops and Iraqi police are setting up patrols to contend with looting in Baghdad. Meanwhile, Marines have rolled north to confront what could be Saddam Hussein's last holdouts. Iraqi civilians meanwhile rolled south to confront what could be Saddam Hussein's last office chairs.

PS Alabama's Lucas Hill Cemetery will soon be moved. A local developer will transfer the remains, some dating back as far as 1816, to a new location. Critics claim the new Lucas Cemetery will simply be a bigger budget presentation of the old remains with flashier gravestones and better special effects that adds nothing to the classic 1816 burial ground.

PS Faith Myers is pursuing an appeal to the Alaska Supreme Court, fighting a court ruling that allows state psychiatrists to force her to take anti-psychotic drugs. Indignant at the level of government intrusion, she's arguing the decision should be made solely between her and her neighbor's dog.

PS South Korea has recently deployed a stealth warship able to electronically spy on its dastardly northern neighbor on Friday while the North's leader publicly declared his country's readiness to "beat back the enemy." When questioned which enemy he was referring to, Kim Jong Il simply looked down at the floor and mumbled something about the neighbor's dog and that girl in accounting.

From the Elephant's Bunny's Mouth



☁ My Goodness, My SOURCE: After a wild **birthday** celebration, THE ELEPHANT steps out for a week. The ever popular arctic hare fills in as THE EASTER BUNNY. THE ELEPHANT will return for our Commencement Issue, and SOURCERS will eat THE BUNNY, and keep its feet for good luck...

☁ Tufts admitted only 22% of the **applicants** for the class of 2007. **ResLife** will admit even fewer of them once they're juniors... And none of them will want to participate in the **Bridge Program**.

☁ So hot right now: **Matt Edmundson** pens an *Observer* article equating the cost of student activities to Xboxes. THE BUNNY wonders how many Xboxes Matt would need to get him to **join the SOURCE**... Two weeks ago was LCS's Random Acts of Kindness Week. Unfortunately, **David Isles** did not offer to stop teaching classes.

☁ The most recent *Observer* **Police Blotter** lists the writing of "queers" on a whiteboard as an act of intolerance. THE BUNNY suggests that the J look into defunding the TTLGBC, labeling **Team Q** as countless acts of intolerance... On their National Day of Silence, the "qu**rs" refused to speak, displaying the oppression they face. Maybe they wouldn't face so much **oppression** if their own club didn't promote it.

☁ The *Daily* stepped **over the line** in their April Fools issue, with jokes about Abby Moffat and Andrew Potts. THE BUNNY would make a joke, but his mouth is **full of muffin**.

☁ Worlds better than your **village bicycle**: The Tufts Cycling team got a **Maserati** for their lead car for their campus race, marking the first time anybody cared about cycling... **Amber Madison** writes about her naked childhood. THE ELEPHANT goes back to the bottle... THE BUNNY continues: After months of discussion, culture rep advocates and right-minded Jumbos **finally agreed** on a new constitution. At one point, the **CSL's Sam Dangremond** said "On this one, I think I agree with Lou." THE BUNNY then threw a snowball at Lucifer.

☁ Sununu in **Barnumum**: Former New Hampshire Governor and Senator and Tufts professor **John Sununu, Sr.** spoke at Tufts last week. So now all of Bush 41's staff is either currently in the **White House** or visiting Tufts.

☁ THE ELEPHANT never forgets.

☁ Neither does **THE BUNNY**.

When Chike Aguh, Ariana Flores, and Sam Dangremond are all happy, you should be too.

The Great Culture Compromise

by *Simon Holroyd & J. Slavich*

For over a decade, the SOURCE has fueled discussion of the TCU's Culture Representative system. It is no secret that the SOURCE stood firmly for eliminating the reps. Last year, the SOURCE supported a referendum to take away the vote of the culture reps, replacing them with culture lobbyists. This fall, in another attempt to point out

the inadequacies of the system, the SOURCE attempted to obtain its own Conservative Culture Representative. Ignoring accusations of racism, the SOURCE consistently brought forth reasonable arguments for change. This semester was no different.

The original Amendment III focused on the democratic inadequacies of the Culture Rep system. By replacing the voting representatives with culture lobbyists, the drafters of the amendment aimed to restore democracy. A system that entrenches members of certain groups with more than one vote does not stand the democratic litmus test of "one man, one vote." When this amendment failed, the SOURCE was not deterred, and instead concocted the Conservative Culture Representative. Originally intended as an if-you-can't-beat-them-join-them attempt at shaking things up, the movement became an opportunity to expose the internal flaws of the constitution's design. As the SOURCE proceeded through the laborious process of gaining representation, we demonstrated how a hated campus group claiming "culture" status might fail at securing a seat on the senate. The SOURCE's aspirations of reproducing the same privileges granted to the PAA and TTLGBC were met with stiff resistance and eventually squashed.

Mr. Holroyd is a junior majoring in Computer Science. Mr. Slavich is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.

Though a common justification of the reps is the inability of senators to respond to minorities, it was the senators who reached out to the group of 500 some students who voted for the Conservative Culture Rep amendment. Led by Alison Clarke, their goal was to unite the two sides of the debate in a discussion of practicality. As part of a broader goal of reforming the TCU

constitution, Clarke organized and moderated a series of open debates. In attendance were numerous members of THE PRIMARY SOURCE, and significantly fewer senators, including Chike Aguh, Randy Newsom, Chloe Snider, Cho Ling, Rafi Goldberg, and occasionally members of cultural groups. Clarke limited discussion of the morality of culture representatives, noting that the years of debate indicate little chance of quelling either side. Instead, members of the panel were asked to illustrate new ideas for the system.

One of the first drastic suggestions came directly from SOURCE members. Our proposal included five to ten group representatives elected from a ballot of nominees. Each TCU group, with 250 signatures, would secure a place on the ballot that would then go to a school-wide election. The process would be repeated each year. Group reps would not be allowed to vote on distribution of the Student Activities fee. Drafters felt that opening the vote to the entire school and eliminating conflicts of interest would preserve some elements of valued equality. A main tenet of democracy is parliamentary impermanency. The SOURCE's plan converted a static system where reps were written into the constitution, to a system of dynamic representation. Rafi Goldberg lauded this feature, noting that representa-

tives should be working to make their own seat unnecessary. A permanent seat to fix injustice implies the permanency of the injustice.

Furthermore, from lessons learned during the Conservative Culture Rep campaign, the SOURCE aimed to formalize the process for gaining a rep. The current system requires a referendum in order to change a few simple lines of the Constitution. Ideally, disenfranchised groups should not have to also bear the burden of drafting a legally sound referendum when the entire process could easily be automated.

