

**Also Inside:**  
Tufts Valentines  
Fifty ways to Lose your Lover

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

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# Valentine Friendly

To the Romans, February 14<sup>th</sup> was known as Lupercalia. It was a holiday to honor Juno, goddess of love and marriage, and queen of the gods. Sometime about 270 AD, Roman emperor Claudius II cancelled marriages and engagements throughout his vast empire. Valentine, a priest in Rome, defied the emperor by secretly marrying couples. For his good work, Valentine was given the distinct honor of being beaten, beheaded, and canonized a saint, in that order, unfortunately, for Valentine.

Later, when the Catholic Church gave religious significance to formerly pagan holidays, February 14<sup>th</sup> became St. Valentine's Day. This change in name, however, did not change the basic meaning of the holiday. Both Juno and St. Valentine defended love and marriage. Although many couples will be thinking of neither Juno nor Valentine this Friday, they will celebrate the holiday properly—by keeping true to its traditional themes—making candy manufacturers, greeting card companies, and restaurant owners happy, and boosting the economy.

Yet everything those lovers hold dear is being threatened by a growing movement to turn the annual celebration into an in your face, whine-and-moan feminist empowerment session. Celebrating its fifth anniversary, Eve Ensler's *Vagina Monologues* is going global in its V-World campaign, centered on V-Day. The same lefties who told us to abandon V-J Day because it was insensitive are now advocating the oh-so-tasteful V-Day. V stands for Victory, Valentine, and *Vagina*. Now *that's* a holiday! Let's see, a woman without a valentine is like a fish without a bicycle? Somehow it lacks that Hallmark sentimentality.

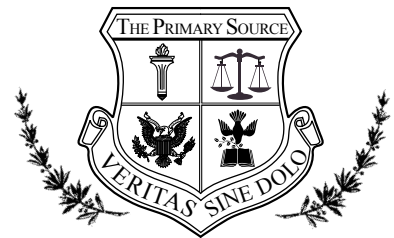
Vday.org advertises over 1,000 V-Day celebrations in dozens of countries, including India and China. Surely Eve Ensler must know that neither country has been known to champion gender equality, and female infanticide remains a serious issue in China, yet Ensler thinks that the best way to effect change is to translate "good rape," along

with an assortment of the most colorful American vulgarities into Chinese and to instruct the newly converted V-feminists to shout them at the top of their lungs. Move over Jimmy Carter, we've got a new nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Back on college campuses, where the same feminists promote killing unborn babies of *both* genders, students will attend their campus' performance of the *Monologues*. One of the 662 colleges participating is Brigham Young University where female students will probably add a Mormon touch, with a performance of the *Vagina Polygamalogues*. Other religious schools, including many Catholic colleges, will also host V-Day programs in a trend signifying an unfortunate shift from the traditional meaning of St. Valentine's Day. Unfortunately, the *Monologues* are quickly losing the shock value they once had.

At 5 years of age, *Monologues* has done damage to a holiday, which used to have a strictly positive message. Rather than focusing on the good that comes out of loving relationships, Ensler has shifted the emphasis onto the evil that plagues unhealthy ones. Highlighting bad relationships does a horrible disservice to all strong relationships in the world. Society depends heavily upon a strong family structure. Setting aside one day in the year which supports that structure is the least we can do to work toward a healthier society.

Lili von Schtup in *Blazing Saddles* says, "I'm tired. Tired of love uninspired." Perhaps the bitter Ensler is similarly weary of love, which is, as Lili says, "a cwyng shame," but don't let her bad mood ruin the values of fidelity, love, and dependence that February 14<sup>th</sup> celebrates.



THE JOURNAL OF CONSERVATIVE  
THOUGHT AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY

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# Letters

To the Editor:

I just wanted to thank you for your article entitled "Born to Run," in the January edition of *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*. I was extremely disappointed in Bacow for his excessively negative email to the school and was hoping the student body would stand up to him. I wrote a letter to him myself, but only got an impersonal response from Reitman a month later. In any case, it was nice to read an article that so succinctly and accurately expressed exactly what I was feeling. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Lorenz Sell (EN '03)

To the Editor:

Congratulations on a fantastic back-to-school edition. The cover was genius (the best I've seen), the articles adept, and the Fool on the Hill illustration was surprisingly reserved and tasteful—overall, I'm sure you'll agree, it was a high-quality production. There were two issues that struck me, however:

Megan Liotta's piece on the Naked Quad Run certainly lived up to her high standard of quality, but does this really mean that there's no single person on the staff of this journal who takes a more—uh—*conservative* view of the issue? Even if nobody wants to eliminate the Run entirely, surely someone could have offered a counterpoint.

Where are the campus affairs pieces? I count Megan's piece, one commentary, and Fool. Even Campus Affairs editor Christian Miller's piece this issue was a national affairs piece. Surely in the interest of balance, that commentary could have been blown up into an article, and some of the more substantial sound bytes in *ELEPHANT* would have worked as articles or commentaries—the Global Crossing hooah, say, or the Republicans' ad in the Vagina Monologues program.

I only mention this since the best thing a campus publication can do is report what is happening *on campus*. The national affairs articles are certainly well-written—but *THE PRIMARY SOURCE* has a virtual monopoly on Tufts coverage with a conservative bent, and you should take more advantage of it.

Chris Kohler (LA '02)  
Fulbright Fellow 2002-2003  
Kyoto, Japan

To the Editor:

In Volume XXI, Issue VII, Mr. Jason Walker begins his article, "MP3 Pirates of the Caribbean," with a solid argument for the indemnification of ISPs in issues of digital piracy. Indeed, holding the likes of Verizon accountable for such entities as Kazaa makes about as much sense as holding the US Highway Department accountable for interstate drug running. Unfortunately, he then proceeds to sully his article with a blatantly wrong interpretation of Fair Use.

Mr. Walker correctly asserts that "[t]he Supreme Court's rulings on Fair Use doctrine make copying for personal use permissible." His mistake lies in his interpretation of personal use. He goes on to erroneously claim that "[i]f creating a single copy of an album for a family member is legal, another copy for a friend also must be legal," and concludes that Internet file swapping represents the same thing, albeit on a massive scale, thus attempting to invoke the slippery slope argument. His deductive logic is solid, and undoubtedly comforting to someone trying to incorporate piracy into the folds of his libertarian moral framework, but all the logic in the world won't save him from an invalid premise.

Fair Use absolutely cannot be employed in defense of Internet file sharing of copyrighted material. To claim that one is not acting as a thief in this scenario is totally fallacious. Fair Use permits the copying of materials for which one already owns a license for further personal use. This includes such acts as making a copy of one's Windows XP CD for backup purposes in case the original media fails, or ripping a CD of music to MP3 format for listening on a computer, in a car, at the office, on headphones while jogging, or to make remixes. One may not, however, make a copy and lawfully give

it to someone else, unless they too own a license for the material. Purchase of music or software represents the purchase of a license to the copyrighted material, not a purchase of the copyright itself, and in making such a purchase one is bound to the terms of the license agreement. Providing a copy of material for which one owns a license to someone who does not own a license is a violation of one's license agreement. Obtaining a copy of material for which one does not own a license is to steal, or to accept stolen goods.

In the case that something is truly too expensive, don't steal it. Instead, exercise the one true right of a participant in a free market system to curtail the profits of another: keep your wallet shut. Failure to do so forces legitimate consumers to subsidize one's theft.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Gibbs (EN '02)

To the Editor:

I've had quite a few experiences with *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*, some good and some bad; however, I do not think that I've ever read such a horrific article as "Nothing but the Truth," written by Aaron Held.

Your magazine claims to be "The Journal of Conservative Thought," and in that assertion, it should be implicit that you would print articles that not only display conservative thought, but showcase it in a truthful, factual manner.

Aaron's piece on Israel is replete with fallacies, myths, and accusations. Look below—

"Activists should instead be looking at Muslim political culture; they would be appalled if they were to discover what really happens.—Efforts against peaceful Israeli Jews are doing much more harm to Islamic people than are the Israeli Army's security responses. Many Arab states suffer from dire conditions; people must fight for daily survival in these third world nations. Instead of aiding their citizens by training them in useful skills, Arab governments brainwash children into believing that Jews cause all their problems which can be alleviated through murder. Young children attending Muslim schools are taught about killing and that suicide bombing is justified. Fox News reported that the Washington Islamic Academy uses a textbook that reads "One sign of the day of judgment will be that Muslims will fight and kill Jews."

Aaron seems to group all Arab states as one in their 'brainwashing' of children. He discusses the violent "Muslim political culture." He uses one example about the Washington Islamic Academy and then uses it to characterize all Muslim schools that young children attend. His article—while expressing the ideology of academics such as Samuel Huntington and Bernard Lewis—is exaggerated, unrefined, and in poor taste.

I have never seen such a piece full of sh\*t and sensationalism. Aaron's article will only cause resentment and instability at Tufts, it will serve to divide the cooperation between Arab/Muslim students and Israeli/Jewish students.

In due time I will write an article in response to Aaron's categorization of Arab states and Muslim Political Culture. Articles, like Aaron's, on both sides of the issue are irreprehensible and cause irreparable damage to the community at which it's directed. If Aaron is to write an article that he claims as "factual," then he should provide citations (i.e. not all Arab states want the destruction of Israel as he claims). Although I do have a contrary view to Aaron in regards to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, my disgust with the article stems from its generalizations, categorizations, and assumptions—not the fact that it denigrates the Palestinian cause. Aaron ought to pick up Edward Said's *Orientalism*, read it, and then rethink the words he chooses to employ. If your magazine has any dignity or any desire to achieve truth or even engage in fair discourse, you'll print my forthcoming rebuttal—in article form—in its entirety.

