

# THE PRIMARY SOURCE

*The Journal of Conservative Thought at Tufts University*<sup>SM</sup>

Volume XIV Number 10

VERITAS SINE DOLO

February 29, 1996

Inside:  
The Return of  
Fool on the Hill

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vol. XIV no. 10

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- \* A Communiqué from the *real* disenfranchised
- \* Don't miss the club's exciting outing!
- \* Kick up your heels with the members
- \* Inside the WASP Culture Club's budget

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# FROM THE EDITOR

The University charges the TCU Senate with allocating student activities funds and “working for the rights and concerns of students.” In the past, however, the body has largely operated in a vacuum. Senators meet with student leaders during the annual budgeting process but rarely seek input otherwise. Indeed, they spend much of their time fiercely debating impotent resolutions without generating much interest from students at large, as evidenced by the repeated failure of Constitutional referenda to garner the requisite 25% turnout. Now, a series of events has reaffirmed time-tested stereotypes about the TCU. Most senators primarily concern themselves with self-aggrandizement and readily compromise their convictions in the face of protest.

Following the February 4th decision to expel from the full Senate non-voting representatives chosen for racial or sexual diversity and relegate them to a committee, certain Tuftonians openly expressed their outrage. At the next meeting a cadre of sixty radicals—mostly black—disrupted normal business, requesting immediate reconsideration of the expulsion vote. And when no senator would move to reopen debate, the most militant intruders threw out every standard of democratic civility and seized the seats of President Ancy Verdier and three others.

Just as some observers thought the TCU would stand tough in the face of impertinence, the coalition-building, non-confrontational, liberal pathos which possesses most Tufts students—and senators in particular—took over. Sophomore Brooke Jamison, the consummate wise fool, broke down and reopened debate on the closed issue.

The panel had every reason to refuse reconsideration, and the protestors’ outrageous behavior should have hardened the body’s resolve. If the democratic process can be nullified by people leveling spurious charges of racism and promising that “all hell will break loose,” there is no reason to promulgate the

pretense of representative government. The decision’s ultimate reversal proves that the angry, loud, and abrasive have more influence than those who quietly cast their ballots and respect the standards of civil discourse. If Jamison and her fellow senators honored the founding principles of all democratic systems, they would have refused to recant and allowed the renewed interest demonstrated by their rowdy guests to spawn a broad-based debate on the issue. Perhaps then the Constitution, including amendments concerning culture reps’ voting power, would receive the attention even free slices of pizza could not buy.

Naturally, the Senate’s spineless response to the baseless charges of racism leveled by these malcontents encouraged even more radical and insidious behavior. After the TCU Allocations Board refused to provide funds to the Chinese Culture Club for the purchase of take-out food (see Fool on the Hill, facing page), activists accused the Senate of “institutional bias” against Oriental culture. Speaking after ALBO decided to increase the CCC’s budget by \$150 to cover take-out costs, Treasurer Scott Lezberg admitted that the allegations “had some effect.”

And that effect is clear. The culture club prevailed only after crying ‘intolerance,’ just as the protestors at the meeting had done. In this case, however, the about-face seriously damages the Senate’s credibility as a just distributor of student activities money. By allowing the CCC to circumvent established budgeting procedures, ALBO invalidated its own regulations. The move sent a clear signal to unsatisfied organizations that angry charges—in this case, entirely false—can cloud issues and win the favor of senators more concerned with appearances than fairness. Neither the Chinese Culture Club nor the pro-culture-representative protestors deserved special treatment; for granting certain groups unusual privileges means that, in the Senate’s eyes, all students were not created equal.

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Julie Rockett / Naveen Malwal  
Chris Zappala / Jeff Bettencourt  
Lena Mindlina / Nathan Holtey  
Benn Lieberman / Micaela Dawson  
Lee Shenker

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# FOOL ON THE HILL<sup>SM</sup>

Foolishness and stupidity once again dominate campus politics. The recent barrage of public finger-pointing, chair-grabbing, and senatorial bumbling gave SOURCE electors a host of viable candidates for this edition's Fool on the Hill. Carol Wan, however, leapfrogged over the great wall that separates buffoons from rational minds. By wasting university money to create her own Golden Light on the Hill, Chairman Carol has not only insulted the intelligence of the entire Tufts community, but also cheapened a well-respected ancient culture. Sorry Carol, but your People's Republic of Medford is a lousy idea.

Cry-baby Carol threw a fit at a recent Senate meeting, protesting a \$600 dollar reduction in the Chinese Culture Club's budget. If the greatest sign of institutional bias that the last empress can cite is the Senate's refusal to purchase Kee Kar Lau for her comrades, then Wan's proposed cultural revolution will be short-lived. Maybe Panda Palace's favorite customer should lay off the scorpion bowls and realize that eating take-out American Chinese cuisine does not constitute cultural interaction.

