

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*SM

Volume XV Number 3

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September 26, 1996

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vol. XV no. 3

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FROM THE EDITOR

As a proponent of J.S. Mill's marketplace of ideas, THE PRIMARY SOURCE welcomes debate. But discourse should be professional and informed; *The Tufts Daily*, in its September 17th rebuttal of my "Gay Tidings" article, failed to meet these standards.

Viewpoints Editor Amy Zimmet and Editor-in-Chief John O'Keefe's headline for Alex Shalom's literary tirade, "'SOURCE' article on gays out-of-line," is based on a false premise. "Gay Tidings" was not about gays *per se*, but about how the administration grants homosexuals "perks." According to its policy on letters to the editor, the *Daily* does not accept correspondence "regarding the coverage of other publications, unless their coverage itself has become a newsworthy issue that has appeared in the *Daily*." Apparently this rule does not apply to Viewpoints, but the principle nevertheless should. That a response to a SOURCE piece is called a "viewpoint" instead of a "letter" does not change the fact that it appears in the wrong forum.

An objective perusal of "Gay Tidings" by O'Keefe and his underlings would have made evident Shalom's hobby of building strawmen and then knocking them down, thereby preventing publication of his unqualified diatribe. Shalom's first complaint about "Gay Tidings" is that I missed the connection that Tufts does not extend health benefits to heterosexual unmarried partners but to homosexual ones because Massachusetts does not recognize same-sex unions. I am aware of the Bay State's law, but by extending such benefits Tufts affords equal legitimacy to a gay relationship as it does to a heterosexual marriage, thereby endorsing homosexuality.

The self-righteous agitator next finds fault with my objection to Residential Life's mandated gay-sensitivity training for RAs. While RAs should be prepared to deal with "situations they may encounter," Res Life and the LGB Resource Center's proposed scenarios are highly unlikely. The situation I cited, a case of a transgender individual, is not exactly a common consideration. Furthermore, as Shalom proclaims, even though an RA with moral qualms

about gender-shifting might have to deal with a transsexual, he is still entitled to his moral opinion, as are "Chris's" floormates to pass judgment. As I stated later in the piece but Shalom neglects to address, the law protects all individuals, regardless of sexual preference, from physical assault. Providing safety does not require the University to enforce its progressive morality on the student body.

Operating under the false assumption that I support the Orientation diversity panel save the gay speaker, Shalom contends that I do not classify the discrimination faced by gays as a "real-life" experience. He is twice wrong. I have never endorsed the multiculturalist exercise; moreover, the bigotry sometimes faced by racial minorities for a superficial trait and the moral disapproval some place on gays for their unorthodox behavior are hardly the same thing.

Similarly, Shalom claims I condemn the course *Bulletin* for favoring gays. He carelessly assumes the samples of academically bankrupt courses I presented are anomalous, and asserts that I think the two courses out of the "thousands offered" at Tufts constitute misrepresentation. While I differ with his math, my point was not the ratio but instead these classes' lack of scholarly value.

Alex Shalom brands my piece "repulsive." He also accuses it of spewing "faulty arguments, half-truths, and outrageously offensive statements" and alleges that I have given "little thought... to the lives of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals," though this billing seems to fit his piece better than it does mine. If Shalom was offended by my article, the appropriate recourse would have been to address THE SOURCE with a letter to the editor. If Zimmet and O'Keefe were more committed to journalistic integrity than to filling space, they would have advised him to do just that. But if that were the case they would have certified the veracity of the author's spurious claims. It seems that these Tufonians suffer from selective reading and journalistic nihilism, perceiving only what they wish. —JS

THE PRIMARY SOURCE

THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHT
AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

Although I am not a Republican and certainly not a conservative, I do enjoy your journal, *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*, a great deal. It's full of humor and good writing, and sometimes even some things I agree with. Just one thing, though. Often, I'm bothered by the fact that you descend from true journalism into outright mudslinging, and, most damning to my eyes, humor at the expense of others. In other words, sometimes you're just plain MEAN, especially in your "Fortnight in Review." Why is that? Why can't you just settle for straight political commentary? Why do you feel you have to put other people down for unfair reasons? It causes a lot of unnecessary hurt (i.e. Gina Grant last fall).

EXAMPLES FROM THE CURRENT ISSUE:

Example 1: "Mohawk Indian leaders took over a New York elementary school just a day before classes began. They will be teaching card counting and odds fixing." This is terribly vitriolic and insulting. You better hope there aren't any Mohawk Indians on campus. If I were one, I'd be burning up over this racial jibe. This is like a medieval Christian calling all the Jews "dirty, evil moneylenders all." See my point?

Example 2: "Wal-Mart refuses to stock the September issue of *Cosmo* because its cover is just too racy. In a related story, K-Mart spokesman Rosie O'Donnell asked her store not to display the same issue because it blocked the M&Ms." Oh, a fat joke, terrific. Really outstanding journalism. Fat people have the misfortune to have their weakness for food displayed prominently in their body shape. There are many less worthy people with other weaknesses that don't show up physically, such as bad character. I might be much more inclined to like your paper, even more inclined to your ideas, if you didn't stoop to certain levels every so often. Thank you for your time.

Zach Blocker, [Class unavailable]

To the Editor:

I found Jessica Schupak's argument in "Gay Tidings" (August 28) to lack the simple understanding of what it does not mean to be gay. She states that "If Tufts University is going to offer special housing accommodations based purely on what a group does in bed, it is only a matter of time before an orgy house and others like it are scattered around campus." To think that housing people of the same sexual preference would produce an orgy house, also suggests that coed heterosexual housing would yield an orgy house. As much as I have seen in my first weeks here, I could not attest to noticing orgy houses scattered around campus. Here at Tufts there is the Capen House for African-Americans, the Bartol House for people interested in Arts, Bayit for students interested in Jewish culture, the Substance Free House for those wanting a drug-free residence, on top of many fraternities and sororities. There are houses based on culture, creativity, religion, drugs, and athletics. Each of these different residences provide a place for its members, brothers, and sisters to enjoy sharing common experiences. Yes, gays and lesbians do have sexual relationships with members of their own sex, but the author has seemed to forget that this is not all they do. Instead I would like to believe that gay and lesbian housing, like other special group housing, would produce security, strength, pride, and confidence among its residents.

Scott Hirsch, LA '00

To the Editor:

If *THE PRIMARY SOURCE* (September 12) has it right, Aldous Huxley was plagiarizing Shakespeare. It is Miranda in *The Tempest* who speaks of a brave new world.

Steven S. Manos, Exec. V.P., Tufts University

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Manos is correct. The quotation, "What godly creatures are there here! How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world, that has such people in it!" originally comes from Act V, Scene i of *The Tempest*. —JS

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The Primary Source



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Counter-Reformation

Tufts has finally taken steps to resurrect the Religion Department by searching for two new tenured faculty members. In the University's eyes, the discipline previously merited just one full-time professor, Howard Hunter, and three lecturers—fewer members than any other department. Unfortunately, this second coming was not without a hefty price. Hunter announced that the department will now be entitled, "Comparative Religions" because the revised curriculum will focus on the study of world spirituality.

But even before this nominal change, Tufts did not offer significant instruction on theological concepts, choosing to focus on nebulous topics of diversity and spirituality. If Tufts were truly interested in improving academic quality, the Department of Religion would keep its title, and instead change its educationally dishonest approach to the discipline. Introductory surveys and new age upper-level courses such as "Spiritual Development," "Religion in International Relations," and "Women and Medieval Literature," add little to the intellectual enrichment inherent in the study of divinity and faith.

Rabbi Jeffrey Summit observed, "You cannot understand politics or economics without understanding religion." Western Civilization, in which the tenets of liberty and democracy have flourished, hinges on the values system founded in Judaism and developed in Christianity. Tufts's hollow gesture to these traditions, as well as those of Asia and the Arab world, severely lacks theological foundations or scholarly integrity. Students curious about the roots of moral absolutes must inquire at schools such as Boston College and Brandeis University; Tufts's narrow-minded zealots prefer to preach cultural relativism.

The Commission on Presidential Debates misses no chance to demonstrate its elitism. It excluded Ross Perot, Libertarian Harry Browne, and Green Party candidate Ralph Nader on the grounds that none had a "realistic" chance of winning the election. That decision denies the reality that national exposure breeds electoral potential, as evidenced by Perot's tripled popular support after his 1992 debate appearance. Perhaps the Commission hesitates to inconvenience the American people with new ideas and faces. Or perhaps they have another agenda.

When it comes to ideology, the Commission members, who are all former major-party apparatchiks, might not have much in common. But they share an institutional interest in the two-party gridlock that fuels Washington antics today. Their decision to exclude all third-party candidates betrays what should constitute their true loyalty—the American people. Instead the bureaucratic bunch allies itself with the two major parties who purport to represent all voters.

The Commission's decision binds none of the candidates in any technical sense. The contenders themselves set the terms, as indicated by Dole's decision not to participate if Perot entered the debate. Accordingly, the Commission's purpose is unclear. It most likely serves as a facade of respectability and objectivity for the otherwise blatant bias that festers in our two-party system. Politicians whose every thought is strategic might appreciate their efforts, but conscientious Americans in the habit of thinking for themselves should not.

Hazardous, Legal, and Common

When Bill Clinton vetoed the partial-birth abortion ban last spring, he argued that the procedure is necessary to protect the

"health" of expecting mothers in the third trimester of a complicated pregnancy. Ignoring the realities of the legislation, he warned that women could die without partial-birth abortions even though the bill includes an exception for such cases. He ignored the legal implications of his claim, namely that under current Supreme Court interpretation, "health" includes mental well-being and self-esteem—adding this exception would render the ban useless. But most tellingly, he ignored the moral implications:



health concerns do not justify infanticide when the child is outside the womb—that in a partial-birth abortion his head remains inside hardly seems to make the act less brutal.

Lest anyone doubt Clinton's insincerity when he speaks loftily about protecting women's health, witness his Food and Drug Administration's rush to bring the French abortion pill RU-486 to domestic markets. Last week, the FDA deemed RU-486 "safe and effective," even though there are already clear signs that it is dangerous—and not just to the baby it starves to death and then ejects from the womb. Women who take the pills frequently complain of intense pain, nausea, and prolonged bleeding for up to 44 days. Two percent hemorrhage and require surgical intervention to prevent them from bleeding to death. In the French RU-486 trials at least one woman died, and others suffered heart attacks. And evidence suggests that RU-486 could cause future miscarriages, birth defects, and possibly breast cancer.

It is perverse that given this record, the Clinton administration would be so eager to convince Americans of RU-486's safety. But as the President's veto of the partial-birth ban demonstrated, the Clinton White House is firmly committed to the preservation of America's abortion culture. Sadly, the Senate seems to lack the votes to finish what the House started and override the veto. And as long as Clinton appointees control the FDA, that agency can be expected to toe the pro-abortion line. At least Bill Clinton is honest when he promises to keep abortion legal—would he only stay true to his word on "safe" and "rare."