All too often the Conservative voice is silenced at Tufts, but when your magazine prints articles like the aforementioned, it is easy to understand why right-leaning students distance themselves from your organization.

Sincerely,  
Pritesh Gandhi (LA '04)

**The SOURCE welcomes all letters to the editor. Please address all correspondence to [submissions@TuftsPrimarySouce.org](mailto:submissions@TuftsPrimarySouce.org)**

# Commentary

## Breach of Contract

Saddam Hussein and the Ba'ath regime have long been a topic occupying the forefront of campus political debate since the Bush administration correctly aimed the spotlight at Iraq's decade-long defiance of UN resolutions. Like any other average, liberal campus, Tufts University fosters only partially thought-out arguments. Enter TCOWI. Formed around an argument that lacks the support of credible facts and a coherent set of principles, Tufts Coalition to Oppose the War on Iraq has set upon itself the ignoble task of "educating" Tufts' population about the evils of war in general, and the Bush administration's ultimatum to Iraq in particular.

Aside from its members failing to provide any argument other than pure rhetoric, half-truths and outright falsehoods, the most outrageous aspect of TCOWI lies in their planned moratorium on classes the day after the US fires on Iraq. The homepage for TCOWI that students "hope to create a space for dialogue and discussion for all of the Tufts community who are united in skepticism of the necessity [of] such a war" is bogus at best for a very simple reason. Since dialogue requires more than one point-of-view, the lack of any participation from those in favor of war will leave the Goddard Chapel moratorium empty of any

serious discussion, or intelligence for that matter. This point of view is no more clearly illustrated than in their opposition to hear the expert opinion of former President George H. W. Bush.

Regardless, the students have the right to waste their parents' or the government's money by playing hooky for the day (there goes the whole drain on the economy argument against war). On the other hand, it is not acceptable that faculty, who have agreed to participate in the sit-in by signing the petition, neglect their duties as professors at this University. By walking out, professors would be violating a contract between themselves and the students; a contract implied in the tuition that Tufts students pay every semester for their education.

In fact, it is quite simple to show how much each hour long class costs. The semester is 13 weeks long, and the average student takes about 4 classes 3 hours per week. The estimate implies that a student only attends classes for 156 hours per semester, and the tuition costs for academics alone are \$14,000 per semester. It is easy to see that for each hour of classes, the student is paying \$90, a significant portion of which ends up as a professor's salary. To put it succinctly, it is akin to receiving \$90 tutoring lessons only to have the tutor leave to make an insignificant political gesture. If all the professors who have signed the TCOWI petition join the sit-in, academics, as well as students' pockets, would suffer severely.

A reasonable solution would be to hold the sit-in on a weekend following military action. It would stand to reason that a moratorium held on a weekend would in fact garner more attendance, not cut into class time, and allow for an actual dialogue. TCOWI goes out of its way, however, to punish studious Jumbos, ensuring that the "day-after" falls on a weekday: "If the announcement should come on a Friday, Saturday or Sunday, the class moratorium will take place on Monday."

Hopefully, those professors who oppose war with Iraq, and who may have valid reasons to do so, will still understand that impinging upon students' academics is not a valid method.

## Sonny, Move Out to the Country

As current Tufts sophomores and juniors make arrangements for off-campus housing next year, they cannot help but remember junior Wendy Carman who was killed by a tragic fire that consumed her garage loft. Although the cause of this fire has now been linked to a lit cigarette, Miss Carman's limited housing options placed her in a dangerous, illegal apartment, which may have contributed to her inability to escape. Since many students are forced into renting housing by Tufts' on-campus shortage, the Off-Campus Housing Office (OCH) must intensify its role in assisting students and see to it that they are well cared for.

Most students transitioning to off-campus housing have never before entered into a rental contract. Although information regarding off-campus housing and tenant's rights is available on the OCH website, this information is often nebulous and requires students to actively seek out information they do not necessarily know is out there. Information is also available for students who visit their office in South Hall, but a sample contract and a packet about the signs of termite infestation is not enough.



**Professors will not hide their lack of commitment to your education when Bush declares war.**

Instead, they should systematize the transfer of knowledge from one class to the next. Their first step could be to devote a section of their website where students may post reviews of properties and landlords. Additionally, the OCH should aggressively approach students to educate them about living off-campus.

The OCH might also establish a relationship with proprietors who lease to students. This way, the University can keep track of landlords and provide better support for students when dealing with owners. Too long have students living off-campus been neglected by the University and placed blindly in the hands of negligent landlords. The OCH cannot accompany each student on their tours of local houses, but they could visit a sampling of local properties and offer their own rating system.

If Tufts continues to force students into off-campus housing, the OCH must make sure that students are treated fairly and live in clean, safe, and affordable apartments. The death of a student is a tragedy, and this loss must serve as a wake up call to the administration to take precautions necessary to ensure that such a thing should never happen again.

## Powell Makes the Case

**O**n February 5th, Secretary of State Colin Powell addressed the United Nations Security Council, attempting to persuade its members that Iraq was not living up to its obligations to cooperate with the UN inspections process. For the first time, Powell made public US intelligence information indicating that Iraq possesses a large supply of chemical and biological weapons and is concealing ongoing efforts to produce more weapons of mass destruction. Powell said the United States estimates Iraq has 100 to 500 tons of chemical weapons, enough to fill 16,000 rockets and cause mass casualties over an area of 100 square miles. Secretary Powell played taped conversations of Iraqi military personnel discussing efforts to hide prohibited weapons before inspection teams were allowed to a site. He also played a clip of two Iraqi officers worrying that Iraq's chemical weapons would be discovered: "Nerve agents. Stop talking about it. They are listening to us. Don't give any evidence that we have these horrible agents."

Powell cited intelligence that many items related to illicit Iraqi activities had been moved to homes of Iraqi citizens. He pointed out that the UN inspectors themselves had found evidence to support his assertion. "Thanks to intelligence they were provided, the inspectors recently found dramatic confirmation of these reports. When they searched the home of an Iraqi nuclear scientist, they uncovered roughly 2,000 pages of documents." Iraq continues to pursue its nuclear program even as the UN tries to supervise its disarmament.

Secretary Powell also claimed a link between Saddam Hussein and the al Qaeda. "Iraq today harbors a deadly terrorist network headed by Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi, an associated collaborator of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda lieutenants." Powell alleged that Zarqawi was given refuge in Baghdad and was permitted to establish an al Qaeda cell there. This Baghdad cell coordinates the movement of operatives and resources throughout Iraq for Zarqawi's network, including a terrorist

training camp in northeastern Iraq. This part of Kurdish Iraq is controlled by organization Ansar al-Islam. This group is allied with Baghdad against the independent Kurdish government. Powell says that an Iraqi agent in the leadership of this group "offered al Qaeda safe haven in the region. After we swept al Qaeda from Afghanistan, some of its members accepted this safe haven. They remain there today."

Although many Americans have been swayed by Powell's presentation, Security Council members currently opposed to war may not be convinced. French Government officials have indicated that they still do not believe that a war with Iraq is justified, even with the evidence of Iraqi efforts to thwart UN inspections. If the anti-war faction of the Security Council blocks a war resolution, the United States and its allies will fight without the approval of the United Nations. As a result, the UN will have shown itself to be a powerless organization, unable to enforce its own resolutions. This is the UN's chance to prove itself to be more effective than the League of Nations.

## Without Melissa

**F**ormer Tufts Community Union president Melissa Carson has left Walnut Hill, forced to resign her position and take a leave of absence from Tufts on account of health concerns. She will be missed. During her time as TCU president, Melissa proved herself a tireless advocate for student concerns, and someone who refused to let the senate mire itself in petty politics. Her lobbying of the Tufts administration on behalf of students has resulted not only in myriad incremental improvements to students' lives, such as her recent successful efforts to have Res-Life hire a full time director for the Off-Campus Housing office, but also laid the foundations for future significant changes, such as a switch to need-blind admissions.

The SOURCE especially appreciated Melissa's refusal to hear motions on national and international politics, rightly deeming them beyond the purview of the senate, and her close personal connection to the student body. The senate regularly talks about wanting to hear from the students, but only Melissa was so open as to email her personal cell phone number and screen name to the 1,200 incoming freshmen. The SOURCE hopes that future TCU presidents will follow Melissa's example, and we wish her a speedy recovery.

Unfortunately, in the absence of a president, the effectiveness of the senate is weakened—and the senate is currently debating how it should reorganize itself. At this point, it seems that long time presidential aspirant Alison Clarke will finally assume the position she once sought. Current senate parliamentarian Adam Koeppel may campaign, even if only to ensure that the student body has a choice of candidates. As parliamentarian, Koeppel has proven himself a clear thinker and an effective communicator, but in only his second year he is considered young to be TCU president. On the other hand, although Clarke has never been particularly friendly to the ideals of this journal, there is no doubt that she has the organizational skills and experience to do the job. Either way, whoever ends up becoming the next TCU president will have mighty shoes to fill.

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

*Comedy is allied to Justice.*  
—Aristophanes

**PS** Commemorating Ronald Reagan's 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday, the Massachusetts State House attempted to pass a resolution commemorating his achievements but they forgot what they were doing right in the middle of...

**PS** Top Ten people we won't be seeing at Tufts next year:

10. Your mom
9. The Olsen Twins
8. Scott Ritter—the girls here are *over 13*
7. Dick Cheney
6. The "Reverend" Al Sharpton
5. Mumia Abu-Jamal
4. Britney Spears
3. Trustees who witnessed NQR
2. Sam Dangremond
1. Anyone accepted by Harvard

**PS** Aging pop princess Madonna has announced plans to release a virulent anti-Bush, anti-war music video featuring a song from her forthcoming album, "American Life." The video will contain typical scenes of dancing, scantily clad models interspersed with graphics of maimed people and dead babies. Madonna hopes to do for war what her song "Like a Prayer" did for religion. Namely, have sex with it.

