

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

VERITAS SINE DOLO

**INSIDE:**

**Interview with  
Daniel C. Dennett**

**Senate Spending**

***Daily Dishonesty***



**Bright Ideas?**

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# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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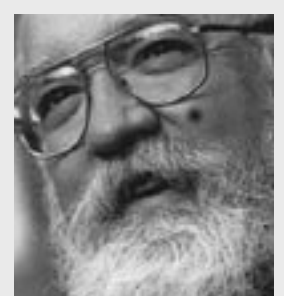
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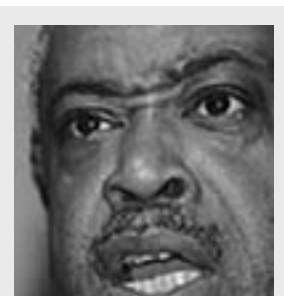
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## Bright and Wrong

There are two types of atheists. Weak atheists lack a belief in god. Strong atheists argue that no gods exist. Both groups find belief in the supernatural to be unfounded, yet weak atheists do not deny the possibility of supernatural activity. Tufts Professor of Philosophy Daniel C. Dennett proposes a third classification of atheist. In an Op/Ed in the *New York Times*, Dennett revealed himself as a 'bright,' a type of atheist who holds a naturalist worldview. He proposes the classification as a method of improving the status of atheists.

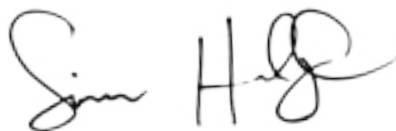
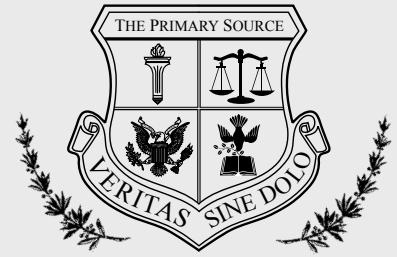
Dennett points out that atheists are not treated as mainstream, yet claims that the group has a considerable following amounting to 27 million Americans including "doctors, nurses, police officers, schoolteachers, crossing guards and men and women serving in the military." Though he admits that as a white male and successful professor he is hardly an example of an oppressed minority, he claims, "politicians don't think they even have to pay us lip service, and leaders who wouldn't be caught dead making religious or ethnic slurs don't hesitate to disparage the 'godless' among us."

Dennett's classification is by no means mutually exclusive with the former two. There are atheists of both camps who would not consider themselves brights. Their objections are not toward the philosophy of the position but rather the attitude of the group. "Brights" is unquestionably an arrogant term. Though Dennett and others defend it as reaffirming and positive, it emphasizes the harm of religion and implies the opposite side is dim. This hardly does religion justice considering 52% of college graduates believe in the devil and 72% believe in miracles.

Unfortunately, this implication harms the brights' movement in its attempt to rescue atheism from the political blacklist. Brights are correct to point out that declaring one's atheism is more devastating to a campaign than involvement with the mob or drug use. They will, no doubt, fail to change this since they do not appeal to the religious stance of most Americans.

Deeming oneself a bright isolates and divides believers and non-believers as much as the term atheist. The brights' movement is unlikely to convince because it (literally) phrases the debate in terms of right and wrong, intelligent and foolish. In order to gain acceptance politically, atheists must not convince the world their position is bright, but benign. Americans still couple ungodly behavior with immorality and equate religious activity with a strong moral character. Of course, this position is hardly accurate; one need look no further than local Catholic churches to see that religious commitment does not imply virtuous behavior. Nevertheless, Americans see atheism as religious extremism; they are equally unlikely to elect an atheist president as they are a member of al Qaeda.

Atheism needs a facelift, but their new image must show naturalists to be capable of fine ethical character. Until that time Americans will continue to write off atheists as merely arrogant, immoral religion-bashers.

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE  
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# The Idle Tower

stories of liberal foolishness from around academia

## JUST A BUNCH OF BABIES

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

After receiving permission from the College, Harvard Right to Life (HRL) arranged 440 miniature American flags on the lawn outside the Science Center to form a cemetery for the 4,400 daily abortions in the United States. The display was torn down, just three weeks after the defacement of 200 HRL posters. "It's a recurring issue," HRL President Daniel Tapia said. "All we're doing is revealing the facts about abortion, and letting people's consciences decide. But some people who disagree just get angry, and react like this." President of Harvard Students for Choice, Abigail Fee, stated that her group had nothing to do with the destruction and added that she told members that vandalism is unacceptable. "There's definitely a big double standard at Harvard," Tapia said. "Many groups here advocate free speech and the expression of ideas, but when it comes to an idea they don't like, they want to crush it and silence it."

## NO HOT GIRLS FOR YOU

ROCKLIN, CALIFORNIA

Discontent erupted on the campus of Sierra College when Nicholas Louis wrote a column in the student newspaper in response

to a rumor that *Playboy* had rated the female students at Sierra among the more attractive in the country. Louis' piece was titled "Sierra girls aren't really all that hot." "I found the article to be offensive on the behalf of girls but I don't find that a reason not to run one man's opinion," said the paper's adviser. "That's the beauty of journalism—to create energy in the community." Sierra College President Kevin Ramirez disagreed with the content of the column as well, but he defended Louis' right to express his opinion. Louis said the *Playboy* buzz mocked Sierra, which he attends to get an education—not to meet girls. He certainly won't be meeting any now.

## FUNDS FOR FETISHES

AMES, IOWA

Iowa State University student leaders granted financial support to a student organization that instructs students on the practices of bondage and other sexual escapades. Leaders of the new organization, Cuffs, stated that they needed the money to advertise the group to increase attendance at meetings. Duane Long, Jr., a senior at ISU and the president of Cuffs, declared the receipt of university funding "a triumph for diversity." Long reported that members remain clothed throughout demonstrations. "It's almost clinical," he added. No word

yet on whether the fecal-fetish acapella group The Scatmen will be recognized, but if it is, ISU can claim another triumph for diversity.

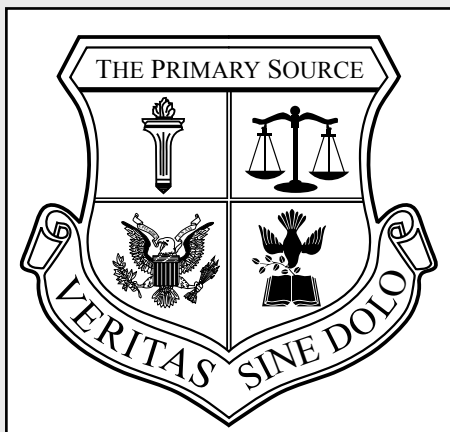
## SHAKIN' TAILFEATHERS

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Tracy Rone filed a complaint with Emory's Equal Opportunity Programs office after Professor Carol Worthman used the phrase "like six n\*\*\*\*\*s in a woodpile" in a September panel. Worthman defended her words and said she used the phrase "to explain...how my field [biological anthropology] is viewed by cultural anthropologists outside of Emory." She added that her offense was unintentional. Robert Ethridge, one of Emory's vice presidents, opined that the isolated incident did not indicate pervasive hostility and recommended that Worthman write and publicize her apology to Rone. Other discontent Emory faculty, however, including a professor emerita, attacked the department for "institutionalized...racism that ranges from marginalization to intimidation." Emory's Presidential Commission on the Status of Minorities wants to require that all students, faculty, and staff receive "diversity certification." With any luck, Worthman will remember to include other minorities next time.

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\*But Everyone Else Was Afraid to Tell You

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## Premature Decision

The Higher Education Act of 1965 is up for reauthorization in Congress before the end of 2003. This process typically entails senators proposing amendments and addendums to the existing Act in order to increase the benefits of their respective constituents, in this case, students. What would otherwise be an uneventful ratification of proposals has recently drawn a substantial amount of heat thanks to Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA). In a political move designed to keep himself a perpetual frontrunner in future elections, Senator Kennedy has declared himself the spokesperson of the economically disadvantaged and has taken up the cross of revealing their struggle to Congress. According to Senator Kennedy, two specific university policies are disfranchising the poor: “legacy” and early decision.

Inarguably, the practice of giving additional weight to students whose relatives are alumni is a criterion exercised by most universities. However, suggesting that the use of “legacy” somehow places poorer families at a disadvantage is utterly absurd. Considering that the policy only applies to a tiny fraction of an admissions pool each year, and that it is universally applied to any student whose parents are alumni, regardless of their financial status, reveals that the policy itself is certainly not slanted against lower income students. Furthermore, the additional funds colleges receive by admitting legacy students make up a proportion of the financial aid given to disadvantaged students.

In a similar fashion, Senator Kennedy—a member of the “uber-legacy” Kennedy clan—has depicted universities’ early decision options in the same light. By observing that the application and graduation rates for poorer students are statistically related, Senator Kennedy has made the classic blunder of confusing correlation with causality. In an effort to increase the graduation rate, Ted Kennedy has decided to use government funding as leverage against universities that use early decision.

Herein lies the real blunder in Senator Kennedy’s proposed changes to the Higher Education Act. Attempting to sink the government’s teeth into private institutions sets a significant and harmful precedent. By requiring all universities to adhere to more stringent government regulations, the distinction between private and public institutions becomes blurred. The result will be a more homogenous academic atmosphere and a dilution of the entrepreneurial spirit that thrives in the private sector, including private universities.

The solution is to simply bypass the funding of the universities that Kennedy and other self-righteous Democrats claim are elitist, and to allocate more financial aid for students so that they can make their college decisions independently of their financial situation.

## Live Free or Mobilize

The votes are in, and the results have been tallied. After considerable debate, proponents of the Free State Project (FSP), have found their future home. If this movement gains 20,000 signed members, these libertarians will have five years to make their mass migration to the state of New Hampshire.

Founded in September 2001 by Yale University Professor Jason Sorens, the FSP advertises itself as a new strategy for liberty in our lifetime. The idea behind the project is that if a significant number of freedom-loving people move to a small state, they could, through peaceful, democratic methods, “take over” local and state governments in order to further the libertarian agenda. Using the power of the vote, “Free Staters”, as they call themselves, would repeal state taxes and the wasteful government programs which depend on them, crack down on law enforcement officials who enforce unconstitutional laws, abolish gun control and drug prohibition, halt abuses of eminent domain, privatize utilities, end inefficient trade regulations, and negotiate political autonomy for the state.

Already one of the most libertarian-minded states in the Union, New Hampshire was a prime candidate among nine other states based on its tradition of low-tax, low-service politics and government, its location, and cultural advantages. Should this movement succeed, the Granite State will progressively move towards a government whose power is limited to protecting its citizens’ rights to life, liberty, and property. Whether or not the FSP succeeds is dependent upon its members acting upon their pledge to move when the time comes. Even if every signed member does move to New Hampshire, participants must make a concerted effort towards political activism in order to have any influence over state affairs. This is assuming the FSP garners enough membership to commence. Many supportive skeptics wary of the potential failure are holding out to see what kind of commitment others make before taking the plunge themselves. Others interested in the project realistically acknowledge that moving one’s home and family and finding a new job is sometimes not a feasible option. According to Sorens, however, membership is projected to reach its ideal goal by 2006. At that point we will see if the FSP achieves its mission of “liberty in our lifetime.”