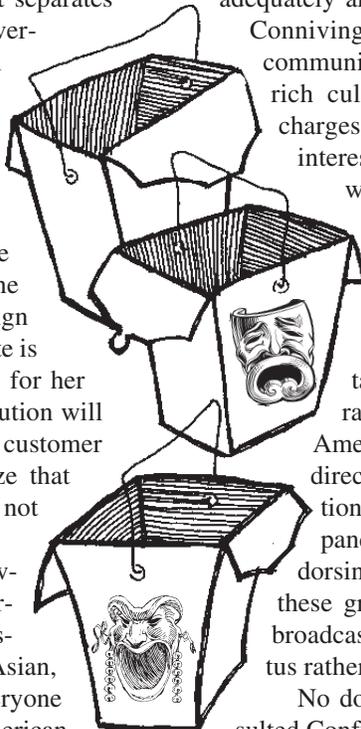
Perhaps Carol "Fistful of" Wan's narrow-minded Sino-centrism prevents her from understanding that ordering in Chinese food is a distinctly Western experience. The taste might be Asian, and the food might be cooked in a wok, but everyone knows that Chop Suey was created in an American kitchen. Even if Kee Kar Lau did represent a deep cultural experience, Tuffonians hardly need the Chinese Culture Club to buy them take-out; most students, after all, order plenty of Chinese on their own.

Whining Wan would do well to realize that culture can only be shared through a common experience. By ordering out, that experience becomes meaningless because it fails to advance the ideas and practices which contribute to the preparation of Chinese dishes. An extra side order of duck sauce cannot adequately articulate cultural values.

Conniving Carol and company could better serve the community by promoting the timeless ideals of China's rich culture instead of issuing tired complaints and charges of oppression. Apparently, Red Carol is more interested in her plans to shanghai the Senate. The wailing Wan is not the only individual who must deal with a limited budget. TUTV, an organization which helps bring cable television to dorm rooms, had its modest budget reduced by approximately \$1000.

The fortune cookie monger persistently maintains that budget cuts are evidence of institutional racism. Yet the University finances an Asian-American Center and has hired Linell Yugawa to direct it. The ultimate villain here is an administration that fosters hyper-sensitivity and an ever-expanding victim's mentality by subsidizing and endorsing "marginalized" racist enclaves. Ironically, these groups just waste everyone's time by endlessly broadcasting liberal American notions of oppressed status rather than offering anything of cultural significance.

No doubt, if the First Lady of Start House had consulted Confucius, the wise philosopher would have told her to pay for her own Chinese food. Unfortunately, the Senate's "hush money" offer to Tufts' latest victim means that the Take-out Tyrant will no longer be one Peking Ravioli short of an ethnic celebration. It certainly is the Year of the Rat.



## Everything You Always Wanted to Know About **Tufts** \* \*But Everyone Else Was Afraid to Tell You<sup>SM</sup>

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An unprovoked attack on a freshman in front of Eaton Hall last week shattered the feeling of safety Tuftonians feel here on the Hill. Surprisingly, this incident was not perpetrated by a local adult thug. Instead, the assailants were neighborhood teenagers taking part in mischievous Ski Week activities. Sadly, the apprehension of these misfits comments less on excellent detective work by the Tufts Police than the decay of our society and neighborly values.

Conflict between area youths and college students have occurred as long as the two have lived alongside one another. Schools generally try to maintain a degree of openness as long as possible before giving in and simply building a wall, as Trinity College and the University of Southern California have done. While this may prevent crime on campus, the unsavory predicament remains beyond the Ivory Wall. Although Tufts seeks cordial relations with the Medford/Somerville community, the occurrences of late are unacceptable.

Upon catching the delinquents, the first question TUPD should have asked is "Where were the parents of these youths?" This unhappy tale exemplifies the despicable trend occurring all over the nation—a pattern of parents shirking their unique obligation. Kids not only run around unsupervised, but when they find themselves in trouble, no familial authority disciplines them. If, when leaving, the children had told their parents, 'We're off to severely beat a Tufts student for fun,' they would not have gotten past the door. Even though guardians are becoming increasingly irresponsible, they surely disapprove of wanton violence. The root of the problem is that far too many parents do not even attempt to discover the whereabouts or intentions of their progeny.

One should note that this incident and others involving local teens occurred during school vacation, implying that parents rely on public schools to assume the responsibility they accepted when conceiving their children. Schools should only educate children, not baby-sit them; parents must always look out for their offspring's welfare and teach them values. Much of our society's moral decay can be attributed to parents carelessly, not to mention lazily, renouncing their duties.