Racial Justice

Massachusetts Supreme Court Justice Paul Liacos's recent retirement presented Governor William Weld with a prime opportunity to appoint a more conservative, well qualified successor. Instead, Weld bowed to pressure from *The Boston Globe* and other liberal media and based his selection on cosmetic factors of gender and race, nominating Boston attorney Margaret Marshall. But the Governor could not have predicted the backlash that resulted from his decision to practice preferential politics.

Black activist groups Urban League, Black Ministerial Alliance, and Nation of Islam immediately rose up in arms over the decision, citing the Commonwealth's historical failure to appoint a black Supreme Court Justice. That Marshall, a white female, will be only the second woman to take a seat on the Court did little to quiet the protesters, thereby revealing their agenda's inherent racism. They were determined to force the nomination of either Frederick Brown or Roderick Ireland—both black judges—for the sake of being "the first." In a truly color-blind society, racial justice involves looking beyond surface qualities such as skin-color and gender, and focusing instead on the true measure of one's worth—individual achievement.

If the radicals carefully studied the choices, even they would have nominated Margaret Marshall. The Judicial Nominating Council did

not even approve Brown, and while Ireland was at least a viable choice, Marshall is simply more qualified. Despite her ideological shortcomings, the attorney's colleagues extol the competence and fair-mindedness of the Yale Law graduate and former President of the Boston Bar Association. A native of South Africa, she sought refuge in the US after the separatist government threatened to stifle her outspoken campaign against apartheid. But Boston's hypocritical activists chose to overlook her life-long struggle for racial justice because she is the "wrong" color.

Some referred to her nomination as "a perverted joke." But even Boston NAACP President Leonard Atkins, when not leading a chorus of "We Shall Overcome" on the State House steps, admitted that Marshall has been "drawn into this unfairly." Black activists, probably taking a lesson from affirmative action enthusiast Governor Weld, played the race card shamelessly. Achieving "the first" on the SJC may bolster their self-esteem and foster an artificial sense of "Black Power," but it does nothing to improve the Commonwealth—not to mention true justice.

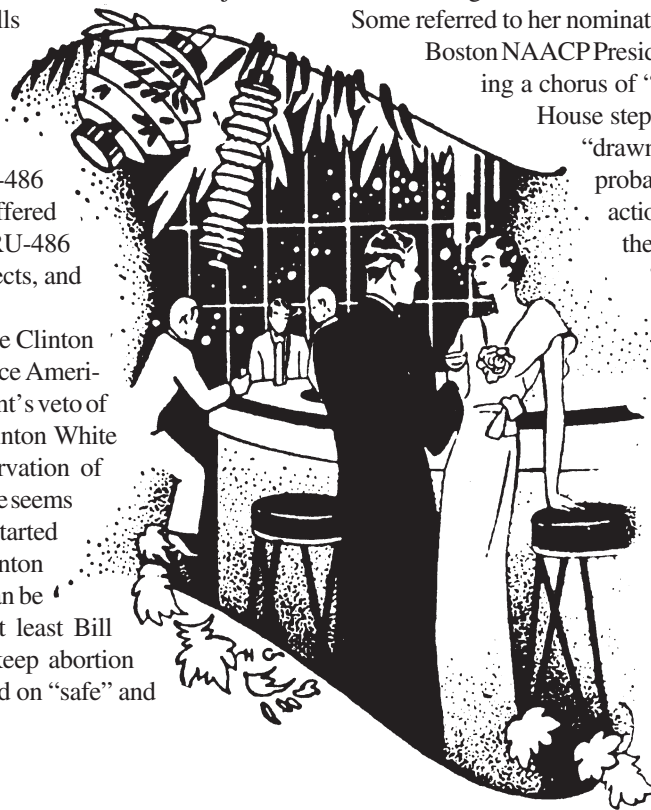
Dining Out?

After much anticipation, Jumbos can look forward to the introduction of a new off-campus points program which Tufts Dining Services will launch on November 1st. Four as-yet-unnamed local eateries will accept points in lieu of cash under the Merchants on Points program (MOPS).

Although Jumbos have awaited this program for years, students at neighboring Boston College and Boston University already enjoy a similar service. Dining Services Director Patti Lee blames the inexcusable delay on insufficient technology, but the truth remains that TUDS merely wished to stave off healthy competition for as long as possible.

The MOPS plan was purposefully and admittedly designed not to compete with the TUDS monopoly. Accepting points off-campus provides little consolation to freshmen and sophomores who were already required to spend exorbitant amounts of money on meal plans. If MOPS really catered to students' interests, it would permit them to use meals from their dining plans. There is no substantive difference between spending ten dollars in cash and spending ten dollars in points.

As if the program was not inconvenient enough, students will be limited to using it only on weekends and weekday evenings. Moreover, vendors can only accept points for deliveries and not for actual off-campus dining. While Tufts should be commended for finally responding to student demand, its decision to attach needless conditions is just more of the same fare that made Dining "Services" so universally distasteful in the first place.



Fortnight in ReviewSM

Comedy is allied to Justice.
—Aristophanes

PS At last week's press conference with Bags, the mainstream campus media grilled the Prez with some tough probative questions such as: "How did you spend your summer?" and "Do you care to comment on the fact that Michigan State's football team has been put on probation?" Apparently the *Daily* and *The Observer* thought if they didn't ask questions about Tufts they might get a real answer.

PS In the middle of the campus fourth estate's pow-wow with the King of the Hill, the Bubs stormed in to deliver him a birthday surprise. When they asked, "How old are you now?" the President responded, "The University hasn't taken a position on that issue."

PS From *The Spectrum*, the newsletter of the Asian Community at Tufts: "Go share [*The Spectrum*] with the person next to you. Don't mind the initial eye roll or huff. Just hold out the issue in front of you and watch his/her frown brighten into a beaming smile. No one will look the other way with *The Spectrum* in your hand. Try doing this to your professor and see what happens to your GPA." Your lucky numbers are: 3.76, 3.79, 3.81, 3.88, 3.96, 4.0.

PS MTV showed up on the Rutgers College campus handing out Rock the Vote pins and Clinton/Gore paraphernalia, but Dole/Kemp trinkets were conspicuously absent. Our roving reporters spotted Tabitha Soren chucking them into the Raritan River.

PS They are up to the usual in Arkansas. Researchers at the state university have secured \$190,000 in federal grants to make a CD-ROM game out of state history. Was it Vince Foster in Potomac Park with a pistol?

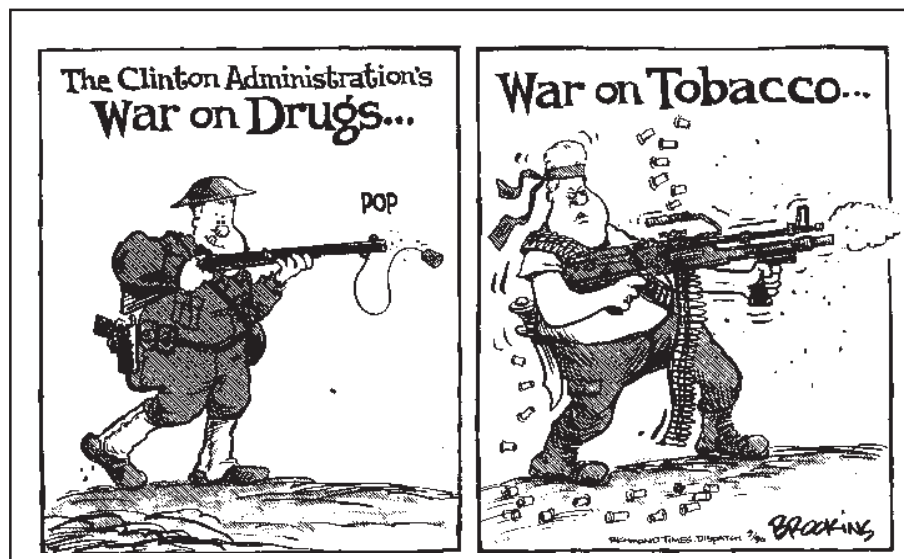
PS Or Hillary with cattle futures in the wetlands?

PS In Cheyenne, Wyoming, school officials have banned killing animals on school property. It seems Tufts's HAMS had to go all the way to Wyoming to find someone who cared.

PS Health-care dominatrix Hillary might be placed in charge of a welfare-reform task force. That's a way to bury it.

- PS** In keeping with our issue's entertainment theme, THE PRIMARY SOURCE proudly presents the Top Ten Unsolved Mysteries at Tufts:
10. Missing persons: Conservative professors
 9. Visitors from space: The no-name we'll get for this year's Commencement speaker
 8. Innocents wrongly accused: Scott Lezberg, now a fugitive from the Hill
 7. Lost treasures: \$1.4 million spent on Gifford House
 6. Paranormal phenomena: The black hole that makes all the food in Dewick disappear by 5:45
 5. Escaped felons: Former 60s radical Rob Devigne
 4. Long-lost loves: Jaime Roth and her baby calf
 3. Twins separated at birth: Bruce Reitman & V.I. Lenin
 2. Grand heists: Tufts Connect
 1. Miracles: Administration saves the Religion Department

PS Astronaut Shannon Lucid just returned from a six-month stay on Russia's Mir Space Station, where she was the only woman on board. Hopefully, the Ruskies forgot about that "to each according to his need" thing.



PS Representative Dan Burton challenged the presidential candidates to take a drug test. "Bill Clinton and Senator Robert Dole should set an example by being drug tested immediately," the Republican declared. The GOPer should not be so eager—Dole has been known to tip the geritol.

PS Boston bureaucrats are spending \$414,500 to bulldoze a South End theater after buying it years ago for a cool million. Cheaper than making it handicapped accessible.

PS Ralph Mollis of North Providence, Rhode Island, eked out his rival in the Democratic mayoral primary by 60 votes after a recount. The donkey will automatically take office because no Republicans are running. Sounds like the TCU Senate.

PS Postal clerk Patricia Gibbs won a Honus Wagner baseball card valued at \$451,000, but the IRS is stripping her of \$178,596 in addition to placing her in the top tax bracket of 39.6 percent for the rest of her income. Honus Wagner isn't the only Pirate in this game.

PS Risa Mickenberg compiled a book entitled *Taxi Driver Wisdom*, containing, of all things, quotable pearls of enlightenment from cabbies. One recurring citation is “Xobuloirotatatafak.”

PS Hurricane Fran’s flooding released a cesspool of raw sewage and waste into the Neuse River in North Carolina. Sounds like the new eco-friendly toilets in Wren Hall.

PS New OJ Simpson quote: “The story will not end until all those who did me wrong pay the price.” Guess Nicole and Ron were numbers one and two.

PS Toledo, Ohio, is raising hotel-room taxes to save the financially troubled SeaGate Convention Center. The center’s fiscal woes began when guests insisted on switching to Coke from Pepsi.

PS An Alaskan bicycle cop boasts three hundred drug arrests over the summer. The dope he stole from his busts kept him awake and peddlin’.

PS Boxing big-wig Don King spoke at Harvard Law School. He gave an illuminating lecture on reduced sentences for murderers.