## EUWWW

The cultured, enlightened, sophisticated masses of Europe have spoken. Their preferences: tyranny over democracy, terrorism over freedom, and censorship over free speech. These are the inevitable conclusions that must be drawn from a recently-released official survey conducted in the 15 EU member states. Asked which countries they consider a threat to world peace, 59% of Europeans gave Israel the distinction of most dangerous. The second place standing of 53% bestowed upon



the United States did nothing to alleviate the self-ridiculing effect of the report.

The Axis of Evil nations would be disappointed; Europeans rank them right alongside the United States. Their cohorts, however, don't come close to ruffling any Euro-weenie feathers. Syria, Libya, and China may be embarrassed by their poor rankings between 20% and 40%.

Needless to say, Europe has a major problem. Undoubtedly the result of recent foreign policy disagreements, this poll exposes an immense lack of gratitude toward the United States. Such disagreements are expected and reasonable, but it would be nice if during the course of such discussions the Europeans could remember the country that liberated them twice, protected them during a 50 year nuclear stand-off, and has aided them in numerous other instances. The apparently uniquely American logic would be that the countries threatening Europe are primarily the ones flooding them with terrorist sleeper cells, killing their tourists, and overwhelming them with masses of immigrants.

Israel, with a Jewish population honored and revered by historically steadfast friends in Europe, is awarded a degree of wrath and fear exceeding even that toward the United States. Europe can go on denying its rampant anti-Semitism, but considering their less-than-admirable treatment of Jews in the past, European nations ought to be more sensitive to the endless terrorist targeting of innocent Israeli civilians.

American power is awesome. It is understandable that other nations would feel jealousy, and perhaps even occasional intimidation. At the end of the day, however, it is that same power that affords Europeans their freedom. Does anybody think current European military strength is sufficient to ward off a dedicated terrorist attack? If Europeans value their freedoms, they should appreciate our stewardship.

## Run, Rabbit, Run

Philanthropist Bob Thompson recently rescinded his offer to donate \$200 million to create fifteen charter schools in the underperforming Detroit school district. He simply wanted rigid measures of accountability in exchange for his donation. Thompson required that within three years 90 percent or more of the students at the newly created schools graduated or were accepted into college. This move was initially supported by Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick and Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm until the Detroit Federation of Teachers reared its ugly head.



This union launched a disruptive campaign to sink Thompson's proposal. They asserted that the creation of more charter schools would be detrimental to existing public schools. The funding would have allowed each student the choice of transferring from a public to charter school. Michigan offered the Detroit school system \$15 million dollars to compensate for the loss of Thompson's funding. Janna K. Garrison, head of the DFT, in a letter to the Detroit Free Press expressed that the money could be used in the existing public schools. However, she failed to discuss how the district would be held accountable.

Unlike their counterparts at public schools, teachers at charter schools are not unionized. The creation of charter schools increases the pool of teachers not obligated to pay union dues. This is a clear threat to the DFT, whose members showed less maturity than their students when they canceled a day of classes so they could protest the proposal at the state house. This action shows the importance the DFT places on maintaining an iron grip on the Detroit school system instead of educating students.

The resistance of the unions to the creation of charter schools as alternatives to failing public schools is a recurring theme. Teachers unions are staunch supporters of Democrats who are currently fighting school voucher initiatives in the national arena. Battling Thompson to the point where he grew disheartened and rescinded his offer was socially irresponsible. The DFT fails to help Detroit teachers realize their professional obligation: educating students.

## Oval Office Space

Jennifer Aniston, Brad Pitt, and other Hollywood superstars are planning to travel to the Middle East to help solve the Israeli-Arab conflict. A statement released by Pitt and Aniston states, "The past few years of conflict mean that yet another generation of Israelis and Palestinians will grow up in hatred. We cannot allow this to happen." This groundbreaking statement is the epitome of typical, mindless celebrity babble. Where Tony Blair, Kofi Annan, and even liberal superman Bill Clinton have failed, Hollywood's super couple certainly should have a chance to succeed.

Jen and Brad are not making the trip themselves; they are backed by Danny DeVito, Edward Norton, and Jason Alexander. It is uproarious to think about these movie stars sitting between Hamas militants and hard-line Jewish settlers trying to negotiate a peace plan. The conflict over the West Bank has been going on since 1948, and no amount of movie star whining will stop them. Money and fame have warped the minds of these sad souls. Their guilt drives them to work for international causes with the potential to make a difference, but the way they go about accomplishing it is lacking experience in the real world.

Movie stars tend to change their cause de jour more often than their favorite designers. By the time they are in a position to actually make a difference, it is not fashionable enough anymore, so they move on. Maybe if they can put in the time and effort (both of which they don't have enough of) these lefty actors and actresses can break ground on one of the most hotly contested, religion driven battles over land in all of history. Or they could just throw a couple million dollars and an Armani wardrobe at the problem and hope it goes away.

*Comedy is allied to Justice.*  
—Aristophanes

**PS** Howard Dean recently remarked, “I still want to be the candidate for guys with Confederate flags in their pickup trucks.” He added, “I also still want to be the candidate for the brothers with the fuzzy dice hanging from their Escalade mirrors. As president I will lower the price of corn bread and fried chicken.”

**PS** In Hidalgo, Texas, the only person to survive a plunge over Niagara Falls without a safety device has run off and joined the circus. In future news, the only person to survive a plunge over Niagara Falls without a safety device has died when trying to repeat his stunt.

**PS** A Turkish woman locked her rich industrialist husband naked in the bathroom for three years, claiming he was mentally disturbed. Upon hearing the news, Senator Clinton remarked that she wished she had done same thing to her husband during the Lewinsky scandal.

**PS** The skinned, frozen carcasses of what appear to be four dogs were found in a freezer at the Panda Garden restaurant in Edmonton, Canada. In a related story, a representative from Kee Kar Lau expressed disdain at the fact that an insider had leaked the restaurant’s closely guarded secret recipe for Hunan Beef.

**PS** Even though it has more sand than it has oil, Saudi Arabia has implemented a ban on exporting sand and enacted has strict border checks. Liberal politicians are already accusing the current administration of planning to invade Saudi Arabia for sand. No blood for sand!

**PS** Nine illegal immigrants, all Mexican, who worked as janitors at Wal-Mart until they were arrested during federal raids last month have sued the company, accusing it of discrimination. Their lawyer issued a statement as follows: “The fact that there are no American illegal immigrants being arrested is a blatant indicator of racism.”

**PS** A man who holds the world record for having the most clothespins clipped to his face has narrowly failed to beat his own mark. Next time he plans on removing the underwear from the pins before attaching them to his face.

**PS** Martie Maguire, of the Dixie Chicks is expecting twins. The worried artist is consulting with physicians from around the world to ensure she can time her vacation in France to coincide with the birth of the twins.

**PS** Barraged by accusations from conservatives that it was distorting the legacy of a

president, CBS pulled *The Reagans* miniseries off the air. The network said it was licensing the completed film to Showtime. CBS also announced they would be selling the Bill Clinton miniseries to The Playboy Channel.

**PS** France’s wine industry wants drivers to know: It’s okay to have a drink for the road. Or three. The \$18 billion-a-year wine industry is fighting back against a government campaign to discourage drunken driving. In related news, Ted Kennedy has purchased vacation property in France.

**PS** A white New Orleans judge is under fire for going to a Halloween party costumed in blackface makeup, an afro wig and a prison jumpsuit with shackles around his wrists and ankles. The judge regretted not sticking to his original costume, which consisted of blackface, an afro wig, a Los Angeles Lakers jersey, and a badly battered Caucasian female companion.

- PS** Top Ten Captions to the photo below
10. “Boy, Bob Dole was right about that Viagra!”
  9. “What?! They cancelled *Skin*?!”
  8. Just as Dick Gephardt signs his Iowa primary papers, Al Sharpton yanks the chair out from under him.
  7. “Who said the Macarena is not fashionable anymore?”
  6. When prompted for his thoughts on Iraq, Gephardt inappropriately responded with a pelvic thrust. Schwing!
  5. Dick Gephardt was horribly embarrassed when he realized he forgot his dentures.
  4. Gephardt laughs at the questions CNN wrote for *Rock the Vote*.
  3. This picture was taken moments before Monica crawled out from under the desk.
  2. “Thank goodness I am wearing Depends!”
  1. Gephardt focuses his energy before breaking the table in half with his forehead.





**PS** A group of protesters invaded the set of a live French evening television newscast, angry at government plans to reform show business unemployment benefits. The anchor promptly stood up and offered the protestors a minute of airtime to voice their opinions. In a related incident at the FOX News Channel, several body bags were seen exiting Bill O'Reilly's set.

**PS** A 13-year-old boy in Richland, Texas, who gave a girl a lovebite at school is facing an assault charge, an allegation his parents call excessive. The parents pointed out that when a similar incident involving two girls occurred the year before, the school's principal did nothing to discipline the biter, saying, "If that was assault, it was a good assault."

**PS** CNN planted a question asking Democratic presidential candidates about their preference for Macs or PCs at the Faneuil Hall "Rock the Vote" debate. CNN also tried to plant a question asking the male presidential hopefuls which candidate, other than Carol Mosley Brown, they would most like to "rock your Election Night in the bedroom." Tufts

alum Alethea Pieters decided to go with her "party" question instead in an attempt to get her hands on Joe Lieberman's "kosher meat."

**PS** An Australian man with a 2DRUNK car license plate yesterday admitted a drunken driving offense. The culprit immediately went home to remove the 2STONED license plate from his classic Volkswagen minibus.

**PS** Four Pennsylvania high school football players accused of injuring a teammate after he had a bad game were found guilty of assault, officials said Monday. The victim was thankful that being sodomized with a broomstick is reserved for initiation.

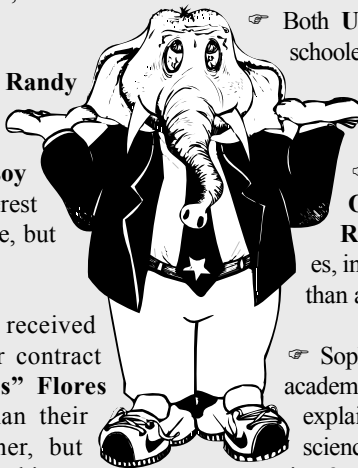
**PS** The New York City Radical Cheerleaders, a loose network of young, mostly female activists, have put a new face on protest. They fight bombs with pompoms and kick high for consciousness. Although the Radical Cheerleaders have been chided for not shaving their legs and armpits, they do wear oh-so-tight tanktops.