**PS** Two days after celebrating the first birthday of Batir, the only elephant born in Arkansas, the state mourned the loss of a second newborn. Mary, an Asian elephant, experienced several days of labor before her calf was declared dead. Keepers mourned the loss of the unborn pachyderm but claimed it was "delicious."

**PS** Top Five replacements for Melissa Carson:

5. Melissa Carson
4. Adam Koeppel
3. ~~Andrew Potts~~ Adam Koeppel
2. ~~Alison Clarke~~ Adam Koeppel
1. ~~Adam Koeppel~~ The block of wood

**PS** Ben Affleck for Congress? J. Lo's main squeeze recently remarked in *Vanity Fair* that he "entertains the thought of someday running for Congress." Moviegoers who saw "Sum of All Fears" are just happy he's entertaining anything these days.

**PS** Louisiana school board officials said that the idea of standardized state tests raised so many questions that they couldn't possibly digest all the new proposals before the end of the month. Also, they can't read.

**PS** Greg S. Todtman of ABC's "The Bachelorette" was charged Friday with trying to smuggle a small amount of cocaine aboard an airline at John F. Kennedy Airport. Though he didn't find love on the show, he did find a cavity search at JFK, which was reportedly "just as good."

**PS** More than 100 fish found in Kansas' Baker Wetlands died after workers drained water from the area, officials say. Duh, they're fish.

**PS** A Mississippi jury will determine whether a 4-year-old girl is responsible for the beating death of her 2-month-old brother. The infant's father said the girl admitted to the killing and a host of other crimes including throwing sand and wetting the bed.

**PS** Although the infant's mother wants the case dropped, the state prosecutor's office will be seeking a timeout.

**PS** Arizona's Salt River Project turned 100 last week. The \$1.1 billion utility company is credited with making Arizona habitable. It was built on the ruins of an Indian irrigation canal thus making Arizona completely *inhospitable* for the 120,000 residents who *used* to live there.

**PS** An MSNBC header reports: "*Semper Fi*. Always Ready." No, those are Boy Scouts and Duracell batteries. *Semper Fi* actually means "Always Faithful" or "Never Clinton." It has also come to mean, "Please excuse my boot on your face, Mr. Hussein."

**PS** Monterey County Fair board members announced that no live chickens will be exhibited this year due to threats from the exotic Newcastle disease. The deadly virus could conceivably kill every chicken in the state. WingWorks is already making inquiries.

**PS** John Ashcroft raised the terror alert to orange on Friday. That white powder falling from the sky? It is snow, Mr. Ashcroft, just snow.

**PS** California officials plan to offer residents near the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant free potassium iodide tablets, which protect the thyroid gland against cancer caused by extreme radiation. People of Diablo Canyon: This is a hint you should be moving soon.

**PS** Last Friday marked the third TCU constitutional reform meeting. Both of the people who were at the meeting bring you:

Top Ten things we'll never see in a new TCU constitution:

10. Jim Crow laws
9. A process for removing Andrew Potts from the senate
8. A process for removing Barbara Grossman from the CSL
7. A hot cover photo of TCU senators
6. A proviso for the overthrow of third world dictators
5. *idterm* elections
4. An ambivalent discrimination policy
3. A definition of "culture"
2. A democratic system
1. Conservative Culture Rep

**PS** In coverage of the Columbia disaster, a CNN header reports: "Shuttle going 18 times speed of light." At this rate, they would have arrived before they left. In reality the shuttle is capable of going 18 times the speed of sound as well as six ways from Sunday.



# From the Elephant's Mouth

True to their name, the Tufts *Daily*, printed each day of the week in the end of January. That's right, they had 5 issues, printed on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and **Wednesday**. Oops... Of course, one SOURCE editor defends the paper's copyedit errors. THE ELEPHANT predicts: He will be a dedicated *colummist* until they misspell his name: **Adamn Biatchey**.

The Feb. 7 issue of the *Observer* features the ugliest cover photo since **Hideous McUgly** posed for the cover of *Ugly World*. It's uglier than Ugly Uglierson. It's so ugly, **you didn't even read it...** In the same issue, they have a full-page compilation of extra file photos titled "Photo Page." One of them was a tasteful picture of the steps behind Dewick. Anything to **justify** their \$712 budgeted for "photography"... Well, at least **AP filler** is free. With a few AP photos and a single column of text, the *Observer* recapped the Super Bowl, **a week after** the big game. They really are Tufts' "oldest news" paper.

Waking up with Super Bowl hangovers, many Jumbos were duped into believing a **counterfeit** CNN story claiming that **Britney Spears** was planning to join Tufts' class of 2007. Adding yet another air-head white female to campus, however, would violate Tufts' **commitment to diversity**... He's not that innocent? A similar fake report claimed the **Pope** would also be joining Jumbos as a mechanical engineer. Too bad... he would have been the **best president of the Polish Club ever**... We knew the Italians had connections. Jamie-Lynn Sigler, aka **Meadow Soprano** is coming to Tufts to speak about eating disorders. THE ELEPHANT predicts the title of her speech: "**What, no f\*cking ziti?**"

Their parents thought it was **just a phase**: Displaying the immaturity most of us lost long ago, some Tufts **professors** are planning on **skipping class** in order to lead a "teach-in" to be held the day after the US opens fire on Saddam. Finally, Peace and Justice Studies professors admit their classes are **pointless**.

**David Isles** appeared on the *Daily's* front page...again. The disgruntled, leftist math professor—whose politics don't always **add up har har har**—has apparently become their **poster boy** for campus anti-war sentiments. That particular photo was the subject of a past Fortnight Top Ten list.

Guess the *Daily* thinks we can only make fun of them **once per item**... The caption for a *Daily* photo showing a person crossing a **rope bridge**

**in a jungle** indicates that the picture is of the Tufts-in-Ghana *program*. Should the trend continue, study abroad

students can expect classes on taking the subway in Tokyo and riding in **gondolas in Venice**.

Justify your existence: TCU senate VP... er..."historian" VP **Alison Clarke** has been leading constitutional reform meetings on Fridays this semester.

Attendance has been **dismal**, and the ratio of SOURCE staffers to elected TCU officials was 2 to 1 last week. Number of culture reps who showed up: 0. Let's see them try to blame the **underrepresentation** on straight white men now... Ouch: A *Daily* headline reads: "**Following resignation**, Carson is admired by her fellow senators." **Andrew Potts**, however, has to wait until he graduates... The senate website lists "**Orientation reprogramming**" as one of the projects of CECA. At least they're **finally admitting it**...

Princeton's **Anne-Marie Slaughter** was at Tufts a couple of weeks ago to give a talk on "Humanitarian Intervention." Next week, expect **Jane Kukluxklan** to speak on the importance of fostering healthy race relations... **MOST**-ly racist? The Multiracial Organization of Students at Tufts website asks visitors to "**Clizikify on ze 'mosaic' button!**" It also inquires, "...**pure?** ...**mixed?**" THE ELEPHANT did not have time to "clizickify" wit hiz bad self 'round da rest of da site before they **ushered him onto the train**.

THE ELEPHANT never forgets.



# Luke, Don't Use the Task Force

by *Brandon Balkind*

In the past few weeks, the trustees of Tufts have reached out to the greater community of the University, in meetings arranged by President Bacow. Several important issues have been brought to light at the meetings, and there has been some, though not much, meaningful dialogue.

It is well known that the trustees have been occupied in recent times with capital campaigns and promoting the University.

With President Bacow's formation of the Task Force on the Undergraduate experience, the trustees' capital will likely find its way into Medford campus programs, some of which seek

**The Task Force sees Tufts as a Harry Potter novel, complete with the houses of Slytherin and Gryffindor.**

to improve the quality of social and academic life for undergrads. In the first forum, open to delegates from many student organizations, student groups cried unconstructively for more money, and the trustees shrugged their shoulders. It was not so much a productive discussion as a lobbying for cash. The second proved more innovative, if not especially fruitful. The focus became new enrichment of the undergraduate experience.

Several groups split up at the second trustee luncheon, each with different talking points. In President Bacow's group, trustee Bruce Male opened debate on the Task Force's idea of diverse undergraduate Tufts colleges. When the Task Force sent out its memorandum to the student body, it described an elegant end product, where subsets of the community had identity, and also felt part of the whole. The description of the Tufts "college" system was positively Utopian. The reality is that achieving such an end is entirely impractical. Proponents argued that the college system would build strong networks of undergrads, which would continue beyond graduation, but there was little support for the idea. Several students

*Mr. Balkind is a sophomore majoring in Computer Engineering.*

and faculty members pointed out that the college system would only serve to further divide the campus.

Creating a divided system of colleges, like that of Cambridge University, would necessitate a meeting space away from the physical center of campus, when such space is already hard to find for any purpose. In practice, the campus already has two "colleges." They are the Uphill and Downhill areas of the campus.

Officially, geographically separated colleges would create an unfair disparity in housing and facilities. Between Lewis, Bush, Hodgdon, and Haskell, the Southwest College of Tufts would feel

cheated when compared to the Uphill College's housing situation. Would it even be feasible to divide the campus into more than the two groups that essentially already exist?

If the college system grouped incoming students according to their interests or—worse—their backgrounds, Tufts could not hope to provide a diverse experience. Being an engineer does not necessarily mean you want to only associate with other engineers. Such systems are used in other schools, and the product is isolated students who understand little more than themselves. The college system would achieve nothing more than turning Tufts into several cliques. The Task Force sees Tufts as a Harry Potter novel, complete with the houses of Slytherin and Gryffindor.