Though these ideas were not immediately embraced, after much discussion a practical solution began to emerge. After weeks of little progress, March brought giant strides and historic compromise. Elements of the SOURCE plan remained intact, though significant concessions were made over the one-year recognition interval. The final version of the amendment includes a four-year term for the representatives (now dubbed "community representatives"). Though the period is much longer than SOURCE members had originally envisioned, opponents made the valid observation that significant, permanent change can take much longer than a year. On the other hand, it is in all representatives' best interest to have the re-recognition interval be short so as to stimulate discussion of their key issues. Four years turned out to be an effective compromise, and was described by Chike Aguh as "something everyone can live with."

Another contentious issue was the concept of an "umbrella organization." The arbitrary construction required TCU groups to represent broader cross-sections of the Tufts community. Requiring a group to be an "umbrella organization" is superfluous and requiring a student to enroll in a group in order to gain representation intended for him violates his freedom of association. The compromised solution was to eliminate the requirement of an umbrella and replace it with a voluntary procedure whereby a legitimate sub-group may agree to share the seat with their parent group.

Tufts students should be proud to know that at least some issues are not so divisive that compromise is impossible. The reform committee was successful in uniting the two sides of the culture debate, as well as overhauling voting methods, presidential elections, and the treasury. Though the changes to the constitution do not eliminate non-senator representation, as Amendment III would have, the SOURCE stands firmly behind the Great Culture Compromise. □



TCU Presidential Election Special

Back in the Spring of 1998, with SOURCE members as campaign managers, the original BLOCK OF WOOD ran for TCU senate president. This year, with new managers, the BLOCK OF WOOD returns as a candidate for president. The BLOCK enters a cut-throat race between Joe Mead and Randy Newsom. To give Tufts students a better grasp of the senate race, we break down the candidates issue-by-issue:

(Candidates' positions below are not direct quotes. Except for the BLOCK OF WOOD, of course.)



Joe Mead



Randy Newsom



BLOCK OF WOOD

Naked Quad Run:

Joe: The administration should not shut down or change a long lasting tradition without student input.

Randy: It's Tufts tradition, and we can't get rid of it.

BLOCK OF WOOD: Keep it. I don't wear clothes anyway.

Senate Outreach:

J: We should ask students what's wrong rather than expect them to tell us.

R: We need to have a friendly and resourceful student government that puts students in touch with the right people.

BW: Whether you're sitting in your room or riding the pines in the dugout, I'm always within reach. And you can always talk to the Ents.

Greek System:

J: We need to increase philanthropic efforts and set standards for all houses.

R: We need to better how it interacts with our community and make sure the administration does not only react in a disciplinary manner.

BW: Grab a brew. Don't cost nothin'.

Uniting the Schools:

J: The Senate can and has fostered some more communication.

R: Undergrads don't notice the opportunities the other schools offer.

BW: I will be the bridge between the schools.

Administrative Accountability:

J: We must ensure that the administrators are working for the best interest of the students.

R: Students ideas should not go unnoticed by administrators.

BW: If the administration does something unfair, I'll give them a splinter.

Constituency Bylaw:

J: I support it.

R: I don't support it because it's unconstitutional.

BW: Who cares?

Table Saw:

J: I think they have those in the woodshop in Anderson.

R: Doesn't the drama department have one, too?

BW: AHHH!!! GET IT AWAY!!!

Being Made Into Toothpicks:

J: Uhhh...

R: No comment.

BW: AHHH!!! GET IT AWAY!!!

The BLOCK OF WOOD doesn't really have too many opinions when it comes to campus politics. Just like the average Tufts student.

Vote Wood!
(or for Randy Newsom)

The SOURCE

A page from our



"Barkeep, two pints please."
(John Harvard's)



The SOURCE meets Captain Morgan.
(Orleans)



Covergirl Tara hangs out casual.
(Underbones)



May I buy you another, Larry?
(Underbones)

The Source Turns 21!

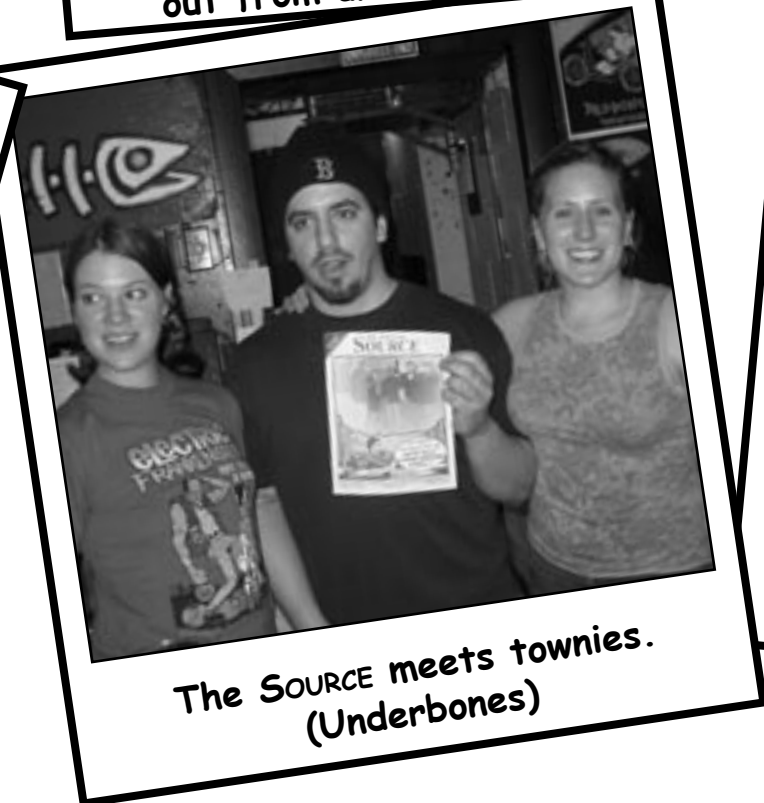
photo album.



The SOURCE invited other Tufts papers, but they wouldn't come out from under the table...



"À votre santé! (That's 'cheers' in Freedom.)" (Orleans)



The SOURCE meets townies. (Underbones)



"Wait, what's your name again?"

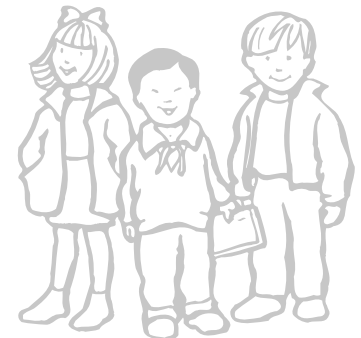
Last week, the Leonard Carmichael Society hosted its annual Kids Day festivities. The SOURCE would have had a booth, but LCS wasn't too receptive to our "Nike/Martha Stewart" theme. So instead we bring you...