## From the Elephant's Mouth

☞ Last Monday, the *Daily* slammed **TRA** co-founder and **TCUJ** member **Nick Boyd** for considering voting on TRA recognition. No mention of the vote after Boyd **recused** himself. Apparently *Daily* editors were distracted by **Abby Moffat's** boobs... 36 clubs applied for recognition this semester, including Tufts University Presents Archaeology Club (**TUPAC**). Their proposed constitution states the club will enjoy a few years of popularity, establish a gang affiliation, then die out, but continue to **sponsor events regularly**... **THE ELEPHANT** predicts Nick Boyd and the TRA will cosponsor handgun training with TUPAC—Drive-bys: Benzes n Berettas... In related Nick News, **Mr. Abraham** has, um, done nothing notable...

☞ Sum Yung Gai: Senator and DU brother **Randy Newsom** wants to run in the **Naked Quad Run**, but you gotta pay up. A \$5 donation will buy a **Special Olympian** a bottle of **soy sauce**... Tufts administrators expressed interest in chipping in for the philanthropic initiative, but are not sufficiently endowed...

☞ **SLAM Reloaded**: **OneSource** workers received a pay increase two years ago. With their contract ending this year, **Ariana "Deep Pockets" Flores** demands Tufts pay the janitors more than their market value. **THE ELEPHANT** supports her, but demands she pay the resulting increase in his tuition... **Espresso's** has been charging students an extra 15% for paying with points. Medford officials support the Points In Lieu Of Taxes program... Leave home without it: The **Alumni Association** is offering credit cards to students. If it's anything like the points system, students will be able to use the cards at three local restaurants, two bookstores, and the PetSmart in Hartford...



☞ For tens of thousands of dollars, the University may install a GPS system on the **Joey**. **Dean Wayne Bouchard**, who has been test driving new buses, is currently leaning towards the **deluxe package**, which also includes heated leather seats, a moon roof, and custom rims...

☞ The numbers are in, and Tufts' are low. Administrators are looking to raise the University above 27<sup>th</sup> on US News' rankings next year... Tufts is a leader in the **multiple major** trend sweeping the nation, due, in part, to many econ double majors. In related news, Tufts' **economics department** leads the nation in lenient requirements...

☞ Both **UCCPS** and the **senate** will pay for **Chinese** high schoolers to eat Dewick stir fry. Perhaps we could find a better way to teach the **Commies** there's no such thing as a **free lunch**...

☞ Iron Man? Tufts' **Dr. Allan Ropper** treated **Ozzy Osbourne** for nervous tremors. Sophomore **Samuel Ronfard** wants access to the similar medical resources, insisting he should not have to live life any differently than a drugged-up, washed-out rock star...

☞ Sophomore **Sean Colon** wonders why he isn't getting academic credit for ROTC courses. **Dean Bruce Reitman** explains, "Some faculty members don't think a military science class is appropriate." **THE ELEPHANT** suggests moving **feminist** courses to MIT...

☞ At MTV's *Rock the Vote*, Tufts alumna **Alethea Pieters** questioned the Democratic candidates which other candidate is best at "shaking their groove thing." Though **Joe Lieberman** asked to go home with Alethea, not one of them picked **Jesse Levey**.

☞ **THE ELEPHANT** never forgets.

*The Daily purports lying as an acceptable journalistic practice.*

## “L” is for “Libel”

by Jordana Starr

Lies and misinformation—those are the grounds on which *The Tufts Daily’s* criticisms of the TCUJ’s approval of Tufts Right to Arms (TRA) are based. In an editorial laden with incorrect assumptions, the *Daily* attacked not only TRA, but launched a preemptive verbal assault against J member and TRA co-founder Nicholas Boyd. Even after Boyd contacted *Daily* editor-in-chief Adam Cooper multiple times regarding the blatant lies printed in that notorious editorial, the editor eventually responded that the paper stands by its libelous statements. The *Daily* rarely holds itself to high standards of journalistic integrity—why start now?

The *Daily* asserts that, “the TCUJ’s regulations clearly prohibit members from making decisions on matters in which they have an interest ... a member of the body that holds other organizations accountable to their constitution and by-laws is not familiar with the TCUJ’s own regulations.” This is false—there is no such policy, not in the TCUJ by-laws, nor in the TCU constitution. Though the TCU constitution requires J members sitting on a disciplinary panel to recuse themselves if they exhibit a conflict of interest with a litigant, TCUJ deliberations on new groups are not governed by the TCU constitution, but by the TCUJ by-laws, and therefore are not held to these same standards.

As the *Daily* quoted within its own pages, Boyd explained that, “As far as I know there is nothing mandating [my abstention].” For the *Daily* to then accuse Boyd of being ignorant of a set of rules fabricated by its editors and thus lacking ethical sense is both shameful and

hypocritical. Cooper published unmistakable lies about TCUJ rules and used those lies to attack and defame Boyd’s character. Neglecting to undertake the appropriate research—such as actually looking up the TCUJ by-laws—and then

willfully and knowingly standing by these false statements only demonstrate the *Daily’s* own lack of ethical sense.

When it came down to the actual deliberations, Boyd

chose to recuse himself after all, and yet the J still overwhelmingly approved TRA. Note that even though both a reporter and a photographer were present at that meeting, there was no mention of this decision in the *Daily*. Perhaps the campus rag, in its zeal to print a cover article on the TCUJ’s rejection of TRA, felt too letdown by reality to report it.

In an email to Boyd, Cooper acknowledged that his “interpretation” of the Constitution might be incorrect. That being the case, he knowingly provided false information in his editorial and lambasted a valuable member of the Tufts community based on that misinformation. Boyd informed Cooper that his editorial meets all the standards for libel, and yet, the editor explicitly refuses to issue an apology.

Furthermore, the *Daily’s* preemptive criticisms of the J’s decision are unfounded. The *Daily* tries to draw a comparison between the relation of Tufts Bhangra Club to TASA, and TRA’s relation to the Tufts Republicans and THE PRIMARY SOURCE. By assuming that Bhangra was not recognized only because its objectives could be met by TASA, the editorial parallels TRA’s

recognition to Bhangra’s, claiming that the clubs’ objectives overlap; therefore TRA should not be approved. Bhangra, however, already exists as a subgroup of TASA. As an independent organization, Bhangra would not have the kind of funds and resources as it currently does under TASA. Ultimately, the J must act in the best interest of the Tufts community, and in the case of Bhangra, the best interest is for the club to remain a part of TASA and focus on solving internal conflicts.

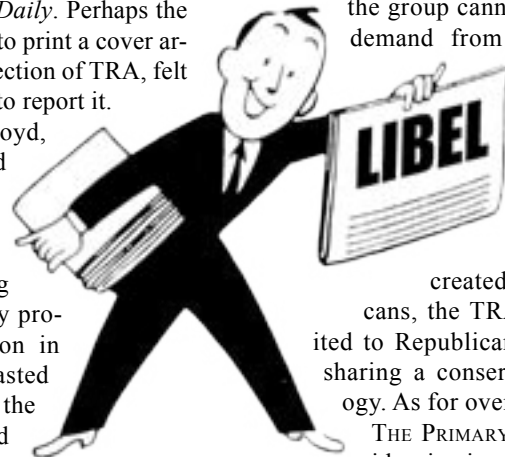
TRA, however, is not and never has been a subgroup of either the Tufts Republicans or the SOURCE. Unlike Bhangra, TRA is an entirely new group to the University. Tufts Republicans is a political organization analogous to Tufts Democrats. Just as the pro-choice Tufts Democrats can co-exist with Tufts VOX, a newly recognized group identifying itself with Planned Parenthood, TRA can co-exist with Tufts Republicans. Ideological commonalities are not indicative of overlap—if that were the case, then there would be no way for the TTLGBC to co-exist with *Radix*.

In past years, the Tufts Republicans have sponsored an annual shooting trip to SigArms Academy, but due to overwhelming interest in the trip, the group cannot satisfy the demand from the student body. TRA is ready to step up and meet that demand.

Although created by Republicans, the TRA is not limited to Republicans, nor those sharing a conservative ideology. As for overlapping with THE PRIMARY SOURCE, the idea is simply ludicrous, as the SOURCE’s mission deals with producing a publication, while TRA is focused on gun education, discussion, and training.

Thanks to the *Daily’s* poor reporting and Cooper’s lack of editorial competence and decency, there is a considerable amount of talk among some of Tufts’ liberal groups of appealing the J’s decision to the CSL. Despite the *Daily’s* intent to incite controversy, this attempt will only prove futile. After all, the CSL does not overturn legitimate decisions. ■

**The *Daily* rarely holds itself to high standards of journalistic integrity—why start now?**



Miss Starr is a sophomore majoring in Political Science and Philosophy.

From the laughable, yet all too frequent, typos and illegible crosswords to up-skirt pictures of Jumbo women's tennis stars, the *Daily* consistently shows a lack of thorough editing. While this is sometimes excusable (well, the typos, at least), the *Daily* is not afraid to cross the line of good taste, showing their bias. Earlier this semester the editorial cartoon showed President Bush mourning another lost vote—a dead soldier. The disrespect to our soldiers is a slap in the face to our veterans, our warriors in Iraq, and Tufts' ROTC community. They even run a columnist who spouts would-be medical advice about dangerous nonoxynol-9 to unsuspecting Jumbos; meanwhile, untapped medical resources lie a stone's throw away at Tufts Medical School. This laziness is inexcusable. Usually their errors in judgment only require playful jabs in response, yet when the lack of editing crosses the line between bad taste and malicious defamation of character, THE PRIMARY SOURCE brings you:

Where you definitely  
read it first because we  
made it all up

# T H E T U F T S DAILY

Tufts' Student Newspaper  
Since 1980

VOLUME SIC, NUMBER 1

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2003

## TRA president eats babies, kittens

BY ADAM COOPER  
LIBEL EDITOR

Tufts Right to [Use] Arms [to Kill and Eat Babies] (TRA) co-founder, Nick Boyd, was recently found to feast on the flesh of young babies and small animals. This discovery, made by members of the *Daily* editorial board about ten minutes ago, comes on the heels of a streak of immoral activity by the gun-toting fascist.

An Enron-style Texan from Connecticut, Boyd has long been tied to Corporate

America. CEO of NKNet.org, Boyd has wined and dined powerful public officials, and even visited President Bush, spending a night in the Lincoln bedroom. And you won't believe what they had for dinner.

That's right: baby. Boyd describes the flesh as "delicious" and explained how his new NRA membership allows him access to the weaponry necessary to maintain his illegal culinary habits.

Boyd, a TCUJ member, TRA co-founder, Tufts Republicans Vice President, and Spawn of Satan, is reportedly dating Jenna Bush, daughter of Emperor George W. Bush Jr., who

see **OBNOXIOUS KID, Page 4**

## Peace and Justice Studies Professor wins Nobel Prize in Physics

BY PHILLIP MARKS  
WHAT'S AN EDITOR?