President Bacow commented himself that, in making any decision, one must look at the opportunity costs involved. One such cost would be the asset of common space for the whole campus. Taking campus activity away from the campus center is neither cost effective,

nor conducive to building a community. Another cost would be the time and effort of the administration. Without taking on several new specialized committees for the purpose of creating a college system, the administration would be overwhelmed by executing such a change on campus.

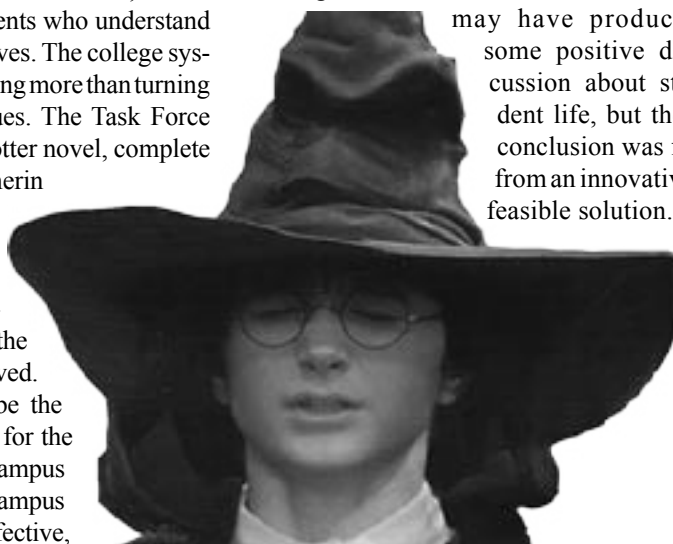
Some good ideas did come from the mixed-party dialogue of the luncheon. President Bacow threw out the notion of an outdoor gathering in Grafton during the Fall semester, complete with University provided transportation. This would help strengthen the anemic relations among the many Tufts campuses. As things are now, prospective veterinary and medical students have great difficulty in reaching out to Grafton and Boston.

Cross-curricular programs and projects were another proposal brought to the table. When students from many disciplines work together, even incorporating graduate students, networks appear where otherwise there would be none. An example of such a program is the Child Development Center at Tufts, where students from Arts, Sciences, and Engineering are recruited to solve unique, interdisciplinary challenges.

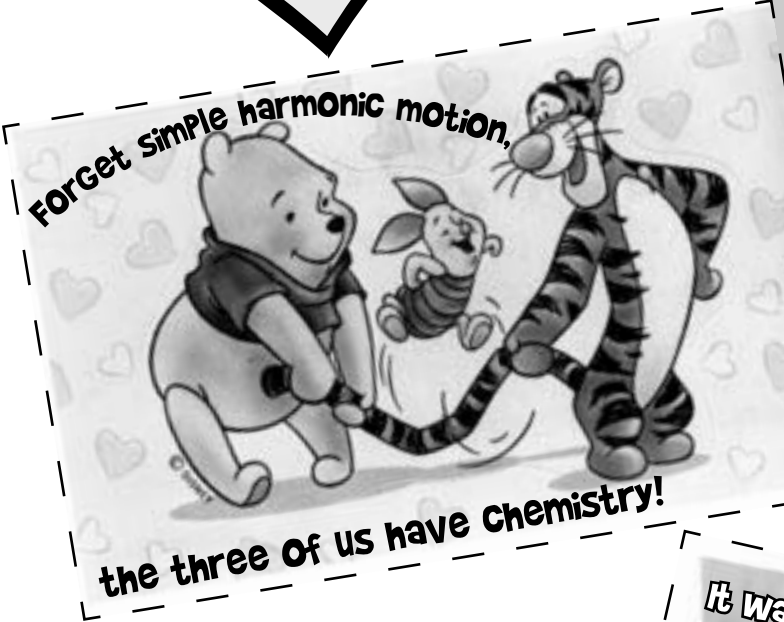
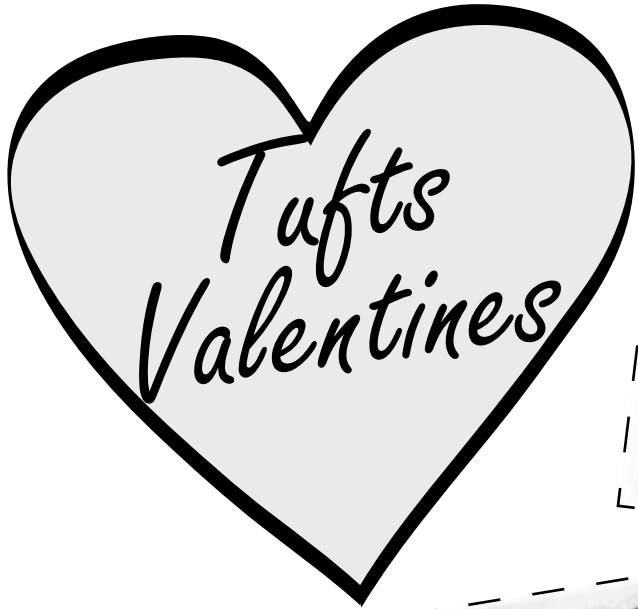
The best ideas have come from the discourse between the administration and students. Unfortunately, the Task Force has misunderstood their mission. Instead of producing joint recommendations resulting from dialogue between students and the administration, they have had several unproductive forums and then made their own recommendations.

The Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience was a laudable idea. President Bacow saw that the campus community needed more unity, and sought to achieve it, through the best means he knew how: an investigative committee. The Task Force

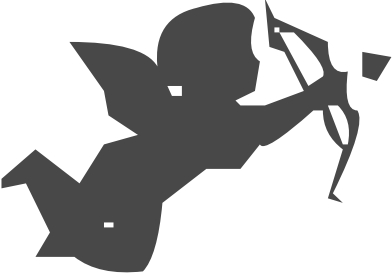
may have produced some positive discussion about student life, but their conclusion was far from an innovative, feasible solution. □



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Is that Guy in your thermodynamics class making you hot?  
Think that Leftist cheerleader should practice in your room?  
Just need a new way to nab some nookie?  
Send the message with Tufts Valentines!



cut out these cards and send them to your most Discriminating valentine.



# Tufts Valentines

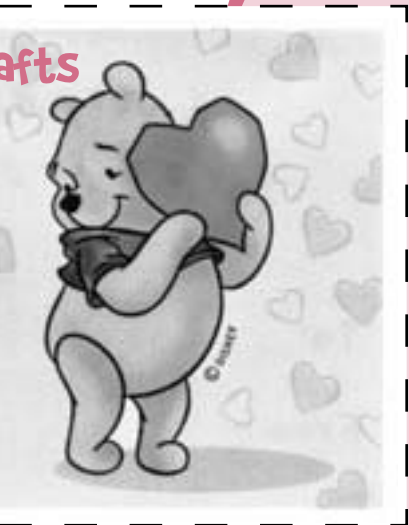
Meet me at the craft  
HOUSE, Bring the  
EDIBLE BODY PAINT

I SUPPORT your interspecial Domestic  
Partnership

Valentine,  
you hjacked my heart!

Be mine—

touch me and I'll sue



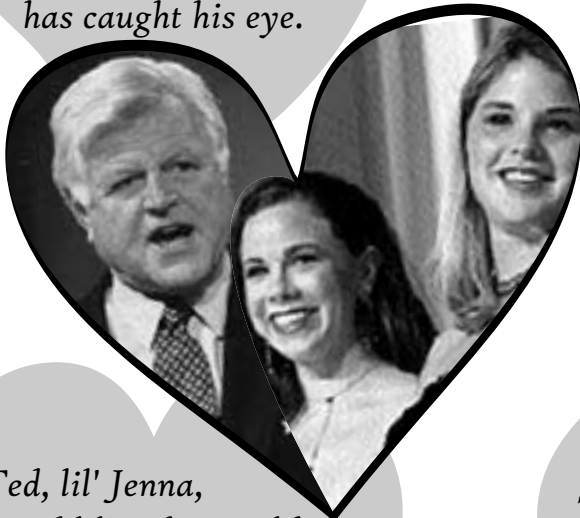
# Political Love Match



*Gary Condit sure does miss Chandra, but we hear another intern has caught his eye.*



*Lancelot and Guinevere step aside. Capitol Hill has topped Camelot's most scandalous couple!*



*Ted, lil' Jenna, and lil' Babs just like getting drunk together... and NOT driving.*



*Betty Ford loves Larry. This teetotalling twosome met while working to eliminate fun everywhere.*



*Trent Lott has found love spending his free time with Condi Rice. He especially loves the affirmative action!*



*They met at the Stupidity Salon and they've been inseparable ever since.*



*It's all fun and games until someone calls TEMS.*

# TEMS of Endearment

*by José Vazquez*

To call TEMS or not to call TEMS? Students often find themselves pondering this question, although the answer should be more than obvious when dealing with a student who might potentially have alcohol poisoning. What reasons are there for someone to not take advantage of the available service when an ailing friend is lying unconscious on the floor or on a bed? There are two possible answers: the monetary costs associated with providing an ambulance, if necessary, and the repercussions one may face should they choose to place that call. Students should not fear calling to help their friends, but they are more likely to take a chance and not call if there are severe consequences associated with this measure.

First of all, most students are not aware of the University's alcohol policy and its punishments. According to The Pachyderm, illegal and irresponsible use of alcohol are subject to disciplinary action. This includes underage drinking, public intoxication, providing alcohol to minors, carrying an open alcohol container in public, having kegs, partaking in drinking games, and excessive alcohol use and abuse.