PS Mario Cuomo warned Rudolph Giuliani that endorsing Bob Dole could cost Rudy his support next election. Sounds like a plan.

PS Hollywood has-been Dolph Lundgren, who slipped into obscurity after *Rocky IV*, was seen sharing a public bathroom stall with former model Ashley Richardson. When his wife found out she said, “If he dies, he dies.”

PS The White House scrapped the Bush Administration’s goal of landing an astronaut on Mars by 2019, planning to replace the space cadet with a robot. Clinton pulled the same stunt with Al Gore but no one seemed to notice.

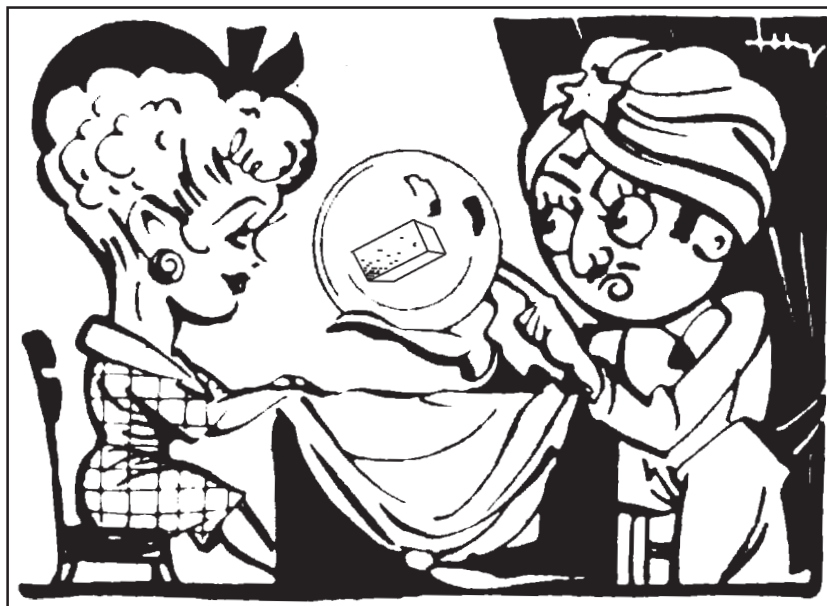
PS New York Police Commissioner Howard Safir on why the US Border Patrol should help crack down on alien druglords: “They are expert at what they do, good police officers, and they all speak Spanish.” And unlike the Commish, they’ll all have jobs next week.

PS \$350,000 worth of city payroll checks were lifted from a delivery truck in the parking lot of a Medford doughnut shop. Right from under TUPD’s sugar-coated nose.

PS The Cambridge Dance Complex is offering free 20-minute lessons in multi-culty rug-cutting. They will also be teaching Explorations.

PS Boston police arrested a limey allegedly smuggling 27 pounds of marijuana through Logan Airport in wooden elephants. After the news broke, Rob Devigne was seen outside Barnum with a hammer and chisel.

PS A Beverly Hills benefit for the Clinton campaign featured Tom Hanks, the Eagles, and, of course, Barbra Streisand. As a token of appreciation, Bill will shred their FBI files.



PS Surprisingly, Bubba signed the bill banning same-sex marriages. But he gave himself a presidential pardon.

PS Former Tennessee State Representative Bruce Hurley was arrested for shoplifting stomach medicine. Politics makes everyone sick.

PS The new TV film *Two Mothers for Zachary* casts Valerie Bertinelli as a lesbian mom. It seems Eddie didn’t finish what he started.

PS Austin, Texas, is experiencing an influx of over one million Mexican free-tailed bats. They were smuggled in under a tarp in the back of a ’59 Chevy pickup.

PS Alimony queen Ivana Trump recently helped judge the Mr. Universe pageant in Istanbul. No, that is not a fat wallet in his pocket.

PS A new study shows that subliminal messages can only influence how people think for brief periods of time and only if the message is limited jointheprimarysource to one word buyusbeer.

PS Psychic Friend Dionne Warwick got hit by a brick. How come she didn’t see *that* one coming?

A Man of Principle

Ananda Gupta

Every four years, the two-party system indulges in a dreary replay of events past as candidates vainly try to mold themselves into their predecessors' deified images. Journalists' words drip with ersatz enthusiasm, attempting to inject life into the 'race' between Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum. No wonder voter turnout droops below 50% and bored MTV audiences shrug their shoulders at 'the great choice.' How could they do otherwise when, as Meryl Streep's character in *Postcards from the Edge* puts it, "these are the choices?"

The American political system scorns third parties. But hostility to true alternatives and stodgy obeisance to the *status quo* reach a disgraceful apex in the news media. Anchors and columnists loudly trumpet statistics indicating that most Americans are disgusted with Democratic and Republican antics while simultaneously refusing to cover other available choices. Consequently, most voters probably remain unaware that another name will appear on all fifty ballots this November: Libertarian candidate Harry Browne.

Reducing Government

Both Bob Dole and Harry Browne promise to shrink the government, but a quick glance at their platforms contrasts Browne's sincerity with Dole's superficiality. Bob Dole's proposed escalation of the 'war on drugs,' with its requisite intrusions on civil liberties, necessitates a chilling expansion of federal power. Additionally, Dole promises to preserve entitlement programs, even going so far as to advocate a 50% hike in Medicare spending. Bob Dole's commitment to free-market principles only goes so far as immediate political expediency.

His promises and his record flatly contradict any rhetoric in favor of smaller government.

Conversely, Harry Browne defends capitalism as the economic system most conducive to individual freedom and opportunity. He would divest Medicare, abolish Medicaid, and privatize Social Security, using revenues from federal asset sales to finance IRA purchases for Social Security contributors below the retirement age. Unlike Dole, Browne recognizes that a balanced budget worth passing cannot be achieved until Congress curtails entitlement spending, a money pit comprising an ever-growing majority of federal spending.

Ironically, tax-cutting Republicans and left-leaning peace activists might also find some common ground in the Libertarian platform. Harry Browne completely rejects the notion that the US should use its military and economic power to force its agenda, however noble, on other nations. Trade sanctions and gunboat diplomacy have no place in the Washingtonian ideal of "open, honest relations with all nations; entangling alliances with none."

As Browne notes, "War is just another government program." While discretionary defense spending constitutes a deceptively small share of total spending, Browne advocates reducing the military to a size sufficient only to defend US borders from conventional and nuclear attacks.

Browne's downsized government would allow a capitalist dream's realization: a massive across-the-board tax cut.

The Libertarian would abolish personal and corporate income taxes on the federal level, a far greater savings to taxpayers than the pathetic 15% decrease proposed by Bob Dole. Less economic dead-weight loss and greater incentives to save and invest would pave the way for unparalleled

Most voters probably remain unaware that another name will appear on all fifty ballots this November: Libertarian candidate Harry Browne.

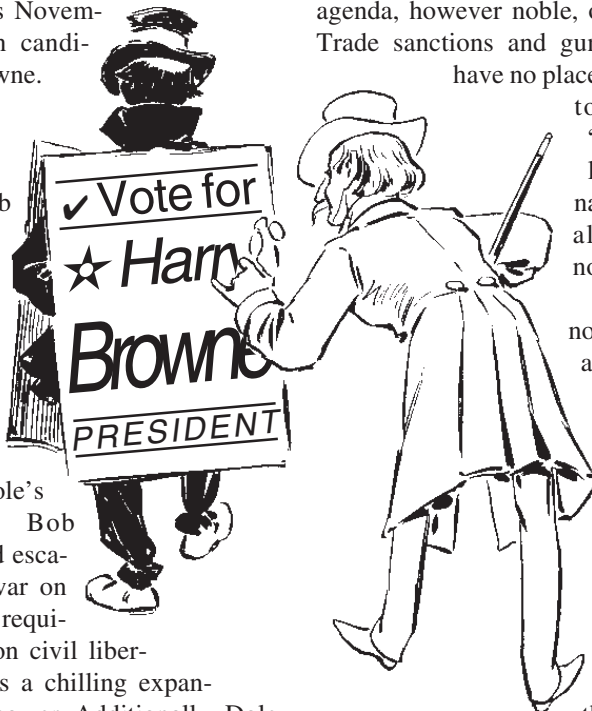
growth. More importantly, increased disposable income would open myriad educational options to families, enough to allow federal withdrawal from the education market.

States' Wrongs

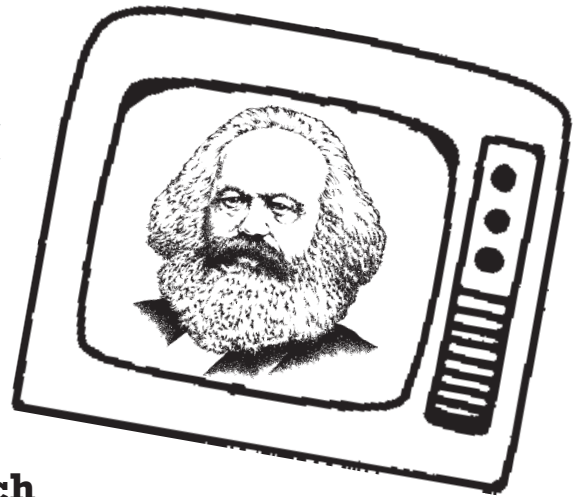
Perhaps the most often-ignored part of the Constitution is the Tenth Amendment, which reserves to the states or the people those powers not explicitly granted to the federal government. Browne wishes to shrink the federal government to its constitutional limits, curtailing abuse of the Interstate Commerce Clause. But such strict constructionism might well induce nervous feelings in realists who recognize its weaknesses. While Browne's plan advances liberty by weakening federal fiat, vigilant Americans must take care to prevent state government from taking up where the Feds left off. State-level government can be just as arbitrary and pettily tyrannical as its federal counterpart. Congress may blithely ignore the entire Tenth Amendment, but all levels of government ignore the last phrase therein: "...to the states directly, *or to the people*" (emphasis added).

For example, James Bovard chronicles the colorful and disturbing history of zoning laws and their abuse in his book *Lost Rights*. He quotes one New York zoning commission member's complaint about how people need to have good aesthetic

Please see "Browne," continued on page 18.