English and Peace and Justice Studies professor Modhumita Roy won the Nobel Prize for Physics yesterday for discovering that no amount of inanity can change actual reality. Roy began her studies in the microcosm of Tufts University working with SLAM defend-

ing their T-shirts. When all her arguments proved futile, she decided to discover why. "I was very disappointed with my findings," Roy declared. She plans to use her winnings to build a bunker in East Hall to hide from her irate colleagues. Gary Leupp was seen hovering around her office with wires hanging out of his pockets.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Sports: Sox poised to win Stanley Cup, **Page 19**

Comics: David Isles teaches first math class of semester, **Page 6**

Mistakes: **Page 1**

Corrections: **Page 13**



The TCUJ, chaired by Abby Moffat, approved Tufts Right to Arms club.

## Red Sox, Yankees rivalry heats up

The World Series might be over, the Yankees may have lost. It might have happened sometime last month. I dunno. And the Sox weren't even present, but baseball fever is sweeping Tufts. Most noticeable is the vast numbers of students wearing baseball 'caps', some with the letter 'b' others with the letter 'n' intertwined with the letter 'y'.

The rivalry between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Yankees runs so deep in Tufts students, no baseball need be played for tempers to flare. Said one student, "I hate those New York \*#@#@, with their fancy clean shaven appearance and their stadium with 'unobstructed views.'"

Another spoke of the true fan loyalty and excitement, which extends beyond the playing field and past the season's end. "Frankly, I just like any excuse to take my clothes off and run around campus naked", she said.

Some fans' passions seem to be inflamed as a result of the end of the season. Still sporting their home team's colors, they roam the campus ready to defend their city's honor. "No, actually I just wear the St. Louis Cardinals hat because I like the colors. Why are you asking me this?" said one proud fan.

So, right, maybe the season is over. But major league baseball is just starting to heat up. And with the two upper-echelon teams most heavily supported on campus, baseball is taking the student body by storm. The Marlins may have won the world series, but with the way the season is going now, who knows what might happen?

Sometimes the Red Sox beat the Yankees, sometimes the opposite of that fact occurs. But for some reason the Yankees always win the last game. But that's what is important in baseball anyway, I think.

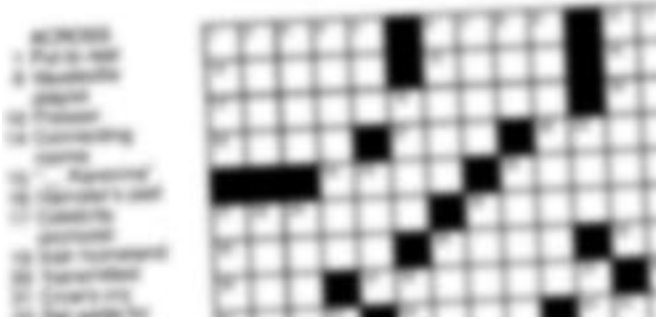
—John Johnson, Department of Redundancy Department

# Arts | Living

THE BOSTON GLOBE  
THE TUFTS DAILY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2003

## CROSSWORD



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these five Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TEH

PENIT

BOBIM

MESAK

DINSHEELA

That scrambled word game or, as we call it, "Correct our typos."



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the cartoon above.

Answer: " OOOO OOOO "

## TOPAZ JEFFERSON | SEXY SEX CAMPUS SEX TALK, XOXO



### On Being a Total Skank

Omigod. Like being a total skank is a hard life. It's like you'd figure that, I don't know, guys would be all nice to you and stuff, but they all totally think that they can just come up to you and start talking about stuff. Like when I printed last week's column "Penis Envy? Shyeah Right" and described the exact shapes and sizes of every one of my old boyfriends, it's like *every guy on campus* just came right up to me and was like "Hey you wanna see mine for your next column?" As if! What *ever* made them think that they could just come up to me and ask that?

Sometimes I joke that I should major in pre-med because I'm in Health Services so much!

And then the other day? Let me just pass on this piece of advice to you *ladies* out there, whooo yeah! Ladies! If your boyfriend asks you to try a new position, you need to *be aware* and know what you're getting into! For example, don't say yes to "DVDA" and then be surprised when he brings three friends over. I learned that the hard way... metaphorically speaking, of course! Or literally. I always get the two mixed up. And so does my boyfriend!

Once I got drunk and slept with a guy I *knew*! That was SO embarrassing.

And then there are guys who are just *freaky*. Like once, this guy, I think he might have been a professor, asked me all seriously when the last time I showered was. And you could *totally* tell that he thought I was just going to let him pee all over me. I mean, yeah, I told him I would. I figured, you know, research. But then he just looked at me all weird and walked away. What *is* it with some of these perverts? Once when I was seven I went to the movies and took off my underwear and

see EVERYTHING on page 34DD

## AROUND CAMPUS

### Today

Questioning your gender - 11:30am, Women's Center

Unzipping your pants, and peeking in - Women's Center, 11:32am

TCU senate - Wheel naked autistic paraplegic children around campus. Meet Randy Newsom at West Hall, 11pm.

### Tomorrow

Tufts Rights to Arms - Clubbing baby seals, Boston Aquarium. Meet at 4am at the campus center for shuttle service.

ROTC - MIT gym, 6am.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Phil Tsipman, Racist Homophobe

As Ex-Vice President of the Tufts Republicans, I feel the need to speak out against white male oppressors by writing letters to the *Daily*. Phil Tsipman's conservative beliefs do not represent the conservative beliefs of all conservatives on campus, especially the liberal ones. As the former Vice President, I am obliged to criticize the person who fired me. Tsipman's attitude towards gays is completely outrageous. Now I'm not gay. Not that there'd be anything wrong with that. And I have lots of gay friends. No, not in that way. Just friends.

Aaron Held, EN '06

# Viewpoints

THE TUFTS DAILY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2003

## Right to do what we want is in danger

Our right to do whatever we want is being threatened more than ever since when the US Supreme Court decided in 1973 that, well, we can do whatever we want. I mean honestly, think what would happen if one of your friends got drunk at a frat party and ended up pregnant. Better to get rid of the fetus than have to deal with a future child.

If that is not enough, I personally ran google searches on terms like "controlling birth," "pro-choice," and "et cetera" and got 7429 hits. Subtracting a majority of which that were likely opposite of my view point, there were easily over 8,000 new bills passed in our US government that limit our right to do whatever we want.

It is a fact, so I won't provide evidence, that planned family centers are lacking in funding because of the administration currently in the government. Even more absurd, they are trying to promote this hypothetical idea called abstinence that they claim is one hundred percent safe over things like safer sex education, i.e. condoms, birth control, coitus interruptus, etc. Idiots.

Right now our Right to do whatever we want is guaranteed in the constitution's Bill of Rights<sup>Footnote</sup>. Seriously, the US Supreme Court could take away that right which was given to us in the Bill of Rights, and established in 1973's Roe v. Wade. This woman, equal in stature to greatest of all feminists, Jane Roe fought to give us that right that we all hold dear, doing whatever we want.

Conservative nuts in Washington are deciding how much we can do whenever we want, and this is bad since white men are all against our rights. Conservative politicians have no concern for the children or the mother; they only care about the fetus, which as everyone knows will never, ever... ever be anything like a child or mother.

Think back to when abortion was illegal and bajillions of women died from illegal abortions. These numbers are accurate, and you can't disprove that, since no one reported the number of abortions performed or how many people died, because it was illegal.

I'll leave critical thinking Jumbos with this last thought. I once heard this complete dunce, Norma McCorvey, talk about how deaths from birthing have not changed since before Roe v. Wade. Things are safer cause there are no illegal abortions being performed and thousands of women are now being saved. Just ask Jane Roe.

—Emma D'Pschitz

Footnote: "Bill of Rights" document turned up on Google search

## Treatise on turkey

BY HUGH JASS  
DAILY SMORGASBORD

Well, Thanksgiving is just around the corner and the time has come to binge...on turkey. Having consumed more than my fair share of Thanksgiving foodstuffs, I feel that I have become a Turkey Day connoisseur. Without further ado, I present to you my Thanksgiving review:

Turkey: As any pilgrim worth his weight in cranberries could tell you, turkey must really be broken up into two categories. The first category is for the amateurs: white meat. As bland as it is white, white meat requires lots of salt, as it is relatively flavorless. Moist? Yes. Flavorful? I don't think so. Leave the white meat at the kids' table and go straight for the good stuff. Grade: C-

Now for the good stuff. I can't deny the oh-so-glorious feeling I get every time I ram a heaping helping of dark meat into my mouth. So maybe it's not so pretty, but it is where all the flavor of the bird resides. The verdict? Come to flavor country! Grade: A+

Stuffing: This is a Thanksgiving essential. How do you describe the perfect stuffing? It's the feeling of soggy croutons and spices dancing on my tongue that leaves me in such ecstasy at the dinner table. What with our hectic schedules and all, many of us don't have time to actually put the stuffing in the turkey, but better living through chemistry has granted us all sorts of flavor substitutes that will tickle your tonsils just as nicely. Grade: B+

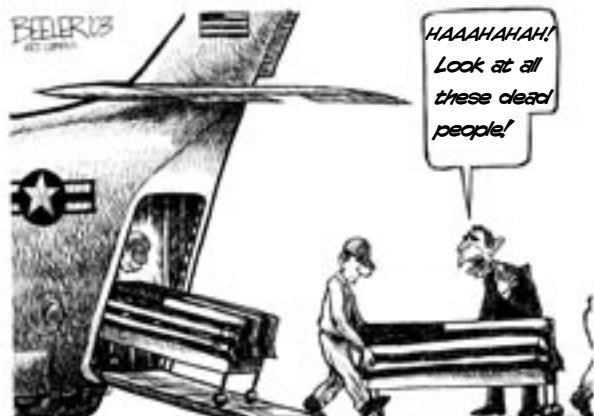
Cranberry Sauce: This is not one of my favorite Thanksgiving provisions. I mean, why do old people like it so much? I always traded away my cranberry sauce first, usually to my dog, Fifi. Cranberry sauce is only good as a means to attaining delicious Kibbles and Bits. If you must consume this red, lumpy sauce, do so with plenty else on your pallet. Grade: D-

Yams: I have always considered yams to be the middle of the road, standard Turkey Day fare. They seem rather bland, but when you throw some brown sugar on top, it becomes a flavor festival in your mouth. My mom used to put marshmallows on them as well and I always enjoy them more that way. I also like it when she cuts my turkey into little pieces for me. Grade: B

Pumpkin Pie: Who wouldn't want to finish the feast with this American classic. A graham cracker crust enrobes the spiced pumpkin filling to tantalize your taste buds. Top that slice o' pie with some heavy whipped cream and it's lights out. I would even go so far as to say that my love for pumpkin pie rivals my feelings for dark meat. Make sure you save room for this sweet sensation. Grade: A-

All in all, Thanksgiving is an under-appreciated holiday. You get to pig out and then pass out. I love Thanksgiving, and all the food that I have listed above is what the feast is all about. Just don't be one of "those people." You know the kind. The ones that try to spice up their night by

see PUMPKIN, Page  $\pi$



**VIEWPOINTS POLICY** The Viewpoints section of *The Tufts Daily* is an open forum for students, faculty, administration, and random people to bitch about basically anything. Viewpoints should be poorly written, biased, and inaccurate. All facts should be incorrect.