IF THE SOURCE RAN KIDS DAY...

At the first event of the morning, patriotic indoctrination, kiddies learned that good citizens don't ask questions.



To let the restless young ones burn off some energy, we organized a relay race—first team to get 1,000 issues to the dumpster wins!



One of the days' most popular events, the kids play dress up with Sam and Mike. Lesson one: proper skirt sizing and makeup application. Lesson two: how to make sure embarrassing pictures don't ruin your future political career.

The second game of the day was dodgeball. Unfortunately, Rob and the SOURCE team lost to a 10-year-old girl.



At the end of the day, good behavior was rewarded with a special certificate. However, dissention from party lines earned one unruly two-year-old an immediate revocation of the award. It took weeks before anyone could get the two-year-old to stop bitchin' and Monnin.

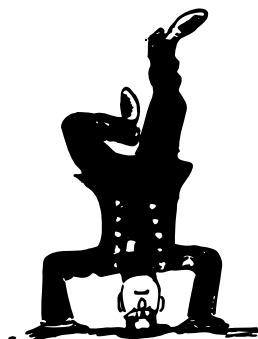


The *Observer* has recently been publishing Photo Pages, often full of random, caption-less pictures, which is okay because it's artsy. Of course, if we had Matt Edmundson on our masthead, we'd be equally artsy. But we don't. Fortunately, however, we do have clip art. With images ranging from the dull to the pornographic, our scores of books provide us countless images, yet, with only 24 pages, we can only print so many of them at a time. Until now...

The Clip Art Page



"Ever since I got that *Daily* column, business has gone up tenfold!"



You can't spell "Standing Upside Down" without TUPD.



"It's great to see you, Mrs. Baaaaaaaa-cow."



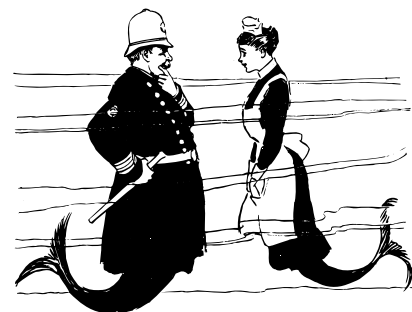
"I'm Crazy Plunger-head Man. Gimme some candy!"



Ben Lee finds love at first sight.



This music is unbearable.



"This whole thing seems a little fishy, ma'am."



"Yeah, maybe you should get that checked out."



"No, no, dear. Ms. Pac-Man won't be home for hours."



Matt Edmundson has a better rack than both of these guys.

When the US goes to war, the Left gets on stage.

Lollapa-Loser

by Aaron Held

Something is brewing in pop culture, from Hollywood back lots to New York City recording studios. Following 9/11, pop culture provided massive support of our nation's heroes—be they firefighters or soldiers—culminating in *The Concert for New York City*, along with many patriotic songs from artists such as Neil Young and Paul McCartney. Since the public learned of the White House's plans for Iraq, however, that support has turned into flagrant bashing of our nation's leadership.

When war approaches, people will protest, which is a healthy exercise of their freedom of speech. Celebrities often come out for various causes, many of them quite politically active. Bono from U2 is perhaps the most visible example. But why are so many musicians leaning to the Left on the war in Iraq, and why are so many choosing uncouth ways of voicing their opinions?

Although dissent has been brewing for some time, the situation seemed to explode when Dixie Chicks front woman Natalie Maines made some choice comments at a London concert. "We're ashamed the President of the United States is from Texas," she told the hungry foreign media. Not only does this reflect poorly on the American image overseas, but her choice of expression was less than respectful.

Many artists have made attempts to get their anti-war message out in a more creative fashion. The once rebellious, fresh, and lyrical Beastie Boys have hastily released a poorly written protest song with the lyrics, "You and Saddam should kick it like back in the day / With cocaine and the Courvoisier / But you build more bombs as you get more
Mr. Held is a freshman majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

bold/As your mid-life crisis unfolds." Bush's midlife crisis? Cocaine? What happened to the days of the Beasties shocking the crowd with classic lines such as "Living at home is such a drag / Your mom threw away your best porno mag?"

Lenny Kravitz, another former superstar of the rock world, recorded a song titled "We Want Peace," collaborating

with Iraqi musician Kadim Al Sahir, Palestinian Simon Shaheen, and Lebanese drummer Jamey Hadded. The song is repetitious and offers only the monotonous chorus lyrics, which are—you guessed it—"We want peace." The song is hosted on the website of Rock the Vote, a national organization that encourages political activism. These songs, as well as many anti-war public service announcements, are also getting quite a bit of airplay from DJs across the nation. Artists like Kravitz and the Beasties have proved that they can create pop music masterpieces again and again. But this sub-par foolishness is tough for even the most devoted fan to swallow.

Watched by millions of impressionable teenagers, MTV is now showing celebrities doing anti-war public service announcements. Counting Crows front man Adam Duritz announced, "What disturbs me the most about the situation is that we may be

going to war...to keep a political party in our country." Matchbox 20's Rob Thomas states that he can never support the war, and Jay-Z tells the world, "In war, everyone loses," while ignoring rap music's violent reputation. Justin Timberlake leaves random voicemails to "world leaders," but the pop music pretty boy can't even pin down whom he's addressing. Even our post-9/11 songwriting hero Bruce Springsteen told *Entertainment Weekly*, "You try not to be cynical, but without the distraction in Iraq, [people would notice] that the economy is doing poorly, and the old-fashioned Republican tax cuts for the folks that are doing well will seriously curtail services for people who are struggling out there."

Protest crossed the line, however, when Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder took an effigy of President Bush and rammed a stick through it and then stomped on it during a concert. Fans walked out, their money wasted on tickets to a circus instead of a rock show. Leftist Michael Moore attempted to turn the Oscars into a Bush-bashing rally, but he was met with as many boos as cheers.

Not all entertainers are anti-war or anti-Bush. Bruce Willis, Tom Cruise, Harrison Ford, Dennis Miller, Charlie Daniels and Steven Spielberg have all come out in support of the Bush administration's policies. In slightly less helpful words, Kid Rock told *New York Daily News*, "Kill [Saddam] and the guy in North Korea."