Boob Tube Pop Quiz



Murphy Brown was child's play. Match these programs to their gratuitous leftist stunt or motif.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. L.A. Law 2. Diff'rent Strokes 3. Roseanne 4. Saturday Night Live
 5. Dateline NBC
 6. Politically Incorrect 7. The Smurfs
 8. Cheers 9. Captain Planet & the Planeteers 10. MacGyver 11. Mission: Impossible
 12. Gilligan's Island
 13. ALF 14. Seinfeld
 15. Star Trek 16. Coach 17. Dynasty 18. You Can't Do That on Television 19. Bugs Bunny 20. Homicide: Life on the Streets
 21. C-SPAN | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Endless frivolous lawsuits b. Diversity above and beyond the call of duty c. If you thought welfare mothers were unfit parents... d. Dana Carvey's mockery of George Bush much funnier than Phil Hartman's mockery of Bill Clinton e. Unfairly perpetuates American products' reputation for being unreliable f. Ironically, the most politically correct show on television g. Communism in action. And beware of the evil white male. h. Portrayal of a competent, dedicated US Postal Worker i. Salvation through recycling j. Blatantly pro-gun control k. Runaway government spending creates efficient, successful agency l. Harmony through communal property, abolition of class hierarchy, Luddite anti-technology lifestyle m. Sympathetic to illegal aliens n. Achieved popularity through episode embracing Dr. Elders's advice o. One world government p. Condone wasteful university spending q. Demonization of wealthy industrialists r. Compliance to tyrannical FCC regulations s. Unfair portrayal of hunters as bloodthirsty t. Failure to question liberal social policies that made life on the streets this way in the first place u. <i>Really</i> non-essential government workers |
|---|--|

TV STUFF

Looks at TV

season premiere— *Boston Commune*



The comrades of *Boston Commune* realize the inherent racism in the TV shows *What's Happening*, *Fat Albert*, *The Little Rascals*, and *Matlock*. To help cheer up the mir, Bobbie strikes up the band, sings "I'd like to buy the world a Coke," and doles out some free meals.

"Really Marx the spot!"— *The Observer*

season premiere

In a very special episode calls Lisa Brandes for so Steven Hirsch and Don the Classics library in p stallment of this two part her quest to deny all ph

"Don't worry about this T

FOR THOSE FUSSY ABOUT



season premiere— *Carol Wan in the City*

Richard and Carol go out to dinner and she r

"The kind of humor you'll want to order over an

season premiere— *Admissions: Impossible*

Giving tours isn't as easy as it used to be. Tour guide Alex engages in some extracurricular activities with a pre-frosh but love doesn't get a 1600 when he finds out she applied by Common Application.

"This show will not self-destruct!"
— *The Observer*



season premiere— *The S*

What chutzpah! Christian Smith, a new reside a slip and eats a ham and cheese sand area. Next week, Chris accidentally mixes u very vaklemt but everyone winds up in a group Hora.

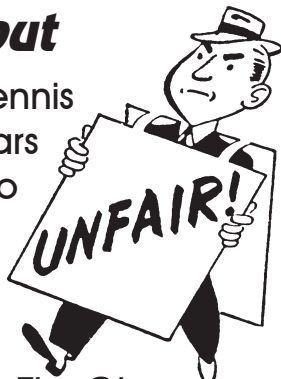
"This show is one in a minyan!!!"— *The Observer*



TV's Fall Season

— Mad About Trout

...de of Mad About Trout, Dennis ...
 ...me tips. Special guest stars ...
 ...Klein chain themselves to ...
 ...protest. In the second in- ...
 ...ter, Liz Ammons continues ...
 ...callic oppressors tenure.
 ... Trout going upstream!!!” —*The Observer*

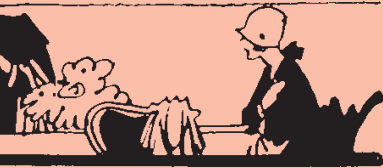


season premiere— Dorm Improvement

Some students living in Wren call B&G to fix some water damage. The Kings of Clean put them on the 90-day priority list. Next episode: Wren residents start to spawn webbed feet.



— WHO ARE OUT THEIR FOOD



...refuses to pay... again!!!
 ...nd over.” — *The Observer*

“This show needs no improvement.”
 — *The Observer*

season premiere— Suddenly Andi



TCU President Andi Friedman and her underlings decorate the Senate office with leftist propaganda and distribute NOW buttons in the Campus Center.

“You go Andi!” — *The Observer*

ingle Goy

...ent at the Bayit, makes ...
 ...wich in the common ...
 ...p the plates and gets



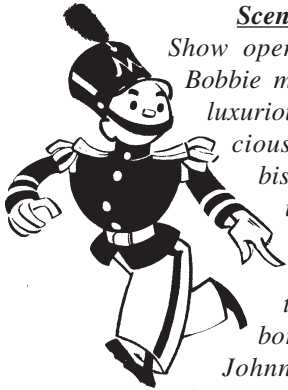
season premiere— Something So Left

TBAG Czar Kathy Polias and the gold ribbon contingent run around the Hill ripping Pepsis out of students' hands. In the end, another trendy cause hits campus and the Burma bandit and her cronies become has-beens.

“Despite its tragic ending, a story of great courage.” — *The Observer*



Episode 2—“Brucy, I’m Home!”



Scene 1

Show opens with Brucy and Bobbie mulling around their luxurious digs in the spacious and newly refurbished Ballou Building in a less than fashionable suburb of Boston. Co-habiting upstairs neighbors Mel Bernstein and Johnny Bags remain in their own apartment, for now.

Brucy: (looks longingly at Bobbie and, most especially, at the size and location of her plush office) So, Bobbie, when will you be leaving for your thing today. What was it? You said you’d be gone for hours.

Bobbie: Oh, yeah, well just as soon as Johnny gets here, we’ll be ready to go. (Pause and looks toward front door.) And here he comes now.

Johnny: Toodle-loo Bobbie, are you ready for the big event?

Brucy: Oh, what big event is that?

Bobbie: It’s a full score today. The Committee on Committees’ task force on creeping bureaucracy is meeting at noon—

Johnny: And then we’ll be moving that nasty Mr. Trout out of 3E. Did you see the size of his library, Brucy? The man just did not fit in. At any rate, can we get going?

Bobbie: Take it from the top, John. And stay out of trouble, Brucy.

Brucy: Whatever you say, Bobbie.

Bobbie and Johnny exit. Brucy then tiptoes into Bobbie’s office. He settles into her chair and kicks his feet onto her desk.

Brucy: (Picks up phone and dials.) Mel, I just got an idea. Come on down and I’ll fill you in. Okay, see you soon.

In the waiting area, Mel comes through the door and Brucy leads him into Bobbie’s office, resumes place at the desk.

Mel: What’s the big deal, Brucy? Is this another one of your hair-brained schemes?

Brucy: This one’s for real. I figured out a way to get Bobbie’s job.

Mel: Gee, Brucy, I don’t think that’s a very good idea, we might get in trouble.

Brucy: Don’t worry about it. You see, I’ve always been frustrated by her and her flat ideas. After all, she’s only got a Bachelors

in Music, and I did graduate work— at Tufts! So I figure, we’ll convince her to go join a marching mariachi band and I’ll slide right in here like whiskers on a cat.

Mel: Gee willikers. Johnny might not be too keen on that idea.

Brucy: Oh give it a rest. Just do what I say or I’ll tell everyone what the “I” in your name stands for.

Mel: Well, if you say so, Brucy. But how do we do it?

Brucy: Don’t give it a thought. I’ll just skimper on down to the basement, grab an old Halloween costume for you to wear—

Mel: Halloween, Brucy?

Brucy: Yeah, yeah. A few years back I made an outfit for my niece to wear. It was one of those conductor/martinet deals with the red uniform, the gold stripes, the baton, the huge hat, the whole bit. So you’ll dress up in that, then come over when Bobbie gets back and offer her a job in the band.

Mel: I still don’t know. She’ll catch on.

Brucy: Not by the hair on my chinny-chin-chin.

Scene 2

Later that day.

Bobbie: (Coming through the front door) BRUCY, I’M HO-OME!

Brucy: (Inside Bobbie’s office, with Liberace playing on the radio, and Mel, in his get-up.) Heavens-to-Betsy! Mel, we’ve gotta get out of here. (Grabs Mel and throws him across the set into Brucy’s office, then pussy-foots into the closet.)

Bobbie: (With Johnny in tow, stops at the dean’s buffet to grab a bavarian creme, then prattles into her office.) So, John, I’d say it went pretty well. Dennis the Menace is gone, and we’ll have Liz’s sister moved in by morning.

Johnny: (Nods, makes no comment.)

Brucy: (Overhearing conversation, decides to jump in, steps out of the closet.) Bobbie, Johnny, I was just going over the gender classifications on the Permission-to-Sneeze form and thought we neglected a few. What do you think?

Mel: (Opens door with baton and marches in, but the feather in his cap gets knocked astray.) Bobbie, have I got an offer for you! The bass fiddle in my marching mariachi

band just quit, so we need a new musician.

Bobbie: Bull fiddle, huh? That offer’s music to my ears.

Johnny: Let’s not fly off the handle, here. The fiddle isn’t exactly your *forté*. You like to march to the beat of a different drum.

Bobbie: True. And I’ve got some questions. How many minorities have you got?

Mel: (Starts shaking.) Uh, uh, uh. Plenty.

Bobbie: Hmmm. Do you have any differently abled members in your marching mariachi band?

Mel: Handicapped? Uh, (very nervous), definately. They play the castanets.

Bobbie: Only the castanets? Wait an ever-loving measure here; you other them?

Mel: (Voice cracking from nerves) Whatever. I gotta go now. The Committee on Traffic, Lawn-mowing, and Racquetball Executive Board is meeting.

Johnny: Wait a second. Only one guy would sit on that lame committee. That’s my co-habitational partner Mel!

Bobbie: It’s Mel! Go get him, Johnny.

Johnny: (To dogs) Sick ‘em, boys. (Yippie and Skippie, run after Mel and grab him by the baton, knocking him to the floor and his hat and his shoes come off. Yippie drags Mel back into the office.

Bobbie & Johnny: (shouting in unison) Who put you up to this! Why did you do it?

Mel: Brucy! Brucy made me do it!

Bobbie: (Turning) Brucy, did you do this?

Brucy: Uh, uh, uh.

Bobbie: Come on, Brucy, tell the truth.

Brucy: But Bobbie, there are no truths.

Bobbie: Y’know what I mean. Was it you?

Brucy: (breaks down, starts wailing.) Oh, Bobbie will you ever forgive me? I’m so sorry. I did it because I love you so much.

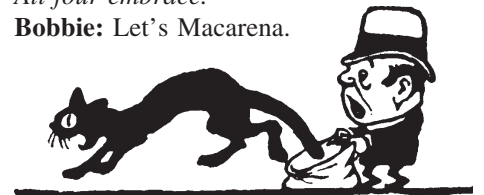
Bobbie: There, there, Brucy. It’s okay. (To Johnny) We *were* a little harsh on them.

Johnny: You’re probably right.

Mel: (Screaming) I NEED A HUG!

Bobbie: Come on, Mel, off the floor. Turn off the water works. Time for a group hug. *All four embrace.*

Bobbie: Let’s Macarena.



Times, They Have A-Changed

Keith Levenberg

When Bob Dylan declared, "The times they are a-changing," he was rising to stardom in a world where liberal activists truly rebelled against the *status quo*. Over three decades later, rock and roll songs of the left no longer constitute anthems of rebellion but of victory. The 1960s *zeitgeist* permanently changed American culture; radical ideas that once remained on the cutting edge of the left wing now enjoy mainstream acceptance, and fundamental values that once crossed ideological lines and held the American fabric together now exist only in conservative circles.