To deal with those individuals who violate this policy, the University has instituted a three-strike system. The first offense, or Probation-1, results in residential probation. The University requires first-time offenders to receive a drug consultation or evaluation. The second offense, as stated in The Pachyderm, "may result in University disciplinary probation for one year or residence hall deferred separation for one

*Mr. Vazquez is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.*

year." Tufts notifies the violator's parents for the second offense. The third and final offense, "may result in separation from the university or residence hall," and, like the second offense, the University notifies the violator's parents.

The consequences of the alcohol policy are appropriate for each offense, but

it does not encourage students to use TEMS; in fact, it deters students from calling for medical help. The punishment for Pro-1 is not too severe. It is a warning that is not recorded on student transcripts, does not affect academic

standing, and is cleared from records once the semester is finished. Pro-1, however, should offer an incentive for students who use TEMS. Otherwise, they will refrain from calling more often than not. First-time violators who receive medical care from TEMS for alcohol-related purposes should receive a lighter penalty because they took advantage of the service. More severe punishment for the second and third offenses, however, is more appropriate and serves as a deterrent to repeat violators.

Since not everyone is exposed to alcohol during high school, college provides students with a time to experiment with new ideas and choices, regardless of their being underage. Adjusting to personal freedom, choosing to party, and remaining responsible while under the influence of alcohol is a tough obstacle for everyone. Most students can recall their first experiences at college parties. Many students, however, would not go as far as to call their first experiences pleasant. Those who

decide to drink for the first time are often unaware of their tolerances, which may result in illness or even alcohol poisoning. Other students recall assisting their friends back to their residence halls and taking care of them. Others still were left with the choice as to whether or not to call TEMS when their friends were in dire need. The fact that students are even faced with the dilemma between punishment and possible death is simply heinous.

Although consuming alcohol at most college parties is inevitable, students must still take personal responsibility if they decide to have a few drinks. Alcohol impairs judgment, and it leads students to drink well beyond their tolerances. In the wake of tragic alcohol-related deaths at nearby universities, measures must be taken to reinforce the safety of students. If students decide not to call TEMS in appropriate situations, they may die from alcohol poisoning. Without a TEMS-friendly incentive, an incident is waiting to happen.

Students need to become more knowledgeable of our alcohol policy, but the policy also needs to be considered for change and amendment. There are flaws in it, and those problems present a great risk to student safety. Currently, several students and TCU senators are planning to meet with administration to discuss changing the policy so that students can use the TEMS service without the fear of severe punishment.

Regardless of whether the policy faces changes in the next year, it is important to drink responsibly. There are a sundry of possibilities of what can occur as a result of drinking. More importantly, students must act rationally if someone needs medical care. A mere punishment is trivial when compared to the value of one's life. □



*Heroes remembered, science furthered.*

# The Sky Is Not the Limit

*by Aaron Held*

Every child grows up with dreams that take them out of this world; we gaze up into the magnificent heavens and want to explore outer space. NASA's glory days captivated us with the first manned missions into space and to the moon, yet public interest has continually waned until the recent tragedy involving the deaths of seven crew members on board the Space Shuttle Columbia. These astronauts who gave their lives onboard the Columbia made the ultimate sacrifice for knowledge and discovery. The six Americans and the first Israeli in space knew full well the hazards of space travel before they left earth, but bravely embarked on their journey without hesitation.

Despite the inherent danger of space travel, there have only been two major accidents of American manned craft before the Columbia disaster. The Shuttle has flown with only minor incident since 1988. After the Challenger explosion in 1986, NASA halted space flight for over three years to assess the Shuttle's malfunction and ensure the disaster was never repeated. Their seventeen years of near flawless flights reveal much about their concern for the safety and success of space missions, especially considering that with such a complex vehicle as the Shuttle the possibilities of error are enormous.

America's space program is a pillar of ingenuity, creativity, and leadership. NASA has accomplished endless feats and has led the world in pioneering the domestication of the Solar System. Although the government is facing a budget shortfall and an impending war, it makes sense to begin replacing the aging Shuttle fleet with new vehicles. After 20 years of solid performance and scientific advance-

*Mr. Held is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.*

ment, it is time to move forward. In the words of President Bush, "America's space program will go on." NASA's mission must be allowed to continue and there are countless plans for hardware development for the immediate and distant future such as Mars exploration and the continued search for habitable planets. More locally, the micro-gravity environment of space provides valuable research opportunities that cannot be duplicated on Earth. Among their current projects, NASA is working on outerspace power generation, a clean source of energy that will provide many economic opportunities. The US needs to take the tragedy of the Columbia



**The average American must see the need for NASA and become passionate about it as well. This will happen if NASA jumpstarts their ongoing program to send a manned mission to Mars.**

and build something positive from it. Currently NASA is under budgeted, and cannot complete projects to further space travel and scientific exploration. In this time of budget questioning, the government needs to reassess its priorities. Useless programs must be cut in favor of more worthy projects and efficient use of taxpayer dollars. When manned space travel began almost forty years ago, missions were a very public event, with major networks running video feeds from astronauts nightly. NASA had clear goals that excited the nation. As space travel became more common, missions have slipped to the back of the average American's

mind. In order to get the necessary funding, the average American must see the need for NASA and become passionate about it as well. This will happen if NASA jumpstarts their ongoing program by sending a manned mission to Mars—a journey no less epic than Columbus's final voyage or the Apollo program.

Overall, NASA has been and, most likely, will continue to be successful. The investigation into the Columbia accident is being conducted expeditiously, and conclusions are not being jumped to immediately. As outside observers, critics must not make hasty judgments about the space program after an incident like this, since there are over 2.5 million parts of the Space Shuttle, and countless mission parameters needing to be analyzed. The program should not be discredited until those with the requisite technical knowledge have determined its flaws. NASA has proven themselves with the Challenger investigation and subsequent redesign of the solid fuel boosters. As with all voyages into the unknown, it is impossible to predict everything.

We must remember that NASA's mission stands for more than just science. Ilan Ramon, the late Israeli astronaut, is regarded as a special hero in Israel. Over the past 28 months, Israel has been plagued with war, and Ramon gave the troubled nation hope. Even in these tragic times, the partnership between the US and Israel has been solidified through this event. The International Space Station, a major use of current Shuttle resources, is more than just a major advance in science—it is a partnership of 16 nations and a global unifier, perhaps more so than even the UN.

Throughout history, explorers have pushed back the edge of the frontier and cut trails for others to follow through new territories. The Space Shuttle, International Space Station, and satellite networks in orbit around Earth are all stepping-stones that will enable explorers to venture once again beyond our home planet, because, as the old adage goes, only a fool would leave all of his eggs in one basket. □



# UNdecided

*by Nicholas Boyd*

For most people, the words “United Nations” instinctively provoke warm, fuzzy, aspirations of cooperation and hope for the future of all mankind. That is because the concept of countries working together to achieve a better, safer, world is a good one. Founded just over fifty years ago with the purpose of promoting peace, human rights, and democracy, the UN of today still embodies these principles in its official mission statement. World trade, terrorism, the environment, and other global concerns are taking on new degrees of urgency, and we find the UN at the center of many battles to be fought and issues to be resolved.

Meanwhile, the United States is facing increasingly dangerous threats from all corners of the globe—mostly in the guise of Iraq, North Korea, and al Qaeda, perhaps even China, Cuba, Libya, and Iran. But the one most frequently overlooked, long-term threat to the United States comes from the UN itself. This is not possible, say many, dismissing such “paranoia” with long-standing convictions that the UN feeds the hungry, cures diseases, negotiates peace deals, and ensures a cleaner environment. Of course, the UN has done all of these things—but inefficiently, inconsistently, and often illegally.

Because the UN is an organization representing virtually every country in its general assembly, with countries like China and Syria in the decision-making Security Council, the amount of good faith one can put in this organization is limited to the merit of any individual member state. It should surprise none of us then, when the United States gets kicked off the UN Human Rights Commission to make room for rights

*Mr. Boyd is a freshman who has not yet declared a major.*

champion Sudan, and Iraq goes in line to become the chairman of the UN conference on Disarmament in May, both recent stories that are representative of exactly how things work at the United Nations.

At the most basic level, the United Nations is simply a large auditorium on Manhattan’s East Side where the world can espouse its anti-Americanism and revel in the collective approval from fellow member states. The dangers posed to the United States

**At the most basic level, the United Nations is simply a large auditorium on Manhattan’s East Side where the world can espouse its anti-Americanism.**

and our way of life lie in the endless resolutions, treaties, and statements produced by this organization. While people in countries lacking responsible democratic leadership might benefit from some of this paperwork, the majority of these treaties illegally attempt to impose foreign doctrines and values on the United States. American Scientists are not uniformly convinced of global warming, yet the world expects us to incur significant economic impediments by agreeing to emissions reductions outlined in the Kyoto treaty. The United States already has laws protecting women, minorities, and children and if we are unhappy with these laws we have the power to elect people that will change them. So, why exactly do we need to sign on to UN treaties guaranteeing these rights to us? And what if our view on the wording, extent, and context of these rights differs from that of Mr. Kofi Annan? As the only nation truly guaranteeing freedoms and human rights around the world—and therefore the most despised nation in the world—why should we entrust our lives to a world court whose bench is partially populated by appointees of these very same countries? The United States is a well functioning democracy. The 2000 election proves, rather than dispels that theory. How many other nations

would have seen total government collapse under such circumstances? The people of the United States can take care of themselves, while the people of Iraq, to cite one example of many, cannot. Yet there is an implied understanding among UN members that human rights, democracy, and anti-poverty initiatives are best used to infringe upon the sovereignty of the United States rather than deal with the ruthless regimes of true violators.