## LATE NIGHT AT THE DAILY

"Nick Boyd is not familiar with the TCUI's own regulations and apparently lacks the ethical sense to recuse himself from deliberations about his own club."

—The Daily Editorial Board

# THE CARDS ARE STACKED

The University outreach centers, commonly referred to as the “Group of Six” represent the last remnants of a failing liberal regime. To aid in the removal of liberal bias, THE PRIMARY SOURCE has created a deck of cards featuring the most nefarious leaders.

Draw a full house, and you win half a million dollars in “diversity funding.”

How did he get in here?

This limited edition set is going fast! Get yours before the University reforms the Group of Six.

\$6.<sup>95</sup> +S&H  
[www.NickBoyd.com/GroupOfSix](http://www.NickBoyd.com/GroupOfSix)

**Queen of Diamonds**  
 Peggy Barrett  
 Director  
 Women's Center

**Queen of Hearts**  
 Dona Yarbrough  
 Director  
 LGBT Center

**Ace of Spades**  
 Lisa Coleman  
 Director  
 Africana Center

**JOKER**  
 Nick Boyd  
 Director  
 Conservative Center

**Ace of Clubs**  
 Linell Yugawa  
 Director  
 Asian American Center

**Ace of Diamonds**  
 Jane Elish-Andrews  
 Director  
 International Center

**King of Diamonds**  
 Ruben Salinas Stern  
 Director  
 Latino Center

*Liberal bias permeates the University outreach centers.*

## Group of Six, Single Mind

by Brandon Balkind

Most students can sympathize with the agonies of dealing with the University's red tape. Whether it's getting an add-drop form into Student Services on time, or applying for that exclusive fellowship, there are often hours of overhead involved with simple administrative tasks. Yet, for liberal students, many things are taken care of behind-the-scenes. For leftists interested in enriching campus life with speakers, recruiting, and hosting special events, this especially is the case.

Speakers frequently come to campus in the name of liberal causes. Unfortunately, liberal speakers often leave out half of the story and thus, half of the insightful remarks that promote free thought on campus. Various University departments and liberal student groups sponsored Omar al-Isawi, a thought-provoking speaker. He offered, however, a single viewpoint regarding the controversial role of Al Jazeera in Arab media. Perhaps Ann Coulter or a member of the Heritage Foundation would offer a contrasting opinion.

Though conservative groups would like to see more varied viewpoints, bringing a similarly prominent conservative speaker to campus has proven itself an insurmountable task. True, the various departments of Tufts have pledged their token support of conservative pursuits, but the responsibility to organize events and contact speakers is always left up to the students themselves. Conservative students find themselves overextended in this regard.

The so-called Group of Six and other student advocacy centers frequently act

as agents of liberal interest. Though their mission statements do not indicate partisan ambitions, liberals run the organizations and dictate their agenda. Bringing a qualified pro-life speaker to campus is not a priority of Peggy "That's not in the scope of the Women's Center" Barret. Similarly, black conservatives should not hold their breath waiting

**Conservative students, regardless of their race or gender, are unable to effectively use the resources of the Group of Six.**

for Lisa Coleman to sponsor an anti-affirmative action speaker through the Africana Center. Although the Centers' names suggest they are unbiased, and provide a resource for all Tufts women or blacks, they are only accessible to like-minded liberals.

The annual orientation retreat to Cape Cod for students of color has been hailed as a great success of the Africana Center. Planning, in this and in all cases, is the key. An orientation event is simply outside the reach of conservative student groups. Without a University-affiliated conservative student advocate, mailing invitations to prospective students is unmanageable, even if permission was granted.

Women, who are not a minority on this campus, are treated with their own University-funded support center. The International Center not only helps foreign students manage their visa applications, but also lobbies to the University on their behalf. The Asian-American Center specially counsels Asian-American students, who statistically flourish in American colleges. The Group of Six goes well beyond "leveling the playing field." The Centers are lobbyists, and are able to draw significant strength

from the University budget. Conservative students are entitled to the same representation, both with personnel and financial support.

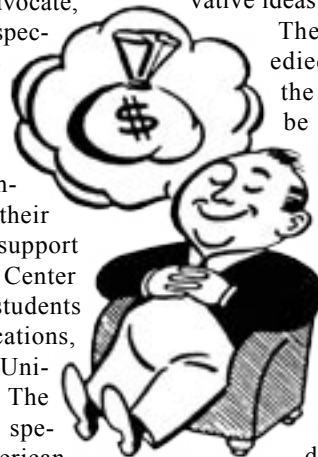
Currently, THE PRIMARY SOURCE and Tufts Republicans operate without dedicated faculty advisors. The faculty neglects conservative groups so much, they are often made to seem underground or somehow unapproved. Of course, Tufts would not wish this feeling on any student group—even conservatives.

The Africana Center provides instant legitimacy and University support for the Pan African Alliance. This liberal mutualism has been long established. When policies affect liberal students of color, they don't always have to fix the system themselves. After all, how could Left-thinking black students find time to oversee the preferential hiring of African-American professors? While students often initiate programs to increase racial preference, those programs are almost always facilitated or carried out with University resources. Conservative students, regardless of their race or gender, are unable to effectively use the resources of the Group of Six.

Rugged individualism is a familiar concept in conservatism, but one can still expect a degree of fairness. The University should not exclude conservatives from its many programs by virtue of deferring planning to the students. Sending a memo to conservative students regarding the AS&E Diversity Fund does not alleviate the University of its responsibility to promote conservative ideas.

The problem could be remedied in several ways, but the most obvious seems to be the establishment of a Conservative Union, or conservative advocacy group, sponsored by the University. This group would have University-funded staff and faculty advisors who dedicate their time to the interest of conservative students, much as the Group of Six does for liberal students.

Where there exist several centers for liberal advocacy, the conservatives ask for only one. The University must seek to mitigate the partisan nature of its institutions. ■



Mr. Balkind is a junior majoring in Computer Engineering.

*Dennett argues for a secular democracy.*

## An Interview with Daniel C. Dennett

conducted by Simon Holroyd

**R**ecently, Tufts Philosophy Professor Daniel C. Dennett penned an Op/Ed in the New York Times calling for atheists to come out of the closet. Claiming that atheists are treated as radical or evil in our society, he suggests that atheists should call themselves “brights” in order to put a positive spin on the group. His proposal has caused some controversy and even prompted Dinesh D’Souza to write a response in the Wall Street Journal. THE PRIMARY SOURCE sat down with Professor Dennett and asked him about the brights movement. The full text of Dennett’s New York Times article can be found at: [www.the-brights.net/dennett\\_nyt.htm](http://www.the-brights.net/dennett_nyt.htm).

**PRIMARY SOURCE: How did the term brights arise? Do brights differ from atheists or is the term merely an attempt at PR for non-believers in God?**

Daniel C. Dennett: Well, I don’t know exactly how the term brights arose. I didn’t coin it, neither did [Richard] Dawkins. We both got it from this couple who live out in California, Paul Geisert and Mynga Futrell. They started the website, which is the-brights.net. Richard [Dawkins] found out about it and did a piece for the *Guardian* in England. He sent it to me and I thought, “this is a good idea, and I’ll write a similar piece.” What really inspired me was that meeting I was at in Seattle with all these smart high school kids. And I had it in my head and half way through my topic I decided I was going to announce this. It was encouraging, even thrilling, to

see how important it was to these young people to hear somebody say this. So there really is a need for some coming out of the closet here. For people who wonder, “Am I alone?”

The response has been overwhelming (hundreds and hundreds of emails), and almost all of it positive. Some negative, including from brights who don’t like the term. I am unrepentant about the term. The abrasion factor is worth it. As I say in my unpublished response [to D’Souza], non-brights can have a

name for themselves too. I suggest ‘supers.’ That’s a positive word too. But it’s important not to use the word atheists, because, first of all, there are so many different concepts of God. Am I atheist about every last one of them? No, because what some mean by God is what I mean by nature. I believe in nature. I am as close to worshipping it as I am to anything. I don’t pray to it; it wouldn’t make any sense. But I hold it in awe, I treat it with great respect. I love it, I am grateful for it, and so forth. For some people say, “In other words, nature is God,” and if that’s what they mean by God, then I am not an atheist to them. The main thing is, I am a naturalist.

**PS: In your New York Times piece you claim, “I’m beginning to feel some heat, and although it’s not uncomfortable yet, I’ve**

**come to realize it’s time to sound the alarm.” What exactly is this heat you are feeling for being an atheist?**

DCD: The growing religiosity in American political life. A president who mentions God at every opportunity. The obligatory bible study classes in the White House. The attempts to unsecularize the nation. I think it is extremely important that this is a secular democracy. We have to take seriously the possibility that something could happen in America like what happened in Algeria or almost happened in Turkey. Let’s take Turkey—an Islamic party wins in a democratic election and says, “We’re going to dismantle democracy and turn this into a theocracy.” They didn’t, the army wouldn’t let them. And it was a close call. Now they have pretty well promised that they won’t do that. In Algeria, there was a civil war to prevent it. It is very awkward. How do you preserve democracy if you have a party that puts its allegiance to religion above its allegiance to democracy? Then you have a recipe for disaster. I am afraid that I see that around this country. It is very important that we reestablish this as a secular democracy.

**PS: Do you think that it’s a problem that the heat is mainly coming from the religious right, or is it pervasive across the political spectrum?**

DCD: I think that the religious right is the engine that is pushing this. I think there are a lot of people who are just unconcerned. They are religious, but they

**How do you preserve democracy if you have a party that puts its allegiance to religion above its allegiance to democracy? Then you have a recipe for disaster.**





are not on the religious right and they don't see this as a problem. They are not actively pushing it. Yet, at the same time they would probably have trouble voting for an avowed atheist. The perceived wisdom is that if you say you are an atheist, that's the third rail; you can't make it in politics. My view is that is the political fact of life, fair enough, what I would like to see as a political fact of life that it is also the third rail if you say that you put your faith above your allegiance to democracy. Because there are a lot of people in this country who do: they are Catholics or Baptists first and democrats or Americans second. We should make those people feel very uncomfortable.