"As I went rumbling that dusty highway," sang Woody Guthrie, "I saw a sign that said 'private property.' But, on the other side, it didn't say nothing. This land was made for you and me." Guthrie, despite being an early progressive, recognized that public property ends where private property begins. Though parts of America may indeed belong to "you and me" and anyone else (at least in spirit), Guthrie still respected the sovereignty of those parts of the nation that were not so public. Conversely, in the 1960s, when Five Man Electrical Band saw that sign announcing private property, it never occurred to them to keep on rumbling down that dusty highway. Instead, the activist band "jumped the fence and... yelled at the house, 'What gives you the right to put up a fence and keep me out?'"

Woody Guthrie might have seen his people "in the squares of the city by the shadow of the steeple near the relief office," but his constant declaration that "this land was made for you and me" still applied. However, contemporary leftist rhetoric almost never praises the United States as a nation that welcomes all people under the banner of equal opportunity. In "Which Way to America," Living Colour's

lyrics divide the nation into two warring factions, where "your America's doing well" but "my America's catching hell." Though the song lacks discussion of specific issues, it becomes clear that lyricist Vernon Reid honestly considers the nation inherently antagonistic to some people but not others. The new left no longer identifies with certain values hitherto fundamental across the political spectrum.

Guthrie certainly advocated public assistance, but he did not see the poor as an estranged class somehow cheated out of its share of America. On the contrary, modern leftism, intent on division, treats the poor as victims. For example, a stark contrast to Guthrie's inclusive vision appears in Bruce Hornsby and The Range's 1986 single "The Way It Is." Hornsby argues that people "standing in line... waiting for the welfare dime" are destined for poverty "cause they can't buy a job." Hornsby's attitude implies that unemployed people suffer because "the system" does not afford them the ability to obtain a job even if they want one. By snidely claiming that an individual needs to "buy" a job, Hornsby hopes to imply that economic opportunity is open only to those who already enjoy financial security.

But, in fact, any individual, no matter how destitute, can find a job, provided they have marketable skills. Though social activists may find it tempting to blame "the system" for some people's misfortunes, the fact remains that our system allows individuals to catapult themselves out of poverty using nothing but their own initiative and cre-

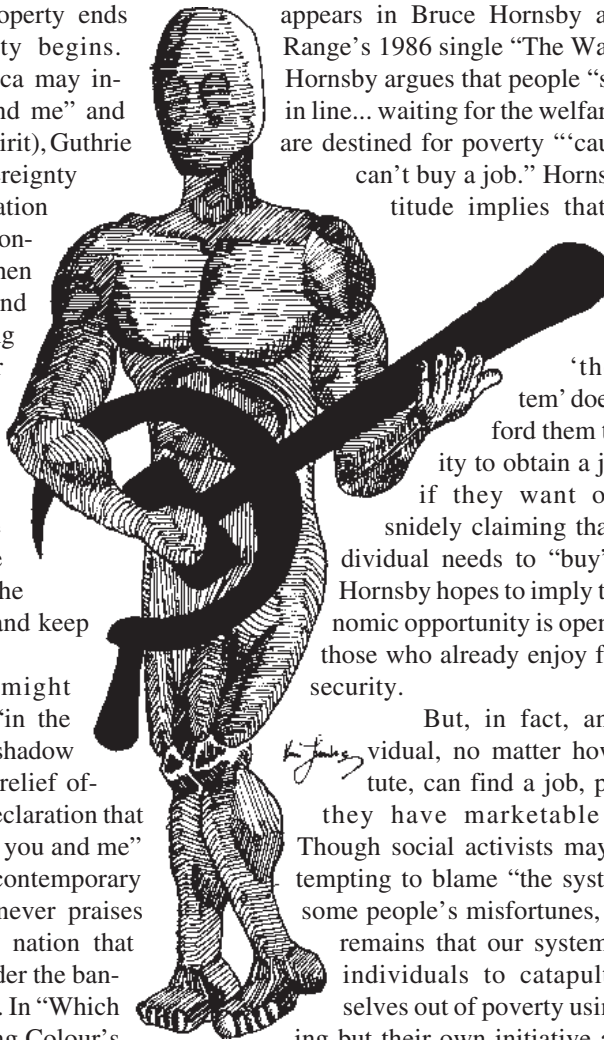
ativity. No other economic model endows individuals with such definite control over their own destiny. Indeed, the only nations in history where people really did have to "buy... job[s]" trumpeted controlled socialist economies where employment necessitated political connections and compliance to bureaucratic rigmarole.

Woody Guthrie certainly advocated public assistance, but he did not see the poor as an estranged class somehow cheated out of its share of America.

The left frequently saddles "big business" with the awesome responsibility of securing—in perpetuity—comfortable standards of living for employees. Billy Joel's ballad "Allentown" relates the story of laborers battling local magnates "closing all the factories down." In their frustration the workers proclaimed, "Every child had a pretty good shot to get at least as far as their [*sic*] old man got. But something happened on the way to that place; they threw an American flag in our face." Certainly, the listener should feel compassion for hard workers who lose their jobs, but the sentimental "Allentown" does not tell the whole story about an economic phenomenon as complex as frictional unemployment. Otherwise, the song would surely go on to say how most of the workers found new jobs, possibly with higher pay.

Bruce Springsteen does indeed describe that sort of a bittersweet ending in "Downbound Train," where a fictional character sings, "I got laid off down at the lumber yard.... Now I work down at the car wash." But a few songs later on the same album, "My Hometown" falls into the same trap as "Allentown": "They're closing down the textile mill across the railroad tracks. Foreman says these jobs are going, boys, and they ain't coming back to your hometown." Well, probably not, but other jobs certainly will. However, it is disturbing

Continued on the next page.



Continued from the previous page.

that activists never express appreciation to corporations for providing the working class with jobs in the first place. Instead, they demonize the concept of profit, demanding that businesses set aside their own interests completely and exist for the sake of others.

The left has always despised money, blaming people who have it for whatever fates befall the have-nots. They assume that the wealth of one person directly causes the poverty of another, that one person's success necessitates another's failure—or that for one person to eat nutritiously, another must go hungry. Pearl Jam, for example, negatively compares the human race to vermin, praising rats for not “starv[ing] the poor so they can be well-fed [and] lin[ing] their holes with the dead ones' bread.” However, such a situation is not analogous to human society, even if one ignores the reality that vermin frequently starve, as do members of most species in the animal kingdom.

The rat scenario involves the theft of some animals' property to feed others, an act deplorable in human societies that respect rights to private property. If, however, frontman Eddie Vedder means to imply that merely by being well-fed, one contributes to the starvation of another, he perpetuates the fallacy that economic freedom yields a zero-sum game. Ironically, though “Rats” condemns humans for stealing other people's bread, in Temple of the Dog's “Hunger Strike,” Vedder declares that “I don't mind stealing bread from the mouths of decadence.” So, it is acceptable to steal from the rich, just not from the poor.

The hatred of money and wealth reeks of the highest hypocrisy when it comes from affluent rock stars boasting multi-million-dollar record contracts and platinum albums, not the least of whom includes Pearl Jam. When Aerosmith sings, “Eat the rich; there's only one thing that they're good for. Eat the rich; take one bite now, spit out the rest,” one wonders if Steven Tyler includes himself among those wealthy individuals whose “attitudes may taste like <expletive deleted> but go real good with wine.” And did John Lennon make any attempt at all to

divest himself of his plentiful riches when he told his listeners to “imagine no possessions?”

Lennon's political evolution over the years illustrates a disturbing portrait of rock-and-roll's continual shift to the left. The Beatles, always considered left-wing, at least knew enough in “Revolution” to warn, “If you're carrying around pictures

The hatred of money and wealth reeks of the highest hypocrisy when it comes from affluent rock stars boasting multi-million-dollar record contracts and platinum albums.

of Chairman Mao, it won't do any good for anyone, anyhow.” Clearly not. But only a decade later, Lennon composed his trademark Cliff's Notes to communism, “Imagine,” advocating a world with no national borders, no private property, and no religion.

Lennon is hardly the only classic rocker to mirror the world's slide to the left.



Woody Guthrie: “This land is our land.”

Springsteen wrote “My Hometown” in 1984 about “the harshness of Reaganism [and] post-industrial America” (according to the liner notes) and has numerous songs in his repertoire about capitalism's unfairness to blue-collar laborers. However, the Boss's earlier efforts appear almost conservative by today's standards. “The River” deals with a suffering worker, but that 1979 song

attributed his misfortunes not simply to the economy but to his irresponsibly impregnating his teenage girlfriend. Moreover, in 1975's “Thunder Road,” Springsteen championed opportunities open to the working class, announcing, “It's a town full of losers, and I'm pulling out of here to win.” By 1995, though, Springsteen had renounced the positive message, dismissing the “innocence” of “Thunder Road” in the liner notes to his *Greatest Hits* record.

Certainly, not all popular songwriters espouse leftist positions. Bon Jovi's 1986 single “Living on a Prayer” countered Springsteen's liberal visions, featuring an honest laborer out of a job not because of evil capitalists but because of his striking labor union. Metallica's song “Don't Tread On Me” advocates liberty with eternal vigilance and peace through strength, tenets of modern conservatism. Alan Parsons Project's Cold War era hit “Eye in the Sky” warns of the totalitarian nature of Big Brother-style communist regimes. Most recently, Dar Williams, a local performer hitting the Somerville Theater on October 4, sings “The Pointless, Yet Poignant, Crisis of a Co-Ed,” mocking the triviality and cluelessness of insincere campus activists.

Despite the presence of individual songs forwarding some conservative positions, an entire band dedicated to conservative ideology cannot survive in this culture. There are no right-wing equivalents of Rage Against the Machine or Sinéad O'Connor, no popular role models rallying young activists to defend conservative causes. Conservative beliefs are sparingly sprinkled throughout popular culture while conservative ideologues are almost non-existent. The culture an individual grows up in becomes a major factor determining what convictions he values and what beliefs will remain strong, and today's culture is doing a recklessly slanted job. Indeed, the times they have a-changed.

Mr. Levenberg is a sophomore majoring in Philosophy.

Without Standards

Colin Delaney

“Everyone here’s okay, so we don’t rank.” At least according to one employee in the Dean of the Colleges’ office. Seemingly she believes that since all Jumbos are ‘good students’ or at least ‘good people,’ the University need not quantify their academic achievements in relation to one another. That is, unlike most high schools and graduate schools, Tufts does not assign students relative rankings based upon their cumulative grade point averages or single out a valedictorian at Commencement, an unfortunate and inexplicable circumstance that allows inflated grades to go undifferentiated.