Observe the reactions that UN conferences around the world provoke today. Massive demonstrations against the United States, most recently at “sustainable development” and anti-racism gatherings in South Africa, accuse the US of acting selfishly and neglecting its responsibilities to the citizens of third world countries. At the same time, their love affair with the United Nations holds strong. How many of these starving farmers and AIDS-stricken youths know that the grain, farm equipment, medicines, education, and other services they receive in UN-marked boxes are paid for by the \$2.5 billion dollars the ever-so-selfish United States deposits in UN bank accounts each year? The answer, of course, is very few.

The UN has many employees with noble intentions for the world, and they deserve our respect and gratitude. But as long as the organization continues to represent oppressive governments instead of oppressed people, as long as it hampers America’s inherent generosity and potential instead of leveraging it for the global good, as long as it remains a tool of the European elite and power-hungry authoritarian, the United States of America must stand strong and tall against this body, beginning *now*—by leaving it. Let the boxes of aid sent to the poverty-stricken around the world have *American* flags on them. Let the peoples we liberate by brokering peace treaties and sending in our courageous servicemen and -women know exactly who is to thank. And finally, let the officials we elected to draft our laws be the ones that draft our laws. Our general assembly has 485 members—who, compared to the UN, are *all* good guys. □



*Just when Gloria Steinem seemed to be contentedly settling into married life...*

# Feminism's Final Hours

by Megan Liotta

Like any quality artwork, *The Hours* has evoked a vast range of reactions from a vast range of critics because, like any quality artwork, it makes them all think it is about them. Not surprisingly, given the film's focus on controversial women, Gloria Steinem thinks it's about her, too. In a commentary for the *Los Angeles Times* on January 12<sup>th</sup> ("Self discovery: a noble journey"), Steinem dissected the film with what was obviously meant to be the feminist power-voice of subjugated women everywhere. In reality, her commentary is a sorely outdated analysis about a stirring film.

Nicole Kidman, Julianne Moore, and Meryl Streep play three women—Virginia Woolf, Laura Brown (a 1950s housewife), and Clarissa Vaughn (a 21<sup>st</sup> century lesbian)—whose lives are inextricably intertwined via Woolf's novel *Mrs. Dalloway*. Covering one day in each woman's life, the movie details their struggles with depression and subsequent alleviation, which include suicide, abandonment, and parties, respectively. The visual details are just as gloomy, highlighting the depressive's struggle to make order from chaos. Amidst strewn papers, Virginia pens her book; Laura bakes a hideous cake in a horrifyingly tidy home; Clarissa insists—like Mrs. Dalloway—on buying the flowers herself, bringing them to her former lover Richard's (Ed Harris) unkempt apartment. They all insist on controlling an artificial environment because they cannot control themselves. Their at-

*Miss Liotta is a senior majoring in English and Comparative Religions.*

tention is misdirected; each woman should be seeking therapy, working to recognize the quality of their life relationships.

Love serves as a tragic undercurrent throughout, acting as a foil to the pervasive depression. Each woman has a steady partner who supports and loves her, yet all of these

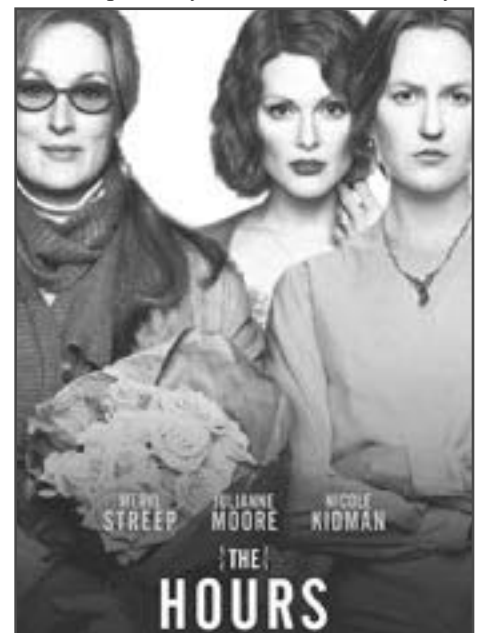
relationships fail to satisfy. Steinem considers this dissatisfaction the typical male's inability to understand women. "Some male moviegoers," she asserts, "have emerged bewildered about why Laura wasn't

happy with just her nice house, nice marriage and nice son—as if they would've been." News flash to Gloria: the bewilderment is gender neutral. The majority of people, male *or* female, would have been more than content in Laura's situation. She leaves, not because her husband fails to understand her needs as a woman, but because he—being of sound mind—fails to understand her needs as a depressive. Indeed, Laura's *self*-cognition is questionable.

In their respective hazes of mental disarray, the women grapple with questions of sexuality. Virginia shares a highly uncomfortable kiss with her startled sister, Vanessa (Miranda Richardson). The scene is not meant to be erotic, but manic, even scary, in its lack of control. Laura kisses her distraught neighbor Kitty (Toni Collette) in a much more tempered, though enormously sensual moment. Clarissa struggles with her past heterosexual relationship—she cries when one of Richard's male lovers visits. Yet this conflict between the hetero- and homosexual is not the mark of some quack

feminist theory where all women feel secretly sexually repressed. It is the onscreen manifestation of the depressed person's sexuality. In real life, the confusion is not always over orientation; many depressives struggle with apathy and impotence, even dangerous promiscuity. This inability to process human interaction constructively often drives the depressed person even further from society, as it does Virginia and Laura. Yet Virginia's suicide, Steinem insists, is a "radical act of self-determination," a political move in the face of "fascism and the beginning of World War II." Steinem's sick exploitation of Woolf serves Steinem's own political agenda. If anything, Woolf was incapable of empathizing with the institutionally repressed because of her preoccupation with herself. Depression is a selfish, lonely disease. Virginia killed herself, not because she *could* relate to humanity, but because she *could not*.

Unfortunately, some people are buying right into this feminist nonsense, even when they do not mean to. Rod Dreher, in his review of *The Hours* for NationalReview.com, condemns Steinem's interpretation, though not because he sees the movie differently. He pointedly calls it "a feminist movie" and agrees that it is meant to portray such tragedies as suicide and broken homes as the wondrous result of women's lib. He bitterly calls Virginia's death an escape from "psychological boredom" and Laura's flight her "pursuit of happiness" and suggests that Clarissa's self neglect is a sign of strength. Laura's brief lesbian-esque experience is, he claims, "probably the source of her misery."



He has it backwards; it is a symptom of her misery. The only valid—albeit accidental—point Dreher makes is that men, even people in general, have grown alarmingly resentful of Steinem's obsolete feminism because it fails to account for reality. Sometimes women *are* weak, sometimes leaving a marriage does *not* solve anything, and sometimes life just sucks, and it isn't anybody's fault.

Toward the end, an aged Laura shows up at Clarissa's door because Richard, the young boy she abandoned many decades ago, has committed suicide. In a confession to Clarissa, she says, "What does it mean to regret when you have no choice?" Dreher interprets this phraseology to mean that the audience is supposed to "sympathize" instead of "seeing her for what she is: a selfish, cold-hearted bitch." Laura's lack of regret, however, is not defiant; it is pathetic and sad and a mark of her illness. Dreher somehow mistakes this for feminist optimism. Steinem and Dreher's opinions, despite their political disagreements, are symptomatic of a society uncomfortable with an unhappy ending.

Earlier in the movie, Virginia, in a brief lucid moment, explains to her husband why she must return to London, despite the city's exacerbation of her condition. "I wish for your sake, Leonard, that I could be happy in this quietness," she says. "But if it is a choice between Richmond and death, I choose death." Laura, despite reading *Mrs. Dalloway*, fails to understand Virginia's point: both choices are death for the depressive. Laura simply ran from one suffocating depression to another. She committed emotional suicide instead of physical, and now she is unable to grieve in the face of her son's lonely death. Even Clarissa can see this plainly. Her impassioned kiss with her partner Sally (Allison Janney) after meeting Laura is a bittersweet reassurance that love still exists in her own life, that she still has a chance to discover happiness.

The film itself is beautifully shot in spite of its dreary scenery, magnificently edited (with nary an awkward segue), and wondrously acted. It deserves any award it can garner for its completely unforgiving look into three miserably ordinary lives. No other being causes itself to suffer the way a human does. The cast is outstanding, and any thoughtful viewer should come away with a serious appreciation for the internal depressive battle. That Steinem could not be hardly surprising. That Rod Dreher did not is disappointing. □

## Human Rights as Politics and Idolatry by Michael Ignatieff

Princeton University Press, 2001

\$19.95, hardcover, ISBN 0691088934

# books

Before the Second World War, only nation-states had rights under international law; people were at the mercy of their ruling governments. In 1948, however, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights granted basic protections to individuals within those states. Michael Ignatieff's exploration of human rights as both a political instrument and ideology seeks to explain why the insurance of individual security from gross suffering and torture is necessary for societal advancement. In fewer than 100 pages, he convinces readers of the dire need for basic rights and uniting activists from various backgrounds in pursuit of global progress.

From his first essay, Ignatieff defends diverse foundations for human rights, as long as they lead to common principles. He allows for both religious and secular supporters of an individual human rights agreement because they share an empirical belief in basic rights. Ignatieff urges activists to honor the Universal Declaration based not on principles that may result in human rights, but on the mutual benefits that rights protection may provide. His argument appeals to common sense. Ignatieff is wise to sidestep ideology, which he acknowledges will never be universal. People may never agree on why we have human rights, but they may be able to concur that productive society requires them.