The few liberals who do not deny the decline in civil standards often attribute the phenomenon to single parenting, but this is not a valid excuse. Single parents are nevertheless obliged to instruct their children in proper behavior. Until society abandons absurd justifications for irresponsible parents, the road to decency will remain a long, uphill path.

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson established a week-long focus on the historical achievements of blacks around the world. These seven days evolved into what we now know as Black History Month—a time dedicated to the admirable goals of raising the self-esteem of black Americans and combating racism. However, recognizing the observance of black accomplishments, rather than simply meritorious accomplishments, raises an unnecessary distinction between blacks and Americans.

February serves as a celebratory month to many groups and causes in addition to Black History—among them, American history. Certainly, American blacks of distinction are naturally included in this observance. Remarkable individuals, regardless of race, should serve as role models for all people. Black youths should strive to emulate figures of outstanding character, not just

common appearance. One should not choose to idolize Martin Luther King, Jr. over Abraham Lincoln solely because of his skin color. Both men played roles of paramount importance in American History and serve as exemplary heroes.

History books focus on the most prominent individuals of the past. True, racism denied many blacks the chance they deserved to shape American history. Today, however, the media reports newsworthy ac-

complishments of people belonging to all ethnicities, for their achievements, not their race. Like current newspapers, the history books of tomorrow will reflect the triumphs of today.

We should all learn from the unfortunate existence of institutionalized racism in our past; but we must not dwell on it. The United States offers all men an equal opportunity to succeed. In contrast to pre-fifties America, the nation now provides all citizens an education and prohibits discrimination based on any measure other than merit. Individuals of all colors and creeds play integral roles in our society and in leading our nation.

Black History Month is, itself, racist. Blacks are a part of American history and should be examined in that context; scholars must note that emphasizing differences sparked racism in the first place. Moreover, Black History Month delivers the false message that minorities should distinguish themselves first as members of their particular race, then as human beings. But greatness transcends race. Men such as Thurgood Marshall and Ghandi are extraordinary for their powerful influence, not their color. After all, Dr. King proclaimed that individuals should be judged on the content of their character—not the color of their skin.



## Battling the PC Assault on Intellectualism

A 41-member council of Boston University faculty recently endorsed a report chiding that school's top administrators. According to the edict, University President John Silber and President-elect Jon Westling, among others, instructed professors to conform to specific ideological views. Accusing the senior administrators of abandoning intellectual diversity, the committee of complainers lamented the rightful condemnation of work focusing exclusively on multiculturalism and radical feminism.

Silber and Westling enraged professors and students alike by rejecting dissertations and tenure applications for work entirely within certain politically correct frameworks. While the President and his successor do not categorically oppose PC viewpoints, they insist that they have a duty to uphold academic standards and maintain intellectual quality. Silber and Westling do not object to liberal ideas *per se*, rather professors and masters candidates who limit their studies to politically-driven perspectives. As usual, outspoken liberal professors and students failed to respect efforts to encourage legitimate academic discourse by failing to see the intolerance of militant radical feminism and multiculturalism.

Regardless of the authors' ideological affiliation, universities should not accept substandard work merely because it panders to political correctness. Thankfully, some university administrators, unlike Tufts' Ballou contingent, have the courage to stand up for scholastic integrity.

## Unhealthy Consequences

Last year, Massachusetts discreetly changed health insurance policies for state workers so that reimbursements would be limited to amounts deemed "reasonable and customary" by the state. State employees, now finding their insurance policies unable to cover the high cost of medical treatment must pay the difference themselves, a figure which often runs into the thousands of dollars.

John Hancock, the company that covers most state employees, offers a standard workers' policy which pays all medical bills in full. The State, however, now forbids the insurance carrier to perform such a service for its hires. Unlike Hancock, whose business interests are served by providing reliable health insurance, the State of Massachusetts has no incentive to ensure the best possible coverage for its workers.

This situation provides a clear example of why vital services should not be entrusted to the State. If all Bay Staters relied on this government plan, they would find themselves sorely disappointed and health crises would abound. Without a self-interested business to confront, it is highly unlikely that Massachusetts residents would have an adequate outlet to address grievances.

As state workers face unexpected co-payments, private sector employees covered by John Hancock's basic insurance plans continue to benefit from the comprehensive coverage they were promised. If health insurance were the responsibility of government bureaucrats, they would not be so fortunate.