The issue lies not in the protest itself, but in the venue. When people go to a rock concert, they pay to hear music. They should not be forced to watch irate musicians jumping



Insert foot here.

onto the anti-war bandwagon, expressing their views like children, with an "I can do what I want" mentality. If these entertainers want to protest, they could at least—true to their job titles—be entertaining about it. Last minute songwriting does not cut it. People do not take music seriously when it is undeveloped and the words are frivolous. □

And we don't mean Ball Square.

Broadway Boogie-Woogie

by Jordana Starr

Ask a Bostonian what comes to mind when thinking of New York City, and he or she will likely proclaim “Yankees Suck!” Second to that, one might mention Times Square, which elicits images of dazzling light displays, megastores, and hordes of tourists.

During the day, people can be seen lining up at the big red ticket booth in the center of Times Square and, after dinner at Carnegie Deli, redeeming their tickets at one of the many theatres along Broadway. This experience

is considered by many to be unique to the Big Apple, but one need not travel long distances to enjoy the grandeur of a Broadway show. In fact, right here in Beantown, Boylston and Tremont Streets claim the theatre district, complete with a series of shows often simultaneously appearing in New York, appropriately named Broadway in Boston.

Home to the Colonial Theatre, the Wilbur Theatre, and the Charles Playhouse, Broadway in Boston features two permanent shows and a variety of cycling shows with identical twins on the real Broadway. The Charles Playhouse serves as the permanent venue for *Blue Man Group*'s “Tubes” and America's longest-running comedy, *Shear Madness*. For college students on a tight budget, *Blue Man Group* is ideal entertainment with options for Student Rush Tickets and ushering. The show features an eccentric blend of percussion, comedy, and paint. *Shear Madness* is a comedy-mystery where audience participation determines the outcome of the show. Both shows *Miss Starr* is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.

can cater to large groups of people, are complete with drink service before the show, and can be seen over and over again without losing entertainment value.

Circuit shows find their way to Broadway in Boston's Colonial and Wilbur

Theatres and may stay for as short a run as a few nights (such as in Mandy Patinkin's concert appearance at the Colonial Theatre) or run for as many weeks for which tickets can be sold. New York's hit shows are duplicated here as Boston's

hit shows, including *Copenhagen*, *Stomp*, *Mummenshantz Next*, *contact*, and *South Pacific*. No one should miss *The Producers*, *Aida*, *A Night with Dame Edna*, *Mamma Mia!*, and *The Full Monty* the next time they come around. Although costly, seeing these productions is worth every cent.

Originally starring Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, Mel Brook's Tony Award-winning record-breaking musical *The Producers* is a must-see with such catchy tunes as “Springtime for Hitler” (an extended run in Boston is scheduled for the summer). Likewise, *The Full Monty* is a stripping and singing

spectacular that, although ever-so-slightly risqué, really is good and wholesome for the entire family. Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is an impressive yet more mature Disney production with an elaborate set and costuming, a rich musical score, and fine acting talent. *A Night with Dame Edna* (Barry Humphries—but she'll insist that he's actually her manager) is an intimate one-man (or woman?) show, which will delight audiences with outrageous wit, leaving them in stitches. Most recently having appeared on *Ally McBeal*, Dame Edna is the Jewish grandmother we all wish we had. Finally, and possibly the biggest surprise, *Mamma Mia!* is a delightful musical production based on the songs by 70's disco group Abba. Even the most rabidly anti-Abba disco-haters out there will be shocked by this incredibly funny and clever production which incorporates Abba's music as if it were originally written for the show.

Of course, just as New York has been known to stage some horrors, Boston audiences have also fallen victim to some quite unpleasant theatric experiences. Given the opportunity to see *Some Like it Hot*, save the money, unless, of course, watching a washed-up Tony Curtis strut around on stage like he owns the world is somehow enjoyable. If the show itself fails in its comedic intent, at least aspiring artist Tony Curtis' hideous paintings on

sale in the lobby will elicit a chuckle or two. Also, be sure to avoid *Sons of Ulster*, where at one show nearly a third of the audience walked out at intermission in disgust at a lacking plot and an insipid script.

Even though the Red Sox are not doing as well as the Yankees (big surprise),

and although Modern Pastry just will never be the same as Lindy's cheesecake for that after-theatre dessert, Broadway in Boston's offerings are right on par with New York's Broadway shows. □

Given the opportunity to see *Some Like it Hot*, save the money, unless, of course, watching a washed-up Tony Curtis strut around on stage like he owns the world is somehow enjoyable.



Boston's best theater includes the Blue Men, Abba, and Dame Edna. Rejoice, possums.

Where you going with that mug in your hand?

Hey Joe

by Simon Holroyd

From Bono to Dylan, rock stars double as front men for both political causes and their own band. The latest Brit-pop sensation, Coldplay, is no different. Like corporate sponsorship gone awry, Chris Martin, Coldplay's lead man, is rarely seen without memorabilia from his cause, Oxfam's Make Trade Fair campaign. A walking billboard, Martin gains considerable publicity for the Oxfam campaign, but much like his melodic piano ballads, his promotions are crafted to appeal to the broadest spectrum of yuppie college students. Martin harps upon amorphous goals of international harmony, free trade, and an end to poverty, lamentably ignoring that Oxfam's agenda does little to further any of these goals.

Oxfam's "Coffee Report" claims, "governments of rich countries constantly stress their commitment to poverty reduction. Yet, in practice, rigged rules and double standards lock poor people out of the benefits of trade, closing the door to an escape route from poverty." This rigging of the system to favor domestic corporations is rampant: "Rich countries spend \$1 billion every day on agricultural subsidies. The resulting surpluses are dumped on world markets, undermining the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers in poor countries." With the American government being a large contributor to this practice of propping up unstable markets with taxpayer dollars, US residents should sympathize.

Oxfam's target, however, is not the lawmakers responsible for agriculture programs, but your local coffee hut. Instead of lobbying, they choose to fight fire with fire, creating their own subsidy to help South American farmers. At first glance, this might seem valid: coffee

Mr. Holroyd is a junior majoring in Engineering Computer Science.

growers were some of the hardest hit by US and EU farm subsidies. A glut in the American agriculture market has forced these farmers to move almost exclusively to coffee and coca. As coca production is generally frowned upon, the coffee market is flooded with South American production, causing the price of coffee to plummet and farmers to struggle.