Though Ignatieff dreams of a world in which human rights are protected and democracy reigns, the author's words are practical, not idealistic. Provision of basic human rights, he argues, allows for the productive engagement of people in respectful discussion, refining the foundational principles of rights. Ignatieff offers a tolerant, "hospitable society" in lieu of demanding universal respect. Despite his pro-democracy stance, however, Ignatieff's asserts that democracy and the provision of human rights may not go hand in hand. As witnessed both in Serbia and Indonesia, implementing democracy may not protect the rights of electoral minorities. If democracy brings only civil war and dissolution of the nation-state, Ignatieff asks, is the political struggle worth suffering?

More than democratic systems, Ignatieff values stability, an elusive goal for the great

lakes region of Africa, the southern Muslim nations of the former USSR, and the Balkans. To protect these minorities from oppression and to encourage order, Ignatieff argues shrewdly for the development of a freer economic market. "Breaking the zero-sum game of ethnic competition for state power," he writes, "requires enlarging social and economic sources of privilege independent of the state, so that even if minority groups can never prevail democratically against majorities, they can secure independent sources of wealth, privilege, and prestige."

In light of America's inability to clearly articulate a policy of intervention over the previous decade, *Human Rights* challenges readers to consider gross violations mandating armed involvement. Is intervention sanctioned only in order to protect life? Obviously US and UN policymakers have never stopped to deliberate over the most basic of questions. In 1994, failing to find the genocide in Central Africa a problem of "pressing national interest," the UN Security Council stood idle while hundred of thousands of Tutsis were massacred in Rwanda. Not surprisingly, Africans condemned the Council for flagrant racial bias. Interveners must choose their battles and should follow strict criteria. Consistency, Ignatieff writes, is a necessity in American foreign human rights policy.

*Human Rights* is strongly recommended for both international relations buffs and novices. Though he writes of political theory, Ignatieff chooses his words carefully to create essays that beginning students can understand. Readers are advised, however, to familiarize themselves with the basics of international conflict over the last ten years, as those comfortable with current events will find Ignatieff's ideas more provocative. His explanation of the human rights crisis refreshingly recommends contraction of national government, preservation of states, and strengthening of international organizations. He supports cultural pluralism while condemning relativism, a position difficult to articulate, but one that would serve America well as a foreign policy guideline as we seek to do better than we did in the 1990s.

—Tara Heumann

*It's the end of the world as we know it...and I feel fine.*

# The Warm Front

by Jonathan Halpert

With snow falling around us (at this writing) and having endured three weeks of some of the chilliest weather on record in New England, one's thoughts turn naturally to the subject of global warming. A recent *Rolling Stone* article (2/20/03, Iss. #916), "Global Warming Right Now," uses new data to suggest the Earth is experiencing a warming period at a rate of eight degrees Celsius per century. It goes on to say that all major coastal cities will be flooded and that some scientists—never mind which ones—are very worried. They probably should be, but less about global warming than the junk science getting used to prophesize the apocalypse.

There is little doubt that global temperatures are rising rapidly and that there are concurrent rises in carbon dioxide emissions due to human activities. Although the former cannot be definitively shown to be dependant on the latter (correlation does not imply causality), most scientists suspect there is a link. In any biological system, for any species to pollute the space it lives in with its own waste is usually detrimental. For example, take beer, where millions of yeast cells have died after filling their environment, the fermentation chamber, with their own waste, delicious alcohol. The sum total of these observations is that pollution is bad, the global climate is changing, and we *might* be to blame. Those are the facts. The myths go on indefinitely, but here are some of the most common.

**Myth 1:** The Earth will be destroyed.

The Earth is an enormous mass of iron ore covered with minerals, water and a little organic matter. Humanity could not possibly destroy this rock with all the nuclear weap-

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ons we have, let alone a couple of SUVs. A million years ago the Earth was just as safe from destruction as it is today. Environmental activists, however, are not really concerned about the structural integrity of the planet; they want to save "nature."

**Myth 2:** Nature needs to be saved.

This goal is ridiculous because it makes two assumptions. First it assumes that "nature" had some primal state at which it was meant to remain for all time. Nature, however, both climatic and biological, has been changing and evolving for billions of years. There have

been periods of relative stasis, but these are interspersed by extreme shifts during which millions of species have perished. The death of the dinosaurs is a perfect example of a time when natural activities have lead to environmental "disasters" and a drastic change in the global climate. So a changing climate is not unnatural in and of itself; indeed, in the last million years there have been a series of ice ages interspersed with temperate periods each lasting about 10,000 years. In fact, each ice age was preceded by a brief warming spell that is believed to have affected the warm water Gulf Stream and thus plunged the polar regions into extreme cold temperatures. Of further interest is that the last ice age ended about 10,000 years ago. So maybe this was "meant" to happen. Either way, "nature" does not need saving; the "pristine" environment as environmental activists perceive it apparently does.

**Myth 3:** We would like the world the way it was.

No. We chopped down those trees and turned them into houses for a reason. We would rather live in houses that are

cleaner, dryer, and protected from the beasts, which we then slew just to make sure. In the early years of our species, the Earth was covered with mega-mammals like the cave bear and the giant sloth, which we proceeded to eat. Reanimating these extinct species is impossible, and we probably wouldn't enjoy having them around anyway. Ever hit a deer with your car? Try a mammoth. They would still end up being affected by humans.

So if "nature" can't be saved from human influences, why should we change? This is the second assumption of the activists.

**Myth 4:** What we do isn't natural.

Environmentalists claim they want to stop mankind from destroying the "natural" world. This is a little like chiding buffalo for urinating all over the "natural" world. They are buffalo, and there's nothing unnatural about it. We are human, and it is natural for us to control our environment using our hands and our brains to make every tool we need to manipulate our surroundings. It is how we've survived for thousands of years. The conceptual problem is, however, difficult for two reasons. For one, how can our plastic world be natural? This question overlooks the fact that many species are able to produce complex materials and chemicals using stranger organs than their hands. Second, how can a "natural" process destroy *our* environment? During the Archaean Period, many scientists believe that the atmosphere contained very little oxygen, giving rise to a race of anaerobic bacteria that produced oxygen, a poisonous gas, as a waste product. Eventually all the bacteria perished due to raised levels of oxygen in the environment. Breath deeply; that's toxic waste you're enjoying.

So species *can* "naturally" pollute themselves to death and change the entire atmosphere in the process. This should be a warning to us. Unfortunately the wrong people are hearing it.

**Myth 5:** Environmentalists want to save the world.

There has never been a more relative phrase. Environmentalists aren't crusading for some ideal world "untouched by human hands" but are scrounging for their own survival. They are afraid we are going to make the environment unfriendly for ourselves. Although they may claim to care about

other animals, even that is either selfish (protecting fisheries to maintain our food supply) or stupid (protecting “endangered species” that are being naturally outlasted by a stronger, more able species: us). So the question is, how are they doing?

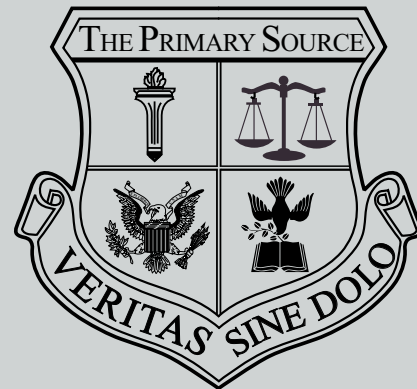
**Myth 6:** Activists are going to save the human race.

This seems unlikely. Activists are calling for “essentially rebuilding the world’s energy infrastructure” by “forcing agriculture and industry” through the use of “massive global effort,” in the words of Eileen Claussen, president of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. This is truly frightening. The idea of an overarching world governing body forcibly compelling individuals to obey for the common good is the basis of every great conqueror since Caesar. It also completely ignores the needs of a market economy.

Assume for the sake of argument that emissions are directly causing the warming effect. If we destroy our economy by signing forms like the Kyoto Protocol, we will be wasting money on the wrong things. If we really do have to eliminate carbon dioxide emissions, then limiting industry to certain amounts may slow the warming process but won’t stop it. The

only way to completely eliminate emissions is to improve technology to develop renewable energy sources. If all our energy comes from the sun or fusion, there are no more emissions, and the problem is solved. Developing these technologies will require enormous expenditures of capital on new sources of energy. Corporations will, however, be spending all their capital on maintaining artificial emission quotas and not reinvesting it in research and development. The ice caps will still melt, just not as quickly. By allowing production to continue normally in a market economy in which the *consumers* are the momentum behind better energy sources, the transition will pay for itself. Look at the new Toyota Prius, the hybrid gasoline/electric engine whose sales have inspired Ford and Honda to invest in their own hybrid vehicles. Soon everyone will be getting 50 miles per gallon because they *want* to.

The problem with the activists is that they distrust corporations and by extension capitalism. But the world will not change overnight, and no dictator can make it do so. What the world needs is new technology and innovation that you can’t learn in a Peace and Justice class. If we need to be saved, it will be the engineers and the scientists who will save us.



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# Tort Reform: Just Desserts

by Jason Walker

Although philosopher Ayn Rand was an atheist, she was also something of a prophet. Some of her wackier fans might read headlines coming out of West Virginia, New Jersey, and Nevada, point to *Atlas Shrugged*, and in hushed tones solemnly proclaim, "As it was foretold!"

Wacky though they may be, they would have some justification. Many doctors, like the striking men and women of the mind in *Atlas*, are abandoning their posts to practice medicine elsewhere, while others are taking administrative leave (the equivalent of a strike). The looters this time are not government bureaucrats, but trial lawyers. Skyrocketing lawsuits against doctors have driven malpractice insurance to crippling levels, up to \$100,000 a year in New Jersey, and \$200,000 for obstetricians in Miami.