**PS: Much of the hostility toward the term "brights" seems to result from the arrogance of the word. Though you have argued that it is meant to have positive connotations, isn't the atheist position inherently arrogant? To what extent can atheists accept belief in God as reasonable?**

DCD: It all depends on what kind of god they mean. That's why I don't use the term atheist myself. You tell me what kind of god you believe in and I'll tell you whether it is reasonable. If you believe in an Old Testament God that smites the enemies and wants to be praised and adored and told how great he is, if that's the kind of god you believe in then I think you're crazy.

**PS: What are the most important issues for atheists in the national political arena today? If the Pledge of Allegiance were to be found in violation of the non-establishment clause, does that affect atheists' progress?**

DCD: I have mixed emotions about that whole notion, that whole movement. It would not have been my first or second choice of action to take. It seems like a poke in the eye and needless on the one hand. On the other hand, I remember when it was instituted and I felt bad about it at the time (the little kid that I was). I felt, "What the heck is this?" I didn't really mind, but I was slightly offended. I didn't think it belonged in the Pledge of Allegiance, and I don't. Certainly, if I had my way the words would be eliminated, but tactically, strategically, if it makes sense to go after it, I don't know.

**PS: Were you raised an atheist?**

DCD: No, no. I grew up right down the road in Winchester, Massachusetts. And like just about everyone else in grade school, I went to Sunday School. There were a lot of Catholics, Unitarians, Congregationalists, Baptists, Methodists, and Episcopalians. And the kids who didn't go to Sunday School were left out of it. So even parents who didn't go to church sent their kids to Sunday School. So I went to Sunday School at the Congregational Church and I learned the hymns, I sat through sermons, and I sang in choirs. I probably took religion more seriously than most of my classmates when I was a kid and into my high school years. I didn't decide that I was an atheist until freshman year of college.

**PS: Religion can be blamed for all sorts of despicable behavior through history, including recent history, yet it also builds communities and reassures its followers. Do you believe religion is a necessary and inevitable part of society?**

DCD: This is precisely the question that I am now working on full bore. I have decided that nobody knows the answer to that question, and the only way we are going to find out is if we do the research. We have to break a taboo

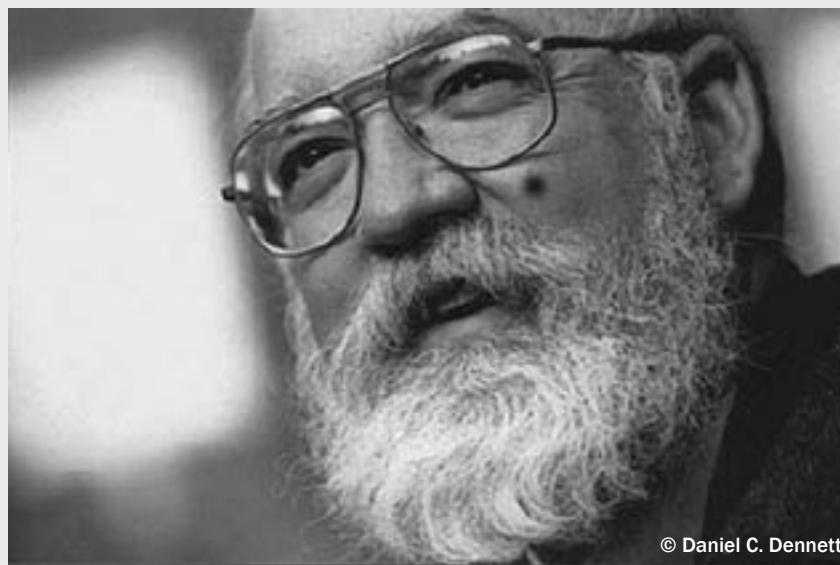
first and we have to look really closely and objectively at religion in all of its manifestations and see what good it does and what harm it does. This is what I am proposing; I am working on a book on this right now.

I am genuinely agnostic about it. I know that religion does wonderful things for many people and I think they are entirely reasonable to cherish their religions and to want to protect them. That doesn't mean they are necessarily right, it just means they are not foolish.

**Religion is studied like Victorian medicine, you never take your clothes off and the doctor is in the next room.**

I want to closely examine that very issue. I can't do it all by myself; this is a job for many, many scientists. Religion is studied like Victorian medicine, you

never take your clothes off and the doctor is in the next room. There was a taboo against the dissection of human corpses so that medicine could really advance. You don't lightly decide to give your body to medicine. Medical students don't lightly decide that they are going to dissect a corpse, but it is very important that we do. I think the same thing is true of religion. I think we have to decide in great seriousness and conscientiousness that we are going to study religion carefully in a way it has never been studied before and see. It is such an important phenomenon we have to study it. We study every other phenomenon of great importance to us, we should study this one. ■



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*Sharpton's got a point, Democrats take the black vote for granted.*

## Black and Blue

by Steve Bleiberg

**C**ampaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination is well under way and one candidate seems to be winning all the debates. No, not Howard Dean; I'm talking about Al Sharpton. Not only is Sharpton much more entertaining than the other candidates, but he repeatedly makes an important point that his opponents ignore: the Democratic Party is reliant on the support of black voters to be competitive in national politics. Sharpton is right, and his candidacy is a warning to the Democratic elite not to take its monopoly on the black vote for granted.

In the 2000 presidential election, Al Gore won 90% of the black vote nationwide and 93% of the black vote in Florida. If black voters had not supported Gore in such overwhelming numbers, George W. Bush would have easily defeated the Vice President. In addition, the black vote provided the margin of victory in several of the Democrats' 2000 Senate victories. Solid black support for Democrats was unsurprising, as was the party's reliance on their vote. Successful Democratic candidates routinely lose the white vote but eke out a victory by winning the virtually unanimous support of black voters. More recent examples include the 2001 Democratic victories in governors' races in New Jersey and Virginia and the 2002 reelection of Senator Mary Landrieu in Louisiana. Even with this advantage, the Democrats are currently the nation's opposition party. If the Democrats were to lose their lock on the black vote, they would no longer be a competitive party in much of the country.

Why have black voters been so allied to the Democratic Party? After the Civil War, black voters overwhelmingly supported Republican candidates. The Republican Party

was seen as the party of freedom, while the Democrats were considered to be the party of slavery and, later on, Jim Crow and segregation. By the 1920s, black voters grew alienated from the Republican Party, which took the community's support for granted. Blacks, however, had nowhere else to turn.

**"We must no longer be the political mistresses of the Democratic Party."**

It wasn't until Franklin Roosevelt was elected president that black voters began to support Democrats. Throughout the 1930s, black-owned newspapers urged blacks

to divide their vote in order to win attention from both parties. Black voters finally shifted almost completely into the Democratic camp in the 1960s when Lyndon Johnson worked to pass civil rights legislation.

Today, blacks face similar problems to those they experienced when they overwhelmingly voted Republican. Democrats assume that they will get the black vote no matter what positions they take on the issues. For example, although poll after poll has shown that most blacks support school vouchers, the Democratic leadership is vehemently opposed. Top Democrats claim they are concerned with serving their constituents and providing access to a quality education but in practice are more interested in raising money from teachers' unions. Since the Democrats assume that the black vote is guaranteed, many feel all they have to do is pay lip service to a few black leaders like Jesse Jackson or Julian Bond of the NAACP to keep blacks happy.

This may be about to change. Although Al Sharpton is not the black community's ideal leader, he is good at getting his message across. On the campaign trail, Sharpton said, "We must no longer be the political mistresses of the Democratic Party." In New York, Reverend Sharpton is known for challenging Democrats. In 1986, Sharpton crossed party lines to endorse the reelection of Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato

in a deliberate shot at the Democratic establishment. In 1994, Sharpton challenged incumbent Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan in a primary. Although Moynihan won easily, Sharpton received 80% of the black vote, a total equaling 25% of all votes cast in the primary. Sharpton's boldest move, however, came in the 2001 New York City mayoral race. When Sharpton's candidate, Fernando Ferrer, lost to Mark Green in the primary, Sharpton refused to endorse Green and continued attacking him during the general election. Sharpton's actions are widely credited with helping Republican candidate Michael Bloomberg defeat Green in the general election. Speaking to his supporters in Harlem a few days after the general election, Sharpton said, "We may have a bad date with Michael Bloomberg, but I'm not going to be the battered wife for the Democratic Party. That's what battering husbands do: ... slap [their wives] around, say 'Who else is going to buy you a dress?' Well, I'd rather walk around naked than wear your wretched dress."

Black leaders such as former Democratic congressman Floyd Flake and minister Calvin Butts are urging blacks not to vote exclusively for Democrats. In this month's Louisiana governor's race, the black Mayor of New Orleans, Ray Nagin, endorsed Republican candidate Bobby Jindhal. In addition, some Republican candidates have done well in attracting black support in state races. As Governor of Texas, George W. Bush received 25% of the black vote. If a Republican presidential candidate were to receive that much black support, the Democrat wouldn't have a chance. The black vote is starting to shift. According to a study by the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies only 63 percent of black voters now call themselves Democrats, down from 74 percent in 2000. If the Democrats don't heed Sharpton's warning, they are in for a rough ride. ■



**"It ain't over 'til the fat man sings—and I haven't sung yet."**

Mr. Bleiberg is a senior majoring in Quantitative Economics.

*Bush faces a challenging political decision.*

## Man of Steel

by J. Slavich

The WTO's rejection of the US appeal to keep steel tariffs has put President Bush into a delicate political position. In 2002, the US placed tariffs of up to 30% on many of the imported steel categories. Bush's goal was to shelter the American steel industry from further bankruptcies and layoffs. US protectionism angered other members of the WTO and also hurt other American businesses.

Bush raised tariffs to appease domestic steel producers, who wanted three more years to restructure their operations before returning to competition with foreigners. Of course, another important factor in Bush's decision in raising tariffs was politics. The main steel producing states are Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Michigan. These are important swing states for the upcoming presidential election and are worth 46 of 538 electoral votes. Bush's steel trade policy seems to be an attempt to gain favor with these voters, but has the plan backfired?

Steel tariffs have brought about several unintended consequences. In an attempt to protect inefficient producers, Bush caused anger in the European Union and among several Asian countries. Japan and EU member states felt that the tariffs were targeted specifically at them. While several countries like Canada and Mexico escaped the tariffs, others felt that the US had specifically violated trade agreements. The most severe unintended consequence of the tariffs, however, was felt at home. The destructive effects of the tariffs

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

have harmed other sectors of the US economy that are dependent on steel.

Automakers and builders who consume foreign steel as an intermediate good have been harmed by the new tariffs because they now have to buy steel at higher prices. As input costs rise,

total production costs increase. Though Bush sought to aid steel producers, he put another large group of American workers and companies at risk. As a result, the price of automobiles

and the cost of new construction have risen noticeably.