## The Fighting Irish

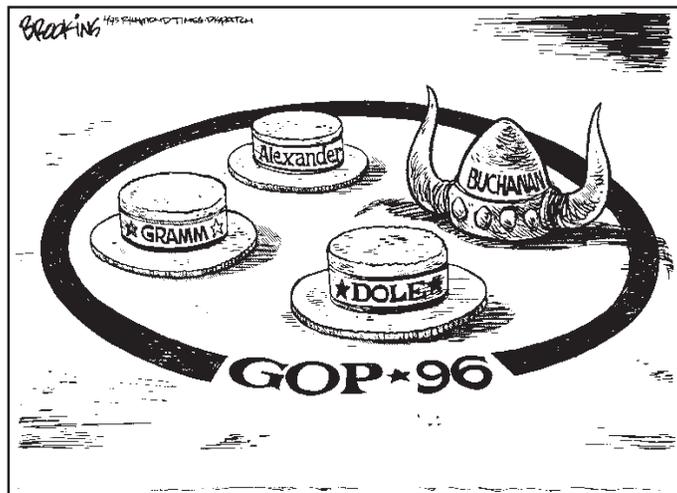
The longest cease fire in a twenty-five year long civil war ended last week as the Irish Republican Army resumed terrorist warfare in London, planting three bombs in the heart of the English capital. A thwarted attack in London's West End closely followed an explosion in a Docklands area parking lot. In the most recent assault, Scotland Yard authorities did not receive the customary warning before an explosion destroyed a double-decker bus traveling through the city's theater district. Guided by a mentality that equates compromise with treason, the IRA's decision to reinstate terrorist activity promises to quash hopes for peaceful settlement.

Spokesmen for Sinn Fein, the Army's political wing, justify the militarist approach by arguing that the British government reneged on its end of the 1994 cease-fire agreement. In fairness to the IRA, London did go back on promises to sponsor talks between all parties, because British negotiators demanded that the IRA disarm. The nationalists maintain that the cease-fire conceded enough and wanted talks to begin before the Army laid down its arms. In place of the aborted negotiations,

the IRA tried to end the deadlock by returning to unconscionably destructive tactics.

For the fanatical fringe that comprises the violent IRA, the political and diplomatic processes to which they have been asked to submit always prove ineffective. These militants look back on a one thousand year history of armed resistance to British imperialism and lament that all those bloody Sundays culminated in the division of their country. In their eyes, the 1922 partition of Ireland epitomizes the problem with compromise. The IRA has grown impatient with the sluggishness that characterized the arbitration process. London, no stranger to the perils of nationalist uprisings, should have been satisfied with the cease-fire and seized the opportunity for reconciliation.

But the Irish Republican Army rightfully bears most of the blame for retarding the peace process. Thousands of innocent people, Irish and Anglo, Catholic and Protestant, feel terrorized by the daily threat of random massacre. Bypassing the non-belligerent will of the majority, terrorist action subordinates the value of human life to the manner in which governments dictate policy. Regardless of Britain's history of tyranny, until the IRA develops a respect for order, democracy and peace will remain imperiled.



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

*Comedy is allied to Justice.*  
—Aristophanes

**PS** Conservative campus rags are at it again. This time, *The Observer of Boston College* was featured in a *Boston Globe* article detailing a story that ran in BC's counterpart to THE SOURCE. It seems that editors published scandalous photos of a Drag Ball operated by the LGBC, in which women dressed up as priests and molested men who wore school-girl uniforms. Silly queers, priests never molest little girls....

**PS** Of course, the BC administration didn't take kindly to the controversy and slapped both *The Observer* and the LGBC with stern warnings. At Tufts, *The Observer* and LGBC slap each other around.

**PS** Suddenly a magnet for media coverage, Tufts appeared in a five-minute spot produced by Lebanese television which aired on CNN's "World Report," covering former French President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's presentation on the Middle East peace process. At least Val is better looking than Greta Van Susteren.

**PS** In the last edition of Fortnight, we neglected to report that February 7th is National Hangover Awareness Day. Sorry, we were too sick to get out of bed and celebrate.

**PS** Move over Burger King, there's a new whopper in town. OJ Simpson now claims that Nicole Brown used to throw books at him and make him "feel helpless." That's why he killed her.

**PS** The I-House recently sponsored an intercultural event at IHOP. They asked for the Rootie Tootie Fresh 'n' Fruity Breakfast with soy sauce.

**PS** A librarian and a Domino's manager were charged with delivering marijuana in pizza boxes. Guess what? Those mushroom rooms are not run of the mill either.

**PS** Three Army sergeants, one with a crowbar, attacked a Navy recruiter in a dispute over a female recruit. Three Marines came to help out, but to no avail. The men in green were put in the stockade, however, and the woman signed with the Navy. One of the men was revealed to be