Many in crisis states complain about the walkouts and brain drain, arguing that these doctors selfishly pursue their own profits at the expense of the sick who need their expertise. Reactions like these vindicate Rand's point; doctors, like all workers, work by voluntary agreement, not as slaves to whatever needs people claim. The condition of the liability systems in these states has left these doctors few viable choices other than walking out. There is something perverse about a justice system that awards settlements to "send a message" rather than to give individuals their due, or that is so weighted in favor of plaintiffs that defendants commonly settle to avoid more expensive costs later. Even winning in court can incur hefty legal fees for defendants, because, unlike in most industrialized countries, losing plaintiffs in America are not required to pay them.

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

President Bush deserves credit for bringing attention to the issue of exploding malpractice insurance premiums. The right and left wing agree that doctors should not have to sacrifice most of their income for malpractice insurance, but bitterly dispute what should be done about it. The Democratic Party, deep in the thrall of the trial lawyer lobby, blames insurance companies for shifting their losses on stock market investments

**There is something perverse about a justice system that awards settlements to "send a message" rather than to give individuals their due.**

to doctors' premiums, while Republicans, more sympathetic to the insurance industry, blame the trial lawyers.

The Republicans are at least closer to the truth. The trial lawyers lace their arguments with classic populist economic fallacies, contending insurance companies jack up their own rates in the name of profit. The Association of Trial Lawyers of America's website, for example, alludes to "millionaire insurance executives" who supposedly benefit at the expense of minority women who have the wrong limb amputated. Even in a semi-free market, no company can afford such cavalier tactics and expect to stay in business for long. Competition between companies pressures all to structure their profitability in the most efficient ways possible, regardless of whatever money they have lost on stock market investments. In fact, malpractice insurance in NJ has become so unprofitable that only three providers are still in business. But the trial lawyers' biggest mistake is their premise that insurance companies can be forced to fork over their profits to their clients without consequence. Industry expenses, however, are always passed on to the consumers.

Insurance companies are not, however, as pure as the driven snow. They are beneficiaries of a rigged system, insofar as regulations mandate doctors

carry insurance. Like auto insurance providers, such regulations create a captive market. While there is still competition, one crucial choice, the option of doing without, is taken away, which significantly reduces the incentive for insurance companies to keep their rates competitively reasonable. Compare, for example, auto insurance rates and quality of service between Massachusetts, where it is required, and New Hampshire, where it is not.

Clearly, something needs to be done to rein in runaway malpractice judgments and settlements, but the debate over medical liability properly belongs on the state level. Federalizing a single solution for all 50 states will hinder the experimentation necessary to find innovative approaches to liability reform. Each system must, however, be careful not to disempower those who have been wronged by incompetent doctors. First, malpractice insurance should be voluntary. Insurance providers could display seals of approval for hospitals that carry their service, so customers would know which hospitals offer the responsibility and financial resources to help them recover should the doctor be grossly negligent.

Along the same lines, ironically, states could take a cue from California and former Governor Jerry "Moonbeam" Brown and allow medical practitioners to offer binding arbitration contracts. Arbitrations are generally less time and cost consuming than jury trials, and other workers-for-hire like architects and contractors usually have similar arrangements with their customers without controversy. Contrary to the fears raised by the trial lawyers, Californians have seen no reduction in the number of malpractice claims per doctor, but average lawsuit awards have stabilized at a mere 150% growth rate compared to the 500% nationwide increase.

As in *Atlas Shrugged*, productive geniuses do not need pay raises or new regulatory schemes. Freedom to make one's own economic decisions should suffice. □



**"Doctor, my head hurts when I do this..."**

# Fifty Ways to LOSE Your Lover



- ☛ Stash your stolen SOURCE issues in his closet single
- ☛ Grope her during the Naked Quad Run
- ☛ Invite the Trustees to your house the night of Naked Quad Run
- ☛ Tell him that Britney Spears is matriculating
- ☛ Steal her ticket to the Fares lecture
- ☛ Tell him she can live in an attic in Quincy his junior year
- ☛ Throw a dirty sock at him
- ☛ Suggest her track team is only a result of Title IX
- ☛ Prevent his fencing club from being a team
- ☛ Draw an Observer comic
- ☛ Read the Observer comics
- ☛ Print a "Super Bowl Wrap Up" a week after the big game
- ☛ misspell a front page headline
- ☛ Describe seeds as "promiscuous"
- ☛ Quote SOURCE articles during sex
- ☛ Quote Amber Madison articles during sex; draw diagrams
- ☛ Quote Amber Madison articles during breakfast
- ☛ Cook dinner for the staff of THE PRIMARY SOURCE
- ☛ Vote against a conservative culture rep
- ☛ Vote for a conservative culture rep
- ☛ Ask to break the rules during a constitutional reform meeting
- ☛ Try to define "conservative culture" with your pocket dictionary
- ☛ Forget to check boxes for race and sexuality
- ☛ Ask her friends what her last name is
- ☛ Charge your TEMS fine to her Bursar's bill
- ☛ Offer him Dewick vegan brownies
- ☛ Calculate the spring constant of Dewick vegan brownies
- ☛ Put your nuts in the Instron machine, and then test the entire package
- ☛ Campaign for senate on the "paper towel" platform
- ☛ Pick her up on your bike wearing warm-up pants and a brown leather jacket
- ☛ Ask for \$15,000 to print six issues of your magazine
- ☛ Ask if the Back Bay Hilton takes points
- ☛ Ask if she takes points
- ☛ Join a "social club" with Sam Dangremond, Chike Aguh, and Justin Race
- ☛ Pour beer on his head and punch him in the face
- ☛ Complain about the SOURCE after graduating
- ☛ Tell him the SOURCE is the campus elite
- ☛ Take her to a Guns N' Roses concert...
- ☛ ... Cheer when you see her boobs on the Jumbotron
- ☛ Name your printer "Yeast"
- ☛ Name your genitalia "HP LaserJet4"
- ☛ Buy her SOURCE apparel
- ☛ Design her SOURCE apparel
- ☛ Replace her Cosmo with a National Review
- ☛ Replace his PRIMARY SOURCE with an Observer
- ☛ Fall asleep during her vagina's monologue
- ☛ Plan to walk out on your students
- ☛ Tell her your relationship isn't sufficiently diverse
- ☛ Tell her your relationship needs the help of a task force
- ☛ Pose in the American Flag on the cover of THE PRIMARY SOURCE

## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

Democracy sucks.

—Kelly Sanborn

I love Mickey Mouse more than any woman  
I've ever known.

—Walt Disney

You love her  
But she loves him  
And he loves somebody else  
You just can't win  
And so it goes  
Till the day you die  
This thing they call love  
It's gonna make you cry  
I've had the blues  
The reds and the pinks  
One thing's for sure  
Love stinks

—J. Geils Band

Love is two minutes fifty-two seconds of  
squishing noises. It shows your mind isn't  
clicking right.

—Johnny Rotten

Love thy neighbor as yourself, but choose  
your neighborhood.

—Louise Beal

Love is a snowmobile racing across the tun-  
dra and then suddenly it flips over, pinning  
you underneath. At night, the ice weasels  
come.

—Matt Groening

Wars teach us not to love our enemies, but  
to hate our allies.

—W. L. George

Love is what we call the situation which occurs  
when two people who are sexually compat-  
ible discover that they can also tolerate one  
another in various other circumstances.

—Marc Maihueird

Nothing in all the world is more dangerous  
than sincere ignorance and conscientious  
stupidity.

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

The love of democracy is that of equality.

—Charles de Montesquieu

Love looks not with the eyes, but with  
the mind.

—William Shakespeare

Never assume that the guy understands  
that you and he have a relationship.

—Dave Barry

We can't help everyone, but everyone can  
help someone.

—Ronald Reagan

A love for tradition has never weakened a  
nation; indeed it has strengthened nations  
in their hour of peril.

—Sir Winston Churchill

Reason and Justice tell me that there is more  
love of man in electricity and steam, than  
in chastity and refusal to eat meat.

—Anton Chekov

I know what love is: Tracy and Hepburn,  
Bogart and Bacall, Romeo and Juliet, Jackie  
and John and Marilyn...

—Ian Shoales

Whenever I hear people talking about "lib-  
eral ideas," I am always astounded that  
men should love to fool themselves with  
empty sounds. An idea should never be  
liberal; it must be vigorous, positive, and  
without loose ends so that it may fulfill  
its divine mission and be productive. The  
proper place for liberality is in the realm of  
the emotions.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The love of liberty is the love of others; the  
love of power is the love of ourselves.

—William Hazlitt

The love of money is the root of all virtue.

—George Bernard Shaw

Love is too weak a word for what I feel—I  
luurve you, you know, I loave you, I luff  
you, with two F's.

—Woody Allen, *Annie Hall*

I love mankind; it's people I can't stand.

—Charles M. Schultz

It is better to be hated for what you are than  
to be loved for what you are not.

—Andre Gide

An elephant: A mouse built to government  
specifications.

—Robert Heinlein

War is like love; it always finds a way.

—Bertolt Brecht

It is not from the benevolence of the butcher, the  
brewer, or the baker, that we expect our dinner,  
but from their regard to their own self-interest.  
We address ourselves, not to their humanity but  
to their self-love, and never talk to them of our  
own necessities but of their advantages.

—Adam Smith

He who merely knows right principles is not  
equal to him who loves them.

—Confucius

Love is not blind—it sees more, not less. But  
because it sees more, it is willing to see less.

—Rabbi Julius Gordon

To say "I love you" one must first be able  
to say the "I."

—Ayn Rand