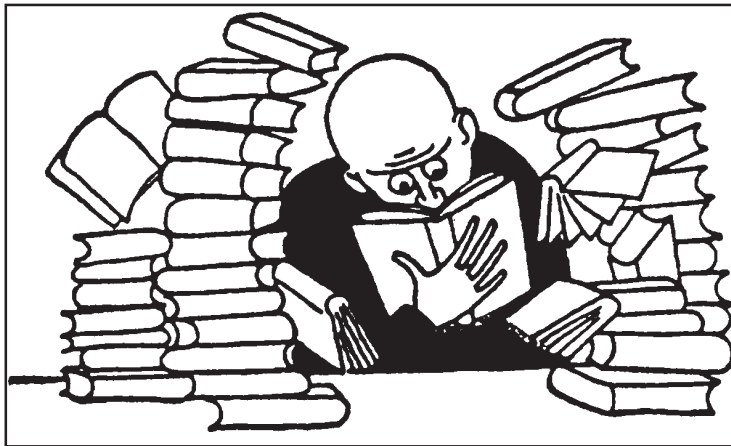
Certainly some would argue that ranking undergraduates by GPA costs too much money, as development of computer programs and compilation of data devours valuable time of busy people in Academic Computer Services and the Registrar’s office. But that argument disregards fact; Tufts already has the information. Honor societies like Golden Key and Phi Beta Kappa base nominations at least in part on class rank. Moreover, Dean of the Colleges Walter Swap demonstrated an ability to guess, on a moment’s notice, where a given individual stands in relation to his peers. Furthermore, when scholarship programs specifically ask for the information, he provides it. And, when he thinks “it looks good,” the Dean will volunteer the statistic to Tufts’s best students, often telling the top undergraduate that he would have been the valedictorian.

So Tufts does know where its students stand, and the dean responsible for such matters considers the data occasionally relevant, if not important. Asked why the University does not indicate rank on grade reports, Swap responded, “It’s never come up before.” Even if that were the case, there remains no reason not to begin ranking students now. Grade inflation here and elsewhere has reduced the value of cumulative GPAs above 3.0, and blurred the

differences between classmates. Currently, graduating classes enjoy an average GPA of around 3.2, a figure between ‘B’ and ‘B+’. And some majors have still higher average averages, like Music and Art.

Sally Jumbo might beat Johnny Jumbo by thousandths of a point, but Sally still deserves the accolades: she was that much better.

Of course, awarding such high marks does not evince a body of brilliant students, rather one educated by professors who ignore guidelines for grading. The university bulletin defines C’s as indicative of “work without marked merit or defect,” while B’s attest to “meritorious” work. Obviously, better than half of Tufts students cannot turn in “meritorious” papers and exams, as merit requires exceptionality. Naturally, if all receive honors none have been honored. Nevertheless, a ‘B’ in some disciplines practically denotes failure; so-called “meritorious work” in political science falls *below* the department average of ‘B+’ performance.



Other schools have also fallen victim to the integrity-eating disease of grade inflation. Harvard College graduates roughly 80% of its students with some kind of honors, and average grades there have steadily risen since the 1960s, a phenomenon blamed on everything from Affirmative Action to the Vietnam War. Meanwhile, at the high-school level, many insti-

tutions have abandoned the practice of singling out valedictorians. An investigative report published last June in the *Los Angeles Times* revealed that half of the 18 high schools in the LA Unified School District have multiple, yes multiple, valedictorians—“chosen using a pot-pourri of standards.” North Hollywood High called all 35 students with 4.0 GPAs or above “valedictorians.”

Indubitably the reason for all this false praise goes right back to many educators’ penchant for self-esteem, a fondness Tufts professors and administrators apparently share. Schools now dividing up the valedictory honors and those which have abandoned ranking altogether have done so because they want to “avoid singling students out as being ‘better’ than other students, because outside of a fraction of a point in a grade it may not be true,” according to Steve Clem, Vice President for educational leadership at the National Association of Independent Schools. But some individuals who have excelled their peers by just a few points deserve recognition for that achievement. After all, such distinction indicates nothing about character or personal worth. It says no more than it is meant to say: the valedictorian outscored everybody in his class.

The proposition that schools should not differentiate among people on the basis of just a few hundredths of a point because it results in bad feelings or deleterious competition ignores the reality of extra-curricular life. Outside such insulated halls as those of academia, candidates obtain jobs and athletes secure trophies by beating competitors by the tiniest of margins. Carl Lewis rightfully won gold medals because he crossed the finish line first, beating opponents by milliseconds. As for unhealthy competition, one cannot seriously claim that the Olympics

*Please see “Class Rank,”
continued on the next page.*

**“Class Rank,” continued
from the previous page.**

forced Ben Johnson to use anabolic steroids— he did that himself. Similarly, people who plagiarize thoughts or cheat on exams do so out of insecurity; blaming “the system” for individuals’ personal faults helps no one.

Moreover, the analogy to athletics demonstrates how well-intentioned pedagogues can nullify the importance of their own work. As Harvard education professor Janine Bempechat noted, “We’ll parade around the football star on Main Street, but the valedictorian gets pushed aside hush-hush, because if she’s acknowledged, it will make others feel bad.” Sure enough, other people worked hard and achieved remarkable feats, but they were simply not the best. Should Tufts adopt class-ranking, Sally Jumbo might beat Johnny Jumbo by thousandths of a point to eke into the top one percent, but Sally nevertheless deserves the accolades: she performed just that much better.

Granted, certain students will pad schedules with easy courses or use the

Experimental College’s lax requirements to inflate their cumulative figures, but that type of activity cannot be eliminated without jettisoning academically worthless courses. Considering the faculty’s affinity for approving soft curricula, Tufts will bear that diseased flesh for some time to come. But class rankings— or rankings within

With a class rank system, a student who performed worse than the majority of his peers can never masquerade as one worthy of honor.

disciplines— can never fall victim to inflation. A student who performed worse than the majority of his peers— whether he has a ‘B’ or a ‘D’ average— can never masquerade as one worthy of honor. Only when everyone receives the same grades can the ranking system fail to identify those deserving merit and those due shame. Certainly ranking will not cure the ill of padded schedules, but careful inspection of a transcript by a graduate school or an employer can embarrass even a valedictorian who took eight ExCollege classes.

After twenty-five years of inflated grades, Tufts must come to grips with the devaluation of merit. As it stands, the current policy approaches a counterfeit egalitarianism by praising all and rewarding none. Not lauding those who performed better than others indicates that such accomplishments do not deserve acclaim.

And consuming ourselves with concern for individuals who might feel bad because they did not win an award does a disservice to everyone. Students *should* feel bad if they performed at a level with which they themselves are uncomfortable. Ignoring excellence discourages its achievement. As Charles Sykes, author of *Dumbing Down America: Why American Kids Feel Good, But Can’t Read, Write, or Add*, put it, “Eventually in this world of no losers, you’re going to end up with no winners.” Alas, not all here are okay, and students more “okay” than others should be recognized in a manner immune to well-intentioned but ignominious inflation.

author of *Dumbing Down America: Why American Kids Feel Good, But Can’t Read, Write, or Add*, put it, “Eventually in this world of no losers, you’re going to end up with no winners.” Alas, not all here are okay, and students more “okay” than others should be recognized in a manner immune to well-intentioned but ignominious inflation.

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

“Browne,” continued from page 10.

sense forced on them, and that the zoning board ought to have the authority to fine or imprison people who refuse such “assistance.”

Once people recognize that bureaucracy and corruption evaporate at neither the Capitol nor the state house, it becomes clear that decentralization’s only virtue is diversity. Shifting the welfare system’s burden to the states will not eliminate wealth redistribution’s inherent injustice. However, states can now try different systems, or attempt abolition, and Americans will find it easier to express their preferences as a result.

Nevertheless, Browne’s sincere commitment to smaller government places him a step ahead of the usual Washington suspects. His contention that only superficial qualities distinguish Democrats from Republicans when it comes to the size and intrusiveness of government has merit, especially given Congress’s nearly unanimous passage of a higher federal minimum wage.

An Alternative... But Is It Viable?

Even Browne gives himself long odds in November. However, his prospects would improve substantially were he permitted to stand alongside Clinton and Dole on the debate floor, a courtesy extended to Ross Perot in 1992 that enabled him to parlay a projected 7% popular vote into 19% on Election Day. Tragically, the Debate Commission harbors tremendous hostility against third-party candidates with its Catch-22 criterion for viability. In order to participate in the debates a candidate must have a realistic chance of winning. Unfortunately, in order to have a realistic chance of winning, a candidate must participate in the debates. Furthermore, the Debate Commission’s directors, traditionally former major-party chairmen, do not answer to anyone but the major parties. It should surprise no one that the debates serve only to fuel two-party gridlock.

Browne’s principled refusal of federal matching funds causes the Commission to question his resolve. But his scrupulous stance distinguishes him as the only truly consistent candidate. Turning down the campaign subsidies simply affirms his

promise to end welfare for “individuals, corporations, and politicians” (emphasis added). Furthermore, just like all the other major contenders, Browne will appear on all fifty states’ ballots.

Browne’s slim chances may scare away many Republicans disgusted with Dole’s socialist tendencies, even if the Libertarian Party reflects their views more accurately. If a candidate cannot win, goes the argument, why vote for him? The party that purports to cast votes based on “character” should certainly consider principle before viability. In fact, Bob Dole’s own rap sheet of big-government escapades stands as the most convincing argument for the GOP faithful to vote Browne. Dole, a supporter of Great Society programs, promises a federal inquisition against nonviolent “criminals,” and thus cannot possibly appeal to champions of individual liberty and free markets. On the other hand, the Libertarians’ sworn commitment to capitalism without apology deserves a chance... and more than a few votes.

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

Reign of Terror

Micaela Dawson

Bombings at the World Trade Center, Oklahoma City, American bases in Saudi Arabia, and Atlanta's Centennial Olympic Park leave terrorism's bloody stain on recent history, wreaking havoc on innocent victims throughout the world. In response, President Bill Clinton offers counterproductive sanctions and anti-terrorism legislation, which serve only to strain US relations with close allies.

The Clinton Administration's misguided foreign and defense policies have actually created the perfect climate for terrorism. Because of the White House's appeasement of rogue regimes, the United States has lost international credibility. As a result, the US has jeopardized its European ties while strengthening the ruthless resolve of adversaries.

The Wall Street Journal revealed that Hillary Clinton and National Security Advisor Anthony Lake fraternize with US leftist organizations supporting Hamas and Islamic Jihad. Ironically, the same terrorist activity represented by these groups secures Iran's place on America's list of enemy states. Equally suspect are Secretary of State Warren Christopher's twenty missions to court Syrian dictator Hafez al-Assad, a key belligerent in the Arab-Israeli conflict. The President's decision to pacify terrorists such as Sinn Fein spokesman Gerry Adams and PLO leader Yassir Arafat by hosting them at the White House would invite ridicule were it not so disgraceful.

Despite terrorism's resurgence, Clinton has done nothing to mitigate his severe reductions in military and intelligence spending, treating those programs as luxuries rather than necessities. Instead, he has offered \$1.1 billion in anti-terrorism provisions and sanctions against Iran and Libya which actually hurt Americans and their allies— not those they supposedly target. Clinton caters to international terrorists in order to arouse radical special interests back home and fails to produce construc-

tive legislation that would confront the real problem: deficiencies in defense and counter-intelligence. Sadly, the President has it in his power to cripple the terrorist threat but chooses instead to waste time

The Clinton Administration's misguided foreign and defense policies have actually created the perfect climate for terrorism.

and money with "taggants" and other intrusive "anti-terrorism" devices which only complicate life for average citizens—and play right into the hands of terrorists.