Enter Free Trade Coffee. Oxfam props up the South American coffee market by acting as the importer, offering higher-than-market prices to the farmers. Oxfam's product is then shipped off to college cafés and specialty supermarkets near you. The more Chris Martin sings, the more coffee will be bought, and the more South

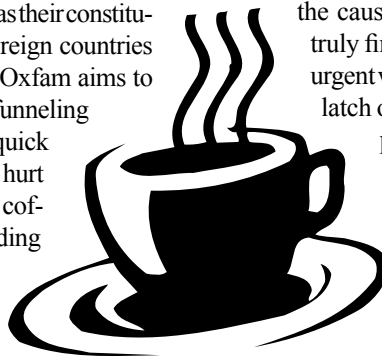
American farmers (earning four times what they would at true market price) will prosper. Though born from altruistic motives, the Oxfam subsidy is essentially as arbitrary as US/EU funding. Governments will try to protect their domestic markets as long as their constituents prefer poverty in foreign countries to poverty in their own. Oxfam aims to eliminate poverty, but funneling funds to the poor is a quick fix (of course, it is likely to hurt importers, exporters, and coffee farmers in the expanding Asian markets). Though Oxfam might succeed in reducing famine in South America, they will inevitably fall short of a sustainable free (and even fair) market if they rely on charity rather than economics.

Another punch of Oxfam's attack on the coffee market is aimed directly at large coffee manufacturers. Make Trade Fair was recently successful in urging Nestlé to drop claims with the IMF and World Bank against Ethiopia for

assets seized by their 1970 Marxist dictatorship. Though Nestlé had little chance of regaining the lost property, requests to the IMF to step in are not out of line. Oxfam could not see past the short-term fear of starving Ethiopians to see that a successful developing country must protect the investment there. Supporting forgiveness of debt may seem philanthropic, but Ethiopia will be the eventual loser; without adequate protections for property rights, future investors will think twice before aiding in Ethiopian development.

The Make Trade Fair campaign's economically infeasible ideas of property rights extend beyond coffee. Their Coffee Report concludes that a necessary step in fighting poverty is to attack patent law. Make Trade Fair's "main goals include... establishing new intellectual-property rules to ensure that poor countries are able to afford new technologies and basic medicines, and that farmers are able to save, exchange, and sell seeds." Again, Oxfam promotes a quick fix to technology and medicine prices that would not sustain economic development. Any plan that limits property rights for companies that must spend billions of dollars per year on research, jeopardizes the very medicines it aims to provide. In particular, pharmaceutical firms already face risky decisions when weighing future profits with immediate research costs. Amidst the current controversy over digital music piracy, Coldplay should recognize this fallacy immediately. Threatening patent law only reduces the expected value of future profits and discourages research and development.

Not only should fans think twice before accepting celebrity endorsements, the celebrities themselves should carefully consider the causes they parade. Coldplay may truly find farm subsidies a serious and urgent world problem, but they need not latch on to the first quick fix a charity proposes, especially when the scheme may lead to a slippery slope threatening their very livelihood. Make Trade Fair has noble goals, but by channeling money into a stagnant economy, it serves only to prolong the inequalities of the coffee market and falls far short of "making trade fair." Unfortunately, a more apt title for the campaign would be "Throw Money at Poor Farmers and Leave Trade Grossly Unfair." Lobbying for change in legislatures is hardly sexy enough to be screamed at a rock concert, but in reality, effective feasible change is boring and slow. □



Shoegazer and dream-pop were alternative before alternative was mainstream.

Ctrl-Alt-Rock

by Jason Walker

Ten years have passed since Nirvana unwittingly ushered in “alternative” rock. Alt-Rock had the happy effect of wiping all the macho pop-metal bands, including even Guns N’ Roses, off the charts—but at a price. Record companies rushed to litter the landscape with every angsty clone they could find, watering it down until Natalie Imbruglia, Blink 182 and even Avril Lavigne could count as “alternative.” The alternative revolution was more like a counter-revolution in the long run. But before Nirvana made alternative mainstream, a lesser-known but much beloved movement reached new summits of creativity that retain the hearts

and minds of *High Fidelity*-types everywhere: shoegazer and dream-pop. The differences between the two are subtle, so they are usually lumped together.

The movements can be traced back as least as far as Pink Floyd and Brian Eno, but their emphasis on more reflective sonic texture makes them more comparable to *Pet Sounds*-era Beach Boys. The pivotal influence was the Cocteau Twins, a Scottish band that dominated college radio in the 80’s with its moody, atmospheric sounds and ethereal vocals. By the late 80’s, a whole crop of bands cited the Cocteaus as their inspiration, but diverged in significant ways, not just from the Cocteaus, but from each other. Indeed, even calling this a movement is a bit misleading, considering how fiercely individualistic these bands were.

In Boston, a trio of Harvard students formed Galaxie 500 in 1987, with the modest goal of getting a single into local bargain-bins. By the end of their acrimonious break-up in 1990, on the eve of the alternative revolution,

Mr. Walker is a graduate student in the Philosophy Department.

Galaxie 500 were known on virtually every college campus in America, and mainstream publications like *Rolling Stone* were positively reviewing their work.

Galaxie 500 owed at least as much to the Velvet Underground as to the Cocteau Twins. Dean Wareham’s voice sounded as if it were beamed in from another universe, like

Cocteau’s Elizabeth Fraser, and the music emphasized texture over pure melody, but the guitars kept the band solidly in Velvet territory. Their choice of covers, everything from George Harrison to Joy Division, aptly illustrated their diverse influences, but it is difficult to convey how unlike

their own music was from everything else.

Although the first albums of the two groups are hard to distinguish from Galaxie 500, the work both groups are doing now makes it hard to believe they all once were part of the same band. Damon and Naomi have evolved into arty chamber pop, infused with generous helpings of psychedelia. Luna, in contrast, continues to take the Velvet Underground to the next level, albeit replacing Lou Reed’s tales of seedy urban life with a spirit of playfulness and wry observation. Acrimonious though the break-up may have been, it was probably inevitable.

My Bloody Valentine, probably even more than the Cocteaus got shoegazing off the ground (and from their style of performing, its name). Like Galaxie 500, guitars are the engine that move MBV, but

they rarely let up for softer songs. MBV is heavy, drenching melody and often lyrics in intricately constructed guitar feedback. Their 1990 masterpiece, *Loveless*, was their last album. Production costs nearly bankrupted their label, but critics generally rank it among the best rock albums of all time.

Where Galaxie 500 sounded warm, Lush’s early work was dark and menacing. Lush was unique, not only for featuring two female lead singers, but for being fronted by the two equally. Lush’s longevity also sets them apart: they survived not only grunge, but the Britpop explosions of Blur and Oasis, and their final album, *Lovelife*, was nearly a crossover hit, with its “Ladykillers” breaching the British top-20 and American alternative charts. Lush evolved from a slow, atmospheric sound to more power-pop oriented arrangements, but their signature sound was by far the chorus of Miki Berenyi and Emma Anderson’s voices, which were always angelically beautiful even while their songs could recount disturbing tales of love gone wrong. While most of their music served cathartic purposes, they had a sense of humor as well: see “Ladykillers” and *Split’s* “Hypocrite.”