During an economic recovery, further protection seems to be only hurting the US. Not only are some American industries being hurt by the current tariffs but other industries and states will soon be affected. The EU has threatened to implement retaliatory tariffs on \$2.2 billion worth of US imports to Europe. Japan and several other Asian countries have also threatened repercussions if the latest WTO ruling is not followed. Specifically, the EU has threatened to impose 100% tariffs on imported products including oranges, watches, t-shirts, and Harley Davidsons. These products are all produced in key states for the 2004 election, including Pennsylvania (23 electoral votes), Michigan (18 electoral votes), Florida (25 electoral votes), and California (54 electoral votes).

Regardless of Bush's decision, he will have to answer to unhappy voters. If he repeals the tariffs, he will upset steel workers in key swing states.

If the tariffs remain, the US will feel a greater effect as US exports drop severely and the economic recovery is slowed. Greater protection for American steel has led some manufacturers to demand similar concessions.

Facing cheap foreign steel, the American industry lobbied Washington for greater protection because it feared more bankruptcies and more layoffs. Why does the US government continue to protect inefficient and failing industries in our own country? In the steel industry, tariffs seem purely political; they make little economic sense. Protection will not create efficiency. Instead, high tariffs only allow steel companies to hide from direct competition. Higher US steel prices, after all, hurt American consumers.

Even worse, the steel tariffs may have started a deadly round of tariff wars between key trading partners and these retaliatory measures are already hurting American industries. Bush may change his tune as soon as the White House takes the time to consider the full ramifications of US protectionism. The country cannot afford high tariffs on its own exports. As the economy is beginning to rebound, Bush has little choice but to make sure that the economic recovery continues. To do that, Bush will have to make sure to sacrifice the protection of American steel companies. The decision to enforce steel tariffs was purely political, but now it is in Bush's political best interest to repeal the tariffs. Bush would rather have a surging economy when he comes up for reelection than an economy floundering due to an international boycott of US exports. ■



Trade relations are heating up.

**Cape Cod residents' objections to wind farms are unfounded.**

## Obstructed View

by Talia Alexander

The *Cape Cod Times* is in an uproar. The opinion polls are flying. Even Walter Cronkite doesn't know what to think. And it's all about progress. The controversy began in 2001 when Cape Wind Associates proposed construction of the first offshore wind farm in the United States. The intended site is Nantucket Sound's Horseshoe shoal between the south coast of Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket Island. The farm would cover 24 square miles and consist of 130 wind turbines each about the height of the Statue of Liberty.

Some of the residents of Cape Cod and the islands are understandably upset. They argue that the turbines will be an eyesore, will lower the value of their property, and send tourists—the mainstay of the local industry—packing. They worry that the turbines will interfere with the birds, the fish, and local transportation.

On the other hand, proponents say that the wind farm will provide up to 75% of the energy needs of the entire Cape without a single pollutant emitted. Wind energy would also lower the price of power. Because the New England power grid already draws on diverse sources of power, turbine-generated electricity would merely be added to the mix when the wind blew, and of all available sources of energy, its electricity is the cheapest.

The most legitimate beef raised by residents over their cheaper electricity is the resulting marred ocean view. The turbines will be 417 feet tall, and, although they will be three miles from the closest land, will be quite visible. Cape Wind has offered to paint the turbines to be less visible, but no amount of paint will disguise such a large structure. Shorter turbines might appear to

be a solution, but any turbine large enough to produce a useful amount of power would be visible from shore.

There has been no definitive economic analysis of the potential change in property values due to offshore wind farms. A study by the Renewable Energy Policy Project demonstrated, however, that the value of properties in the US within sight of land wind farms actually rose faster than comparable property values that were not near wind farms. There is no reason to suppose that offshore wind farms should be different.

Even the tourists will stay, despite the fears of local residents, as a survey conducted by Suffolk University's Beacon Hill Institute showed. According to the poll, only 6% of tourists would change the amount of time they spend at the Cape due to a wind farm. A small percentage said they would stay for fewer days or not at all, but those who said they would spend more time on the Cape evenly balances the loss.

Although wind is supposed to be an environmentally friendly energy source, the environmentalists are scared. What about the migratory birds? At the oldest offshore wind farm in Denmark dating to 1991, migratory birds left during construction and have since returned. The proportion of birds killed by the blades of the turbines is on the order of those sucked into jet airplane intakes. That is, their effect is negligible.

The threat to marine wildlife is a bit more complex and studies are still in progress. The turbines would change a sandy bottom to a more reef-like environment. This could provide safe havens for a diversity of species, but it could also make the area unpalatable for some current aquatic residents. In the worst case, the fishing industry would have to change the species it fishes for in one small area of Nantucket Sound.

**A slight visual aberration is a small price to pay for cleaner air and higher property values.**

erty values due to offshore wind farms. A study by the Renewable Energy Policy Project demonstrated, however, that the value of properties in the US within sight of land wind farms

Another concern is the effect of the turbine towers on transportation. The Federal Aviation Administration and the Coast Guard are unconcerned about the wind farm's threat to airplanes and boats. The turbines will have lights to warn low-flying pilots, though they in fact would need to be another 300 feet taller before they would interfere with FAA airspace. The Coast Guard not only foresees no increased difficulty in navigating a region where deep-draft boats cannot travel anyway, but actually hopes the turbine towers will help in locating stranded boaters.

Although the Cape Cod residents would apparently reap no major disadvantages from the proposed wind farm, they would gain a lot in cleaner energy. The wind farm would plug into ISO New England's general power grid. Right now, electricity on the grid comes from a mix of oil, coal, and natural gas. Natural gas, the cleanest of the three, emits 766 lbs/MWatts/hour of carbon dioxide. The entirety of Cape Cod requires 230 MWatts/hour of electricity, meaning that, as energy requirements stand now, Cape Cod is responsible for a minimum of 18,380 lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> daily. If the wind farm generated 75% of that power, Cape Cod could prevent a minimum of 13,800lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> from ever reaching the atmosphere.

The opposition to the offshore wind farm lacks solid ground to stand upon. The environmental effects on wildlife are negligible. The safety effects are negligible. The economic and environmental repercussions will be positive. Indeed, the only slightly supportable objection is the marred view of the ocean. A slight visual aberration is a small price to pay for cleaner air and higher property values. Cape Cod residents should step aside and allow Cape Wind to help them. ■



**Ted Kennedy's nightmare.**

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

## You Can't Say That!

### The Growing Threat to Civil Liberties from Antidiscrimination Laws

by David E. Bernstein  
*Cato Institute, ISBN 1-930865-53-8*  
 \$20.00, hardcover

**S**OURCE staffers over the last 20 years would be hard pressed to find a theme more at the core of the magazine's identity than the First Amendment. Over the years, our publication has rightly or wrongly offended a number of people with whom we share this campus. Regardless of our moral indiscretions, constitutional protection of free speech legally trumps our readers' rights not to be offended by our content. David Bernstein couldn't agree more.

In *You Can't Say That!*, Bernstein, a law professor at George Mason University, offers a compelling look at how growing support for antidiscrimination laws has threatened American civil liberties. These statutes have gained momentum, Bernstein opines, at tremendous cost to campus intellectual dialogue, free expression in the workplace, artistic liberty, and the right to privacy.

To highlight the antidiscrimination threat to artistic freedom, for example, Bernstein quotes attorney Tom Reed, who battled a bogus hostile environment lawsuit filed by an assistant school superintendent in Tennessee. Laurie Crowder freaked out when she saw an impressionistic painting of a nude woman hanging in city hall and decried all images of partial nudity to be pornographic. "You really can't be too cautious," said Reed, who added that sexual harassment judgments often carry a penalty with seven figures. Caution, however, almost inevitably favors the champions of sexual harassment law. In deference to the mantra of political correctness, Title VII trumps First Amendment rights with alarming frequency.

Likely because he is a professor of law, the majority of Bernstein's criticisms lie square-

ly in the legal camp. Equally important non-legal arguments, however, make their way into the text and Bernstein was well served

to incorporate them while maintaining legal focus. When a University of South Florida teaching assistant showed his class a photograph of a black man and a white woman in a sexual embrace to provoke a discussion about reactions to interracial sex, the father of a freshman girl hit

the school with a sexual harassment lawsuit. Though the professor also warned students that the images were potentially offensive and added that students could skip the lecture without penalty, the University eventually settled for \$25,000.

Bernstein adds that the widening domain of anti-discrimination statutes also

threatens Americans' basic rights to privacy, or what he compellingly calls "the right to be left alone." Ann Hacklander-Ready, a Wisconsin homeowner, agreed to rent one of her four bedrooms to Carol Sprague, whom she knew to be a lesbian. After discussion with her other female tenant, Hacklander-Ready decided she was not comfortable sharing her living space with a lesbian, and returned Sprague's deposit. Though

the court ruled that Hacklander-Ready forfeited her freedom of intimate association when she "rented housing for profit," Bernstein questions how living with housemates to make ends meet constitutes renting "for profit," and suggests that Hacklander-Ready should have been allowed to pick

her housemates based on her own criteria. In 1997, a Massachusetts court ruled that Healthworks Fitness Center, a women's club, could not exclude men. After forty thousand female members in the state complained to legislators, single-sex health clubs were exempted from the state's public accommodations law.

Frivolous lawsuits cripple our ability to confront and evaluate racy material. *New York Times* writer John Leland was aware of the threat posed by revisions and deletions to create a so-called "offenseless society." "These days, with the click of a mouse, the control of intellectual property...passes from creator to user," Leland noted in 2002, "to reshape according to whim or worry." If we so desired, controversial topics and events could be forever stricken from the record. Each group could tailor American history to meet its comfort level. Few true scholars, however, would argue that suppression rather than engagement is the best method for resolving societal prejudices.

Though left-leaning legislators and administrators are the primary targets of Bernstein's tome, the author identifies instances of conservative abuse when they occur. Bernstein attributes the transformation of the discrimination debate to a morality war partially to the first President Bush. When he voted against the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the then-Texas congressman called discrimination "a fundamental evil that tears at the fabric of our society." Other social conservatives have weakly invoked sexual harassment law in order to promote censorship.

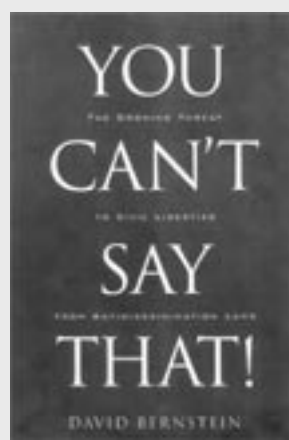
For example, a number of conservative Christian groups have argued that convenience stores should be prohibited from selling pornographic magazines because the presence of the publications creates a hostile environment for Christian and female employees.

Well researched and written and skillfully argued, *You Can't Say That!* is compelling because of its frank directness. Bernstein's text reads as scholarly and concerned,

never bitter. By his twelfth chapter, Bernstein convinces thoughtful readers that a society willing to undermine civil liberties in pursuit of the offenseless society will emerge with neither equality nor liberty to show for its trouble.