Promises, Promises

Two years ago the Irish Republican Army's political wing, Sinn Fein, gave its word to the Irish, British, and American governments that the troubles were over— there would finally be peace in our time. President Clinton even shook hands with Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams. At that very moment, the IRA was developing the bomb which destroyed the Canary Wharf complex in London's docklands, killing two men working there and causing \$150 mil-



Destruction from March's London Docklands bombing.

lion in property damage. The IRA and its Sinn Fein political wing continue to wage an all-out war to force British evacuation of Northern Ireland in pursuit of a socialist Irish state, regardless of the Irish people's will— meanwhile the President treats Adams like an honored guest.

The 25-year-long affair in Northern Ireland had never affected US security interests in Europe until Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and Senator Edward Kennedy convinced the Clinton Administration to antagonize England. Since Sinn Fein-IRA wanted permanent peace, they argued, it was worth the risk. For the President to extend a visa to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, someone clearly hostile to Great Britain and our own democratic values. Predictably, that act outraged the Tory government and did nothing to prevent a bomb from exploding just before all-party talks scheduled for February could begin.

Even after the IRA resumed its terrorist campaign in Great Britain, Clinton issued yet another visa to Adams, never asking him, in turn, to issue a simple apology for the taking of innocent lives. While the President's indulgence of socialist Irish paramilitaries may have garnered support among the liberal elements of the Irish-American voting bloc, it did not serve any genuine US interests.

In fact, the Administration's decision to disregard British disapproval of its Northern Ireland policy has severely weakened this nation's relationship with its greatest ally. Sinn Fein apparently believed the US could persuade Britain to leave Ireland. Discontent with democratic decision-making, the IRA (and its equally vile loyalist counterparts) would rather exert their minority will over the majority.

Sinn Fein-IRA's callous subordination of human life and dignity to the political end of a united Ireland liberated from British involvement constitutes irrationality, defying the traditional virtues of liberty and democracy. In catering to the whims of anti-democratic militarists such as Gerry Adams, Clinton put his executive credibility on the line and damaged relations with Great Britain.

Continued on the next page.

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Without credibility, the most important diplomatic tool of all, Americans cannot fully enjoy friendly states' respect and cooperation.

The Lazy Man's Foreign Policy

President Clinton's recently passed Iran and Libya sanctions bill promises a surefire way to further alienate US allies. The legislation, supposedly an anti-terrorist measure, stipulates that foreign governments and companies that invest significant funds in those regimes' oil or gas sectors will suffer American sanctions.

The US holds Iran accountable for aiding and abetting Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the occupied territories and conducting relations with Damascus-based rejectionist groups—in addition to random attacks on Iranian dissidents abroad. Moreover, Tehran gleefully cherishes its status as the most outspoken critic of the US-brokered Middle East peace process. Both the Iranian and Libyan governments actively support international terrorists such as the Irish Republican Army and oppress their own people at home.

Understandably, the US hopes to tighten the economic noose around their regimes, shut off their major source of hard currency, and strangle their economies. Proponents of the bill argue that the sanctions law forces Iran's and Libya's major trading partners to go along with that strategy. But the measure could isolate America from other governments whose assistance might prove vital.

Without allied cooperation, the sanctions will have little effect. In particular, sanctions rarely work when the US acts alone, as evidenced by similar efforts against Vietnam, Cuba, China, and Pakistan. In order to have any impact, sanctions must significantly restrict Iran's and Libya's capital flow. Yet Clinton ignores Europe's long-standing ties with both countries; for instance, both Germany and Italy have become increasingly dependent on the those nations' oil exports. From 1988-1994, Iran's exports grew nearly 50% to \$19 billion and Libya's exports grew almost 10% to \$8 billion, demonstrating that their respective

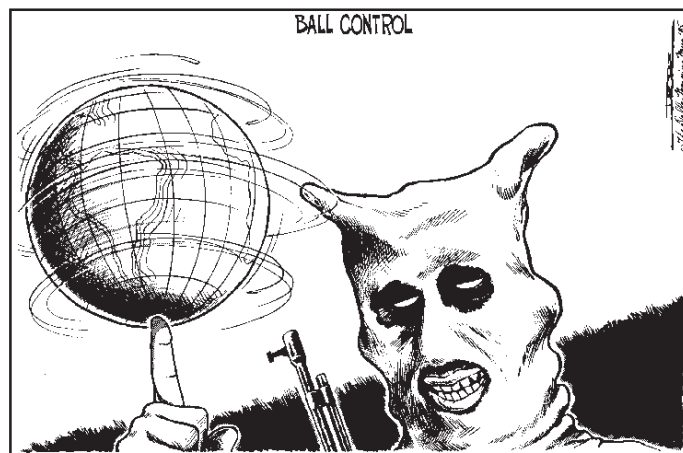
economies will prosper regardless of the US's position..

There is no evidence to suggest that our allies will stand with us in forming multilateral trade barriers. In fact, the European Union unveiled a series of steps designed to block European companies from complying with US policy on Iran, Libya, and even Cuba. Furthermore, Europe even unanimously rejected an American proposal for anti-terrorism sanctions in the wake of the TWA explosion.

Clearly, the US needs its allies to effect any kind of economic garrote. But sanctions have become the lazy man's foreign policy, wrongly touted as an instant and painless way of advancing US interests. History confirms their ineffectiveness—rogue regimes like Iran and Libya deserve brute force.

It's the Terrorists, Stupid

Addressing the Republican National Convention, former Secretary of State James Baker called for an American foreign policy structured around coherence of vision, consistency of execution, and, most importantly, strength. This strategy would



involve maintaining America's military superiority, restoring US credibility, and strengthening presidential leadership. Yet the current administration's policy of pandering to terrorist leaders, while unleashing a counterproductive anti-terrorist bill which degrades civil liberties, shows neither coherence nor consistency.

The President's so-called anti-terrorism package not only does little to deter the terrorist threat, but encumbers the average citizen with needless bureaucratic intrusion as well. Improved airport security and international intelligence cooperation are a good start, but nothing more. The bill gives the FBI new wiretap powers and requires

markers, or taggants, on all explosive materials. But since most criminals shop for their equipment on the black market, often buying materiel from places like the Czech Republic, taggants can make little difference, and the expanded wiretap authority raises constitutional dilemmas.

The bill also calls for a \$10 million computer system to track all passengers with "suspicious" travel patterns and \$31 million to bolster inspection of outbound international air cargo. In addition to new wiretapping powers, the FBI will expand its operating parameters costing taxpayers \$100 million. The airport safety regulations would cost \$429.4 million, in addition to the \$667.4 million in anti-terrorism measures not solely aimed at airports.

But the US could spend that \$1.1 billion far more wisely were it to invest in what was once the backbone of our republic—military dominance. If the US government should grow, such expansion should come in the areas of intelligence and anti-ballistic missile capabilities. Middle East-based terrorist activity is tantamount to a war declaration on its face; such activity calls for military attention.

The US must demonstrate a willingness to answer that call with the type of swift, decisive action President Reagan consistently delivered.

Bill Clinton endorsed a \$127 billion defense cut to reduce the budget deficit without reducing domestic spending. By contrast, President Reagan made "peace through strength" the national strategy, prioritized national security, and maintained a well-funded, active force. He proved to America that coun-

tries like Iran and Lybia would not entertain hopes of upsetting the geopolitical balance should Washington make clear the futility of challenging American power.

Peace through strength would prove just as successful a strategy in the post-communist era as during the Cold War. To that end, House Speaker Newt Gingrich has called for a \$20 million intelligence program to overthrow the Iranian regime. That kind of provision would add some substance to the President's \$1.1 billion package of hot air.

Miss Dawson is a junior majoring in Classics and Philosophy.

Terminating Tenure

Jessica Schupak

When Tufts hires a professor, he has six years to achieve the golden privilege of tenure. Upon coming up for this envious honor, if he has not been a prolific writer and diligent academic social-climber, the University hands him a one-year notice.

During the seventh year of a professor's career, various university committees evaluate his performance and determine if he deserves a lifetime contract based upon three criteria: student evaluations, scholarly pursuits, and service (generally to either the University or his field). The only ways to lose this employment pact include gross incompetence, moral turpitude (which President John DiBiaggio classifies as "sometimes difficult to prove"), and fiscal exigency (which he concedes is a "very, very difficult" case to make). DiBiaggio admits that "it has become very difficult to dismiss a tenured faculty member." He adds that it can be done, but it "would inevitably result in a court case and those can be very expensive."

In the private sector, continued employment is contingent upon consistent if not improved performance. While some may argue that frequent review of instructors would bolster university bureaucracy, economics professor John Sparks of Grove City College— which does not have a tenure system— asserts that even "large enterprises review employees, many annually."

At Grove City, professors are granted short-term contracts based primarily on how well they execute their primary duty— teaching. The college assesses performance through student surveys and evaluations from department chairs and administrators who periodically visit classes. This merit-based system affords protection "as long as you do your job," Sparks explains. As in the business world, professors should be able to negotiate with the administration for longer contracts, but such extensions should be based on past performance and value. Sparks believes that employees "should be continually evaluated," but recognizes that long con-

tracts are nevertheless superior to tenure because they allow a university to dismiss a bad professor for breach—a threat which prompts teachers to stay on their toes.

Ultimately tenure serves as an employment security blanket for professors.

Although teaching ability is significantly more important than the other requirements for tenure, Tufts weights them "roughly equally," according to DiBiaggio. The President defends this scale by arguing that professors "have to be at the cutting edge." It is doubtful that a professor of calculus, Latin, or any modern language must be "at the cutting edge" to teach effectively. Granted, it is important for a biology instructor, for example, to stay current. But if the University abandoned tenure, keeping up with the times would become a job requirement— one which would persist longer than it does under the tenure system.

Dr. Sparks argues that the tenure system generates tons of useless research. Some professors ask themselves, "Would

market system in which universities did not waste resources on "nit-picking" and scholars pursued only valuable projects for which a real demand exists.

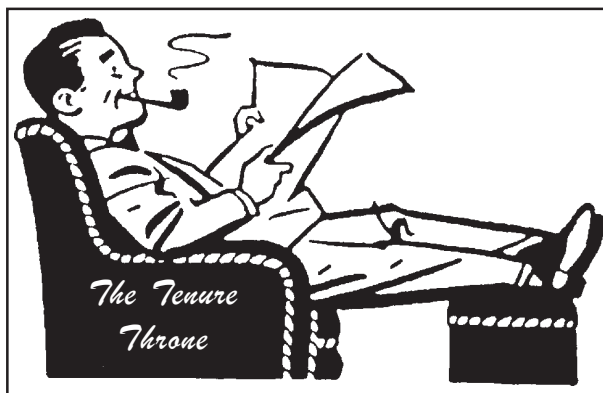
The founders of the tenure system defend the unusual endeavor as a safeguard of academic freedom. Admittedly, tenure currently protects conservative professors from politically motivated dismissal since most university decision-makers reside in the liberal camp. But under a system based on merit, a right-minded instructor's job would still be spared if he proved himself a worthy instructor.