Catherine Wheel probably has the strangest pedigree of any of these bands: their lead singer, Rob Dickinson, is first cousin to Bruce Dickinson, best known as the lead singer of Iron Maiden. CW’s first album, *Ferment*, shows the influence of MBV with its thick, textured sound, but by *Chrome*, CW stepped out of the shadow of MBV to create their own synthesis of swirling yet heavy guitar rock. Opening for the Smashing Pumpkins’ *Siamese Dream* tour, they soon had a larger following in America than in their native Britain.

Most of these groups no longer exist, but they left their mark. Iceland’s Sigur Ros is just dream-pop taken to its conclusion, Low’s “Little Drummer Boy” was featured in a GAP commercial, and Beck’s *Sea Change*

flirts with dream pop. A slew of bands incorporate elements of dream pop into their sound, like James, the Sundays, the Verve, the Flaming Lips, Yo La Tengo, and Belly. There are far too many bands to mention, but this should at least provide a sense of from whom to sample first. Hint: Catherine Wheel’s song “Crank” should be first on your list. □



Lush’s American debut was 1992’s Lollapalooza tour.

An ex-con releases a grudge report.

Liar, Liar

by Gerard Balan

David Brock is one of those authors whom few people know by name, but many people recognize his work. He rose to fame during the Clarence Thomas sexual harassment scandal when he wrote *The Real Anita Hill*, a comprehensive rebuttal of Hill's accusations, as well as a slanderous portrayal of her image: "a little bit slutty, a little bit nutty." The book made him a *New York Times* best-seller and an instant conservative celebrity, earning him mentions on the widely popular Rush Limbaugh show and positions at the *Washington Times* and the *American Spectator*. In the latter journal, he wrote his most infamous essay, "Troopergate," in which he accused former President Bill Clinton of using his security guards while governor of Arkansas to find him prostitutes for sexual dalliances. This accusation laid the groundwork for Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit against Clinton in 1995. Today, however, Brock has recanted all his work of the previous ten years.

In his new book, *Blinded by the Right: The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*, Brock absolves Hill and even claims that he helped Clarence Thomas threaten another witness into silence:

"I could see that my reportorial method for *The Real Anita Hill* was shoddy, not only in the sources I had trusted, but in the obvious fact that I had missed significant evidence that showed that Hill's testimony was more truthful than Thomas' flat denials after all...I knowingly published a lie, and I falsified the historical record."

For most of the book, however, Brock unveils an anti-Clinton, right-wing conspiracy and even implicates himself as "a witting cog in the Republican sleaze machine." Indeed, Brock carries an obvious grudge against the

Mr. Balan is a senior majoring in Psychology.

All we have is Brock's word, which he has already admitted is worth less than a degree in Peace and Justice Studies.

American Right, yet some of his accusations are so wild and unflinching, one has to wonder if he is still telling tall tales. Did Matt Drudge really show up for a dinner engagement bearing roses and take Brock to a gay discotheque? Does David Horowitz enjoy hurling anti-gay slurs behind closed doors? Did conservative columnist Armstrong Williams flirt with Brock? Did pundit Ann Coulter really say she left her law firm "to get away from all these Jews?" Then again, all of these people are notorious for making controversial statements. Nevertheless, if Brock was lying then, how can the reader be so sure he is being truthful now? Added to Brock's dubious work is the conspicuously scant footnotes or other supplemental documentation to reinforce his claims. All we have is Brock's word, which he has already admitted is worth less than a degree in Peace and Justice Studies.

Brock misleads the reader from the very beginning with the subtitle of the book, *The Conscience of an Ex-Conservative*. How can he be conservative when, by his own admission, he claims that he never had a "deep understanding of conservative ideology?"

Rather, he joined the conservative movement in order to further his own writing career, revealing a history of using anything and hurting anyone for personal gain. Even the timing of his book is suspect. According to Brock, he broke with the Right in 1997, yet he waited until now to recant his lies, conveniently allowing the seven-year statute of limitations for slander to pass before he chose to exonerate Hill's name.

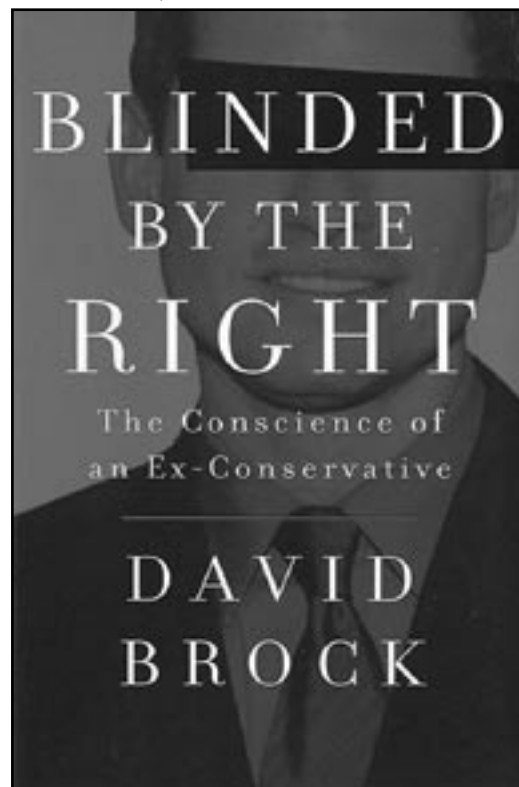
In these dilemmas, one should also follow the money trail. *The Real Anita Hill* made Brock a millionaire, earning him a nice townhouse in Georgetown. His subsequent novel, *The Seduction of Hillary Rodham*, earned him a million dollar advance, but his book turned out to be sympathetic hagiography where he portrayed her as a victim of her husband. Soon after, he fell out of the graces of the American Right and faded from memory. It only makes sense that Brock would turn to writing hatchet jobs for the Left in order to earn a living now.

Brock's book is better suited for a study in psychology than in politics. He recounts how his mother refused to let him make up his own mind and persuaded him to lie to adults consistently. In addition, he retells a story from his college days when he was caught

lying about other writers to editors to further his own career. When confronted about the lies, he states he "froze, speechless, and walked away." Interestingly, he tells of how he called Anita Hill to apologize to her about his fallacious accusations. She was unavailable at the time, but she called him back and left a message. Brock could not bring himself to call her back.

Blinded by the Right is full of dubious claims about a man who suffers

from self-esteem issues. Admittedly, there may be some truth in Brock's book, but a seeker of knowledge strives for the entire truth—without sorrow. □



"Is it cuz I is black?"

Ali G Comes to America: Recognize!

by Steve Bleiberg

Created by Sacha Baron Cohen on Britain's *11 O'Clock Show* in 1998, Ali G was a huge hit and was eventually given his own show. Now Ali G has finally made it to the US with the debut of *Da Ali G Show* on HBO.

A white gangster wannabe of sorts, he is known for his interviews with unsuspecting prominent figures. He has a cult following in Britain and has starred in his own feature film. Even members of the

royal family have expressed their admiration for Ali G; the late Queen Mother was known to do an Ali G impression. The new HBO show gives Ali G a chance to prey upon more unsuspecting celebrities and politicians. The show also features two other Cohen characters, Borat, a journalist from Kazakhstan trying to learn about Western culture, and Bruno, a gay Austrian fashion reporter.

Ali G's trademark is using his character's supposed ignorance to get the subject's guard down. Some subjects stay in good spirits throughout the interview, but many get upset with Ali's "stupid" comments, ranging from supposed misunderstanding of the situation to things that are just plain outrageous. There is also a lot of foolishness such as his addressing former UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali as "Boutros Boutros Boutros Boutros-Ghali." Ali G's attempts at discussing important issues often end up like these questions from an interview with former National Security Advisor Brent Snowcroft: "Is the Army worried about the threat of chemical and biological weapons... Did they ever catch the people who sent Tampax through the post?"

Mr. Bleiberg is a junior majoring in Quantitative Economics.

There is a great deal of debate surrounding just who Ali G is supposed to be. While it's not certain if anyone ever really believed his claims of being a black Jamaican, his political leanings have been discussed. Although many

Although many claim that Ali G is intended to serve liberal interests and ridicule those on the Right, it seems that his routine more often promotes a conservative message.

claim that Ali G is intended to serve liberal interests and ridicule those on the Right, it seems that his routine more often promotes a conservative message. He makes fun of leftist ideas through his street persona. In an interview with left-

wing British politician Tony Benn, who went to Baghdad to film a softball conversation with Saddam Hussein before the recent hostilities, Ali G attacks the policies of the British welfare state. He excitedly calls unemployment benefits "wicked" because "you get money for doing nothing." Ali G asks this question about welfare benefits to unwed mothers: "Doesn't welfare just encourage young girls to go out there and get jiggy with Mr. Biggy?" In a brief conversation with a leftist protester, Ali G dispels the "nonviolence" philosophy held by many young activists.

Protester: "Well, violence doesn't solve anything, does it?"

Ali G: "No, it does."

Protester: "Not really... In what situation?"

Ali G: "In a violent one."

In addition, Ali G has interviewed prominent conservatives such as former Secretary of State Alexander Haig and former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Ali G shows his evident interest in Reagan Administration by asking Haig if Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher were, "in fact,

doing it." The Green Party's 2000 presidential candidate Ralph Nader is definitely not a fan of *Da Ali G Show*. Nader's people were so furious after Ali G got him to rap during an interview that one aide reportedly said it might be grounds for a lawsuit.

A great deal of Ali G's comments are designed to expose and take on the hypocrisy and patronizing attitude of the politically correct establishment. He is constantly accusing people of "racism" and frequently asks if he is being treated unfairly because of his "race" with his trademark line "Is it cuz I is black?" In an interview with a women's studies professor, Ali tries to get her to choose the better sex and, in his faux-ignorant way, questions why women should be able to have the same jobs as men. Ali's ghetto persona allows him to get away with saying so many offensive things that if he came to Tufts, the administration might have to create another task force.

Ali G's relative obscurity in the United States allows him the same kind of opportunity he had in his early days on British television. As his popularity grew, it became increasingly difficult to find unsuspecting subjects to interview. In 2000, Ali G got some American exposure through his appearance in the video for Madonna's song "Music." In 2002, Ali G starred in *Ali G Indahouse*, in which he was elected to Parliament and helped save the Prime Minister's career. Now, with the six-episode HBO show on television, it has become obvious that Sacha Baron Cohen is an international star and that Ali G is not going away. *Booyakasha!* □



Ali G is Indahouse.

It's time to bring hope to Cuba.

Desperation: 90 Miles From Freedom

by Michael Fortes

Since September 11, 2001 two brutal regimes have swiftly fallen to the US military: the Taliban in Afghanistan and Saddam's regime in Iraq. In both countries, the population, exuberant with joy, celebrated in the streets. Freedom has finally come, and many terrorists have left or have been killed. For the first time in years, Afghanistan and Iraqis have

been given a chance to rebuild their nations so that they may evolve into places where these people can live in peace with their families, where every day would hold more promise than the last, and where they could live and speak freely without fear or terror.

Sadly, however, a mere 90 miles from the United States lies an island nation where hope fades every day. It drowns namelessly in the form of thousands of refugees crossing the straits of Florida each year, it rots in prisons holding political dissidents, and it suffers from hunger and malnutrition. Since 1959, Fidel Castro's Cuban government has committed flagrant human rights abuses and continues to ignore the voices of change hoping for democracy and free elections.

Castro's latest injustices include the imprisonment of at least 74 political dissidents. Timed with the start of the war in Iraq so that media coverage of would be minimal, Castro rounded up pro-democracy advocates, including librarians, journalists, poets and economists. Their crimes? For many it was the mere claim that they were US agents plotting the overthrow of Castro's regime. In all truthfulness, however, simply having possession of a foreign newspaper or even a fax machine was often enough to warrant imprisonment.

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Luis Enrique Ferrer, a coordinator for a campaign for democratic reform was sentenced to 28 years in prison. Cuba's most well-known dissident writer and poet Raul Rivero was sentenced to 20 years, as was

economist Martha Beatriz Roque, the only woman put on trial. Photographer Omar Rodriguez Saludes, just one of the many journalists imprisoned, was given 27 years

incarceration. Two common threads run through those sentenced to imprisonment: their hope for political and social change in Cuba, and the peaceful means by which they had hoped to achieve their goals.

With each passing day of imprisonment, torture, and murder, Cubans have become more desperate. Recent attempts to flee the country include the hijacking of a small plane to Florida and the failed hijacking of a boat. Those involved in the failed escape were quickly sentenced to state executions and were promptly slaughtered by firing squad. Ask the average man on Havana's streets if he likes Castro, and he will say yes, not because he truly likes him, but because of fear that what he says might be overheard and recorded; one day he too may end up in prison, or worse. The day Castro's regime falls and democracy is established is the day Cubans will dance

in the streets of their capitol.

If the United States is truly committed to democracy overseas, then it is time we take a more pro-active approach with our neighbors. Action and regime change cannot come only with links to weapons of mass destruction and terrorist cells. Democracy must not merely be a benevolent consequence of military action taken when there is a clear and present danger to the national security interests of the United States. Spreading democracy is a moral duty, which will be our gift to the people of the world who are repressed under tyrannical regimes.

The US embargo on Cuba cannot work alone; it requires other nations to take responsibility and set up embargos of their own. Interestingly enough, many of the same nations who were against war in Iraq (and in some cases also profited from Saddam's regime) are the very nations who also think nothing of dealing with Cuba. French, German, Russian, and Canadian tourists abound on the beautiful beaches where ordinary Cubans cannot even set foot because they are second-class citizens in their own nation. The

tourism-based economy helps fuel Castro's machine of torture and repression and helps him maintain his power. Where is the US pressure on these nations to change their practices toward this Western dictator?

The United States is at a major crossroad in history right now. We are the preeminent power in the world, and, as the saying goes, with great power comes great responsibility.

It is time to decide how we truly feel about spreading democratic institutions and liberty, and whether we should do so actively or passively. Freedom is humanity's natural right, not a privilege given only when America's security is at stake. □



SORRY! TRY AGAIN!

IN THE MONTHS AND WEEKS LEADING UP TO THE WAR IN IRAQ, MANY LIBERAL COMMENTATORS MADE DIRE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE WAR. ALTHOUGH THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER, WE CAN ALREADY SEE THAT MANY OF THESE PREDICTIONS WERE DEAD WRONG.

JUST AS NATIONAL PUNDITS LIKE CHRIS MATTHEWS AND WRITERS AT THE NATION NOW HAVE EGG ON THEIR FACES, SO TOO DO SEVERAL AUTHORS WHO HAVE WRITTEN IN THE TUFTS DAILY.

“And if there is anything Iraqis hate more than Saddam, it is the US.”

—Rodrigo De Haro, 3/27

WRONG!

The Iraqi people in Baghdad were so thankful to US Marines that well wishers had to be restrained with razor wire.

As counts of civilian deaths come in by the tens, only one news outlet has reported deaths anywhere near a thousand: Iraqi Information Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf.

WRONG!

“In the case of the war in Iraq, fighting for peace is indeed futile and will only serve to end thousands of innocent lives”

—Sunil Purushotham, 4/9

WRONG!

“...little is mentioned about the juggernaut ahead: Baghdad, where Saddam has no doubt prepared for a final hurrah in his inimitably deadly style.”

—Benjamin Perriello, 3/27

After Marines marched into the heart of the city practically unimpeded, Baghdad has been called “the battle that never happened.”

WRONG!

“...only the Iraqi people can eliminate this Saddam.”

—Abdulaziz Alareedh, 3/27

The Iraqi people were brutally repressed by Saddam’s regime—having been murdered, gassed, and tortured. They needed, and appreciated, our help in eliminating “this” Saddam.

US laser and satellite guided munitions have been so accurate that thus far only one possible major misfire has been reported: the bombing of the Palestine Hotel, and even this incident is still under review.

WRONG!

“...destruction and suffering awaits the Iraqi people - and their neighborhoods, places of business, cafés and parks - when the first “smart bombs” fall...”

—Dale Bryan, 10/17

SO, A HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE LIBERALS WHO MADE PREDICTIONS ABOUT THE WAR. YOU WERE WILLING TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD, AND YOU WERE WRONG.

NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Pop art is the indelible raised to the unspeakable.

—Leonard Baskin

Pop tarts are the inedible raised to the unspeakable.

—THE ELEPHANT

When I want to read a book I write one.

—Benjamin Disraeli

The road to hell is paved with works-in-progress.

—Philip Roth

Philip Roth is a good writer, but I wouldn't want to shake hands with him.

—Jacqueline Susann

Bad artists always admire each other's work.

—Oscar Wilde

What is art? Prostitution.

—Charles Baudelaire

If you foolishly ignore beauty, you'll soon find yourself without it. Your life will be impoverished. But if you wisely invest in beauty, it will remain with you all the days of your life.

—Frank Lloyd Wright

Art for art's sake makes no more sense than gin for gin's sake.

—W. Somerset Maugham

One cannot attack a bad book without showing off.

—W. H. Auden

The true artist will let his wife starve, his children go barefoot, his mother drudge for his living at seventy, sooner than work at anything but his art.

—George Bernard Shaw

Fashion is an imposition, a rein on freedom.

—Golda Meir

Pop art looks out into the world; it appears to accept its environment, which is not good or bad, but different—another state of mind.

—Roy Lichtenstein

Art is too serious to be taken seriously.

—Ayn Rand

Art, like morality, consists of drawing the line somewhere.

—G.K. Chesterton

So there you have it: Saddam's mighty military machine has collapsed, civilian casualties have been held to a minimum, our troops are not being showered with chemical weapons, the oil wells aren't ablaze, the Turks aren't fighting with the Kurds, the Israelis aren't being hit by Scuds, a hundred bin Ladens haven't managed to detonate 1,000 suicide bombers in America's shopping malls, Arab leaders friendly to the US aren't being hanged from street lamps — but how come we still haven't dealt with the burglaries in downtown Basra? It's an outrage! Quick someone, call Sean Penn and Michael Moore!

—Clifford D. May

There is no avoiding war; it can only be postponed to the advantage of others.

—Niccolo Machiavelli

I was expecting this for many years, but this time President Bush has made our dreams come true.

—Hany Choulagh, Iraqi living in Detroit

Truth is not determined by majority vote.

—Doug Gwyn

No two countries that both have a McDonald's have ever fought a war against each other.

—Thomas L. Friedman

They counted on America to be passive. They counted wrong.

—Ronald Reagan

Yes, we cannot deny that we were surprised at the ease of their entrance into Baghdad.

—al-Nidaa, official website of al-Qaeda

Liberty, Liberty. This is the day we have been waiting for for years and years.

—Iraqi man in Baghdad

Americans are coming to free us!

—Baghdad resident Abdul Amir Jaffa

I'm not a member of any organized political party: I'm a Democrat!

—Will Rogers

The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

—Thomas Jefferson

If you are wrong and if the United States —and they will, this is going to happen —goes in, liberates Iraq [with] people in the street, American flags, hugging our soldiers, you gonna apologize to George W. Bush?

—Bill O'Reilly

I would be so willing to say, "I'm sorry." I hope to God that I can be made a buffoon of, that people will say, "You were wrong. You were a fatalist." And I will go to the White House on my knees on cut glass and say, "Hey, you and Thomas Friedman were right. I shouldn't have doubted you."

—Janeane Garofalo