—Tara Heumann

**Bernstein convinces thoughtful readers that a society willing to undermine civil liberties in pursuit of the offenseless society will emerge with neither equality nor liberty to show for its trouble.**



A lost TCU senate finds GPS.

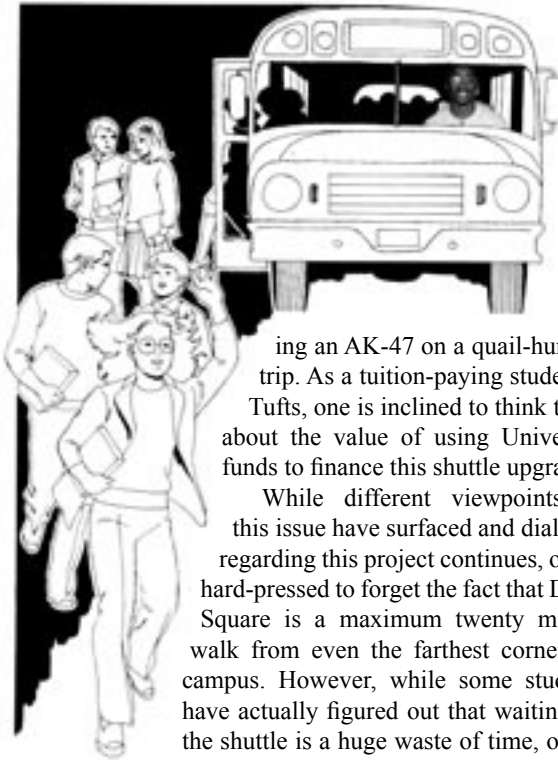
## Bus Boys

by Alex Allen

The TCU senate is a bastion of legislative activity geared toward improving student life and the University in general. Many senators are currently involved in creating, advocating, and researching projects that aim to better the Tufts experience. While such pressing issues as that of a Kosher meal plan and a varsity weight room are at stake, one can feel that the senate is making the most of its budget and its opportunity to enhance the Tufts community and its resources.

Or so one would hope. The latest and greatest in senate tomfoolery includes the push to equip the campus shuttle with global positioning systems (GPS). While this sounds like fun and makes for good eye candy for campus tours, one can hardly see it as an effective and worthwhile project for senate president Chike Aguh and treasurer Josh Belkin to pursue.

Technology is fun, but it can carry a hefty price tag. Running an effective GPS would necessitate the purchase and installation of GPS units on the shuttle, at a price of \$2,500. It would also most likely require several \$3,000 screens to display the shuttle's position. Granted, the weather can get pretty nasty on Walnut Hill and sometimes the shuttle seems to take an eternity to arrive, but knowing whether the Joey is by PJ Ryan's or Johnny D's doesn't make impatient Jumbos any warmer or make the shuttle come any faster. Pursuing the GPS project seems rather like tak-



ing an AK-47 on a quail-hunting trip. As a tuition-paying student at Tufts, one is inclined to think twice about the value of using University funds to finance this shuttle upgrade.

While different viewpoints on this issue have surfaced and dialogue regarding this project continues, one is hard-pressed to forget the fact that Davis Square is a maximum twenty minute walk from even the farthest corners of campus. However, while some students have actually figured out that waiting for the shuttle is a huge waste of time, others seem to view it as the only way to get to Davis Square. Since the only advantage to using GPS on the shuttle is to inform students of the shuttle's location at any given time, this project completely lacks merit. The shuttle *does* currently have a schedule and adheres to it with a reasonable degree of accuracy. It departs at least every half hour, with increasing frequency for times of high-traffic. If students can basically tell where the shuttle is by looking at the schedule, the advantages of GPS seem to be miniscule, especially considering the cost.

Perhaps what is most irksome about this project is the fact that it attempts to address a problem apparently without really understanding its origin. Bus-ing companies rarely rely on tracking

systems when simple schedules suffice. One wonders why the senate would favor using University funds to put GPS in the shuttle when those funds could also be used to increase the number of trips that the shuttle makes. If the shuttle spent more time on the road and less time parked at the campus center, students wouldn't have to wait nearly as long. Furthermore, an additional shuttle running during peak times would drastically alleviate the problem of overly-packed busloads. It seems that the best way to improve the shuttle situation is to increase the number of shuttle trips per hour, yet, for some reason, the idea of GPS is more attractive to the senate.

The issues concerning the shuttle require a more thought-out response than the senate has suggested. That the senate has considered allocating such a large amount of money to such an endeavor is alarming and indicative of a need for more effective problem-solving tactics and an emphasis on senate projects of greater benefit to the general student population. The idea of going through with the GPS project truly makes one wonder about the senate's priorities in improving this University.

Although one may be surprised by the fervor accompanying arguments against the GPS, this ineffective project is just the tip of the iceberg. Of more importance is the fact that this project is indicative of inefficient practices by the senate. As interested as many of us are in making sure the bookstore carries more "cultural" magazines, it seems that pushing such initiatives through legislative red tape is thoroughly counterproductive.

This, paired with the senate's evident desire to upgrade the "feel good" factor at Tufts even if it governs a less effective solution is what detracts most from the TCU senate's credit. The existence of eye-catching GPS

**The idea of going through with the GPS project truly makes one wonder about the senate's priorities in improving this University.**

screens in the campus center is good for business. It is just another minor amenity that impresses prospective students and their parents during campus tours. It seems that the senate didn't really think the shuttle issue over. Although it is not of great surprise, the senate was probably most attracted to this option because it seemed like a great way to give Tufts some sexy new technology. Unfortunately, this technology is the epitome of overkill. ■

Mr. Allen is a junior majoring in Political Science.

In an effort to increase student outreach, the TCU senate has implemented an online project tracking system. The ill-conceived projects can now be followed from inception to inevitable failure. The site is a hit, but is missing several important projects, now brought to you by THE PRIMARY SOURCE.

# TCUSenate

## Progress Tracker



### Campus Caddie

Replace the regular Joey with a stretch Cadillac Escalade. Or a helicopter.

**Progress: 35/1283**

### Hill Chairlift

Implement a chair lift uphill. Potentially add ski slopes for rapid downhill access. Free ski rental facilities in Ballou.

**Progress: 18.329%**



### TUFTS UNIVERSITY

2006 - Liberal Arts - 283238237



### New ID Cards

Combine credit cards, membership cards, and your Tufts ID card into one easily remembered, convenient card. Also serves as FOB key.

**Progress: \* \* \* \* \***

### Operation: "TUFFS!"

Since "Tufts" cannot be properly pronounced by those suffering from speech impediments, in order to prevent the oppression of our verbally-impaired students, the University's name will be officially be changed to "Tuffs."

# TUFFS

**Progress: TIRTY PERCENT**

## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

For as long as I've been a Tufts student, Espresso's has been the most popular restaurant on the points system, mainly by default. Look at their competition over the last few years. Panda Palace? The food there is what they actually serve to pandas. Wing Works? No it doesn't. Near East? Near Poison. Kee Kar Lau? Dog Cat Bird.

—Andy Zatz, LA '04

There are actually still these psychotic professors in the Fletcher School who believe Communism is evil.

—Teaching Assistant for PS 51

Alethea Pieters (J '02): Who would you like to party with of this group?

Joe Lieberman: I hope my wife understands this. I'd like to party with the young lady who asked that question.

Al Sharpton: I hope mine understands it. Probably the best person I've met to campaign, to party with—Mrs. Kerry. I'm sorry.

John Kerry: I was going to choose Carol Moseley Braun, but now I'm going to have to choose you so I can keep an eye on my wife.

—MTV's "Rock the Vote"

If colleges wanted to admit only legacies, or only tuba players, or only people who got astonishingly low SAT scores—to ensure some of their graduates would be U.S. Senators one day—the Constitution wouldn't stop them. What the states, including state colleges, cannot do under the Constitution is discriminate on the basis of race.

—Ann Coulter

You declare, my friend, that you do not hate the Jews, you are merely "anti-Zionist." And I say, let the truth ring forth from the high mountain tops, let it echo through the valleys of God's green earth; when people criticize Zionism, they mean Jews—this is God's own truth.

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I have stood in the crosshairs of those who target Second Amendment freedoms, I've realized that firearms are not the only issue. No, it's much, much bigger than that. I've come to understand that a cultural war is raging across our land, in which, with Orwellian fervor, certain acceptable thoughts and speech are mandated.

—Charlton Heston

President Bush signed a law that provides \$87 billion dollars to provide food, medicine, and housing for Iraq. And Syria said "yoo hoo, oil here, oil over here."

—Craig Kilborn

There are two sides to every issue: one side is right and the other is wrong, but the middle is always evil.

—Ayn Rand

Taxes are paid in the sweat of every man who labors because they are a burden on production and are paid through production. If those taxes are excessive, they are reflected in idle factories, in tax-sold farms, and in hordes of hungry people, tramping the streets and seeking jobs in vain.

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Power matters. But there can be no absence of moral content in American foreign policy, and furthermore, the American people wouldn't accept such an absence. Europeans giggle at this and say we're naive and so on, but we're not Europeans, we're Americans—and we have different principles

—Condoleezza Rice

Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be.

—John Wayne

One should never allow chaos to develop in order to avoid going to war, because one does not avoid a war but instead puts it off to his disadvantage.

—Niccolo Machiavelli

It's just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I just beat people up.

—Muhammad Ali

I am in favor of cutting taxes under any circumstances and for any excuse, for any reason, whenever it's possible.

—Milton Friedman

You can't get good Chinese takeout in China and Cuban cigars are rationed in Cuba. That's all you need to know about communism.

—P.J. O'Rourke

The truth about Hamas and Islamic Jihad is that they don't prevent Israel from existing or even flourishing; they prevent Palestine from coming into existence.

—Michael Medved

If the "rich" were swarming into poor neighborhoods and beating the poor until they coughed up the dimes they swallowed for safekeeping, yes, this would be a transfer of income from the poor to the rich. But allowing taxpayers to keep more of their money does not qualify as taking it from the poor—unless you believe that the poor have a moral claim to the money other people earn.

—James Lileks

[The big three networks] don't like the fact that there's a Rush Limbaugh out there, they don't like the fact that there's a FOX News, they don't like the fact that there's a Matt Drudge. They liked it when it was nice, when it was just the three of them. Well, it ain't that way anymore.

—Bernard Goldberg

An economy hampered by restrictive tax rates will never produce enough revenues to balance our budget—just as it will never produce enough jobs or profits.

—John F. Kennedy

Better to fight for something than live for nothing.

—George S. Patton

I think war is based in greed and there are huge karmic retributions that will follow. I think war is never the answer to solving any problems. The best way to solve problems is not to have enemies.

—Sheryl Crow

You have enemies? Good. That means you've stood up for something, sometime in your life.

—Winston Churchill

Like maple syrup, Canada's evil oozes over the United States.

—Canadian Bacon

America's strength is the bedrock of the free world's security, for the freedom we guard is not just our own.

—Ronald Reagan