Ultimately tenure serves as an employment security blanket for professors. Although not a good way to earn a promotion or a raise, a newly tenured instructor could greatly diminish his effort without jeopardizing his livelihood. After all, many professors retire with the same title they obtained upon achieving tenure: Associate.

Students as well as administrators should be most concerned with how well a professor executes his job, not how many essay prizes he has won, dubious government fellowships he has wrangled, or university committees he sits on— especially considering that these commitments decrease the time he can spend helping students. While tenured professors have more flexibility because they do not have to perform research, they are no longer market actors and thus have little incentive to increase their attentiveness towards pupils. In fact, tenured teachers can devote even more time towards their personal projects because they need not worry as much about student evaluations.

If universities terminate tenure, professors would be more student-sensitive— clearer presentations or more comments on papers, for example— because their jobs would depend on it. In any other profession keeping one's job depends on performance. Teaching, a profession of paramount importance, should be no different.

Miss Schupak is a junior majoring in History.



I actually pay someone to do this research?" No. But they do it to get tenure," he clarifies. Much of the research that occurs 'on track' is unoriginal, as tenure hopefuls babble for pages in scholarly journals about their peers' educational investigations and commentary by other academics on those studies. As Sparks points out, academic progress would advance faster under a

Senatorial Folly

Edward Havell

Nineteen ninety-six has not been kind to the TCU Senate. Last spring, *The Daily* leveled erroneous charges at then-treasurer Scott Lezberg of multiple indiscretions. Former TCU presidential candidate Bryan Krause is one of two senators who resigned as the fall term kicked off. And student interest in the Senate has fallen to the point that just four current members have previous TCU experience—only two of them on the executive board.

Even after the bad publicity, the senate continues to coddle special interests while consuming itself with irrelevant procedural matters. It collectively, if not unanimously, supports the now-infamous Amendment One which extends voting power to members of certain culture groups who do not participate in the traditional election process. Meanwhile, newly elected TCU President Andi Friedman planted the idea for the administration's widely publicized but immaterial task force, which derives its existence from two incidents. The first involved racist graffiti that Tufts students appropriately deplored but had nothing to do with; the other excuse revolves around the battle over the aforementioned voting amendment for which even free pizza has proven insufficient incentive to motivate enough students to satisfy the now-reduced twenty-five percent quorum requirement.

Surprisingly, enough voters turned out last year to reach the quorum, but only because ratification of the TCU's new constitution appeared on the same ballot. Nevertheless, the amendment failed—fair and square. Unfortunately, the Elections Board bungled the ballot, omitting the TLGBC from the ticket. This year, students will again vote on Amendment One, with the TLGBC properly added. The TCUJ rightly granted the group a chance to gain special seats on the TCU Senate. After all, fair is fair; the TLGBC having fulfilled the necessary constitutional requirements, has earned its chance. But there remains no reason to include other representatives this time.

While the TLGBC deserves a referendum on its Senate privileges, the new

amendment still contains grave problems. One shortcoming is the very structure of the TLGBC, since it stakes its claim for voting rights on the need of a significant minority to self-elect representatives. However, the group keeps its membership confidential, and considering that the oft-cited 10-percent-of-the-population figure has never been substantiated, suggesting a membership of near 400 undergraduates without supporting evidence would constitute self-deception. Thus, even if one agrees that minorities need exclusively elected senators, the TLGBC cannot demonstrate a need for such special treatment. While they certainly deserve to keep the nature of their sexual activity private, a TLGBC "culture rep" cannot claim to stand for a significant minority if its size remains undisclosed. After all, would a minority of three require special voting rights?

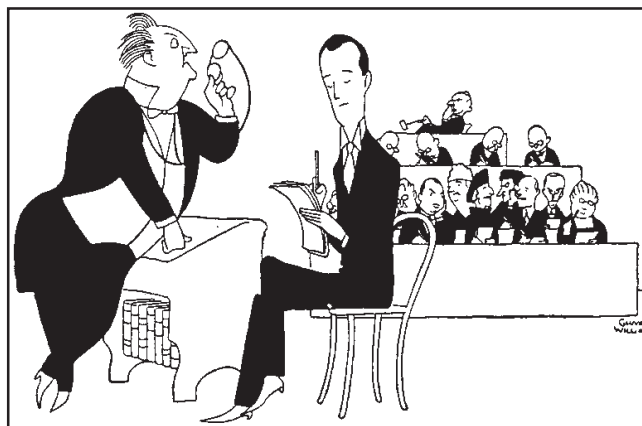
Many of the problems with including a voting TLGBC representative on the Senate are germane to all culture representatives. Traditional arguments against culture reps aside, students, including TLGBC

While this self-consumed discussion has occupied the Senate for fully three years, student governors have neglected a fundamental truth. Despite empirical evidence to the contrary, the Senate believes that its decisions affect the mores of this university—but that power lies primarily

Obviously, one does not become a senator by winning an election but by collecting signatures. Any person who feels a dire need for voting power can easily acquire it.

with students. If people are thoroughly apathetic toward certain issues, continually harping on those ideas serves only to discredit their advocates. That the Senate had to lower the quorum for amendments from twenty-five to twenty percent demonstrates students' lack of interest in Senate affairs as well as the TCU's extensive efforts to justify years of futile work intended to effect social change.

What racist and anti-homosexual sentiment Tufts retains seldom manifests itself openly. Thus, meetings, task forces, constitutional amendments, and bureaucratic maneuvers solve nothing. Given the politically correct slant of academia, old-fashioned racism and gay-bashing in the modern university exist on an individual, not an institutional, level. Fortunately, there is an invisible hand at Tufts working for a solution. Interpersonal relations based on both classroom discussions and extracurricular activity prevent pre-judgment of others based on superficial differences and teach Tuftonians legitimate bases for evaluating other people. But rules, regulations, structured diversity training, and institutional apportionment of representation by "cultural" characteristics serve only to reinforce the notions that they are intended to combat.

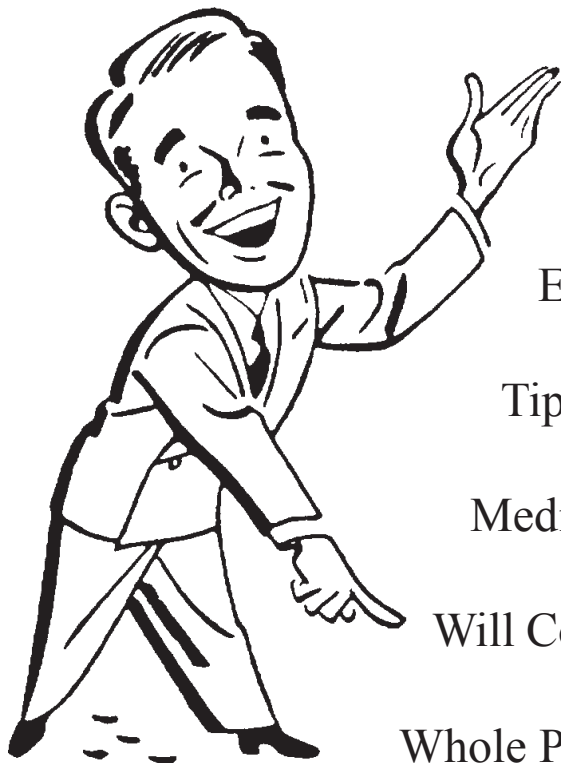


members, who intend to represent their particular culture can just as easily stand for election before the full student body. In fact, the Senate has enough trouble filling vacancies as it is—the TCU had to redistribute five vacant senior seats to juniors. Obviously, one does not become a senator by winning an election but by collecting signatures. Any person who feels a dire need for voting power can easily acquire it.

Mr. Havell is a senior majoring in International Relations.

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NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Mussolini, Stalin, and Hitler would have admired some of the elite campuses where certain words can get a student expelled.

—Newt Gingrich

That's a good question. Let me try to evade you.

—Paul Tsongas

Nearly everyone will lie to you given the right circumstances.

—Bill Clinton

For a third of our working lives, we are serfs of the state. If self-employed, our enterprises are minutely regulated. Government has a near monopoly on the education of our children, a position it uses to subvert parental values. We can't operate a vegetable stand, build a porch on our house, keep a sidearm for self-defense, own a mutt, or go fishing without Big Brother's express permission.

—Don Feder

What is comedy? Comedy is the art of making people laugh without making them puke.

—Steve Martin

A smile is your personal welcome mat. Lucky numbers: 14, 16, 19, 23, 27, 39.

—Fortune Cookie

A politician is an acrobat. He keeps his balance by saying the opposite of what he does.

—Maurice Barres

Abortion is not a "lifestyle" issue. Abortion is not an issue for women only. Abortion is not an issue of the governments role in America's bedrooms. The question—the task of securing the right of life of the unborn— is the most urgent civil-rights issue of the 1990's. It depends on resolving anew the same question we answer regarding slavery—what value will our society assign to human life?

—Henry Hyde

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

—Peter Newman

Certainly it is a world of scarcity. But the scarcity is not confined to iron ore and arable land. The most constricted scarcities are those of character and personality.

—William Allen

Where is it written in the Constitution, in what section or clause is it contained, that you may take children from their parents and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battle in any war in which the folly or the wickedness of government may engage it?

—Daniel Webster

Nothing can destroy a government more quickly than its failure to observe its own laws, or worse, its disregard of the charter of its own existence.

—Supreme Court Justice Tom Clark

Money is the answer to all things, so, go, get some money. This is a great country; God Bless America.

—Don King

Until Eve arrived, this was a man's world.

—Richard Armour

Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

—Patrick Henry

I believe in sex and death— two experiences that come once in a life time.

—Woody Allen

Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.

—Ronald Reagan

During an election campaign the air is full of speeches and vice versa.

—Henry Adams

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw. Half the Cabinet are not asses.

—Benjamin Disraeli

The difference between death and taxes is death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.

—Will Rogers

Ideas are more powerful than guns. We would not let our enemies have guns, why should we let them have ideas?

—Joseph Stalin

Education has become a prisoner of contemporaneity. It is the past, not the dizzy present, that is the best door to the future.

—Camille Paglia

The prestige of government has undoubtedly been lowered considerably by the prohibition law. For nothing is more destructive of respect for the government and the law of the land than passing laws which cannot be enforced. It is an open secret that the dangerous increase of crime in this country is closely connected with this.

—Albert Einstein

Substituting God for alcohol or any other drug is indeed a swapping of dependencies. But last I looked, God didn't eat your liver.

—Judex

I'm a politician, and as a politician I have the prerogative to lie whenever I want.

—Charles Peacock, an ex-director of Madison Guaranty

Alcohol is the anesthesia by which we endure the operation of life.

—George Bernard Shaw

Most of the presidential candidates' economic packages involve 'tax breaks,' which is when the government, amid great fanfare, generously decides not to take quite so much of your income. In other words, these candidates are trying to buy your votes with your own money.

—Dave Barry

Most of the energy of political work is devoted to correcting the effects of mismanagement of government.

—Milton Friedman

I have no ambition to govern men; it is a painful and thankless office.

—Thomas Jefferson

Isn't it harder in politics to defeat a fool, say, than an abler man?

—Thomas Dewey

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

—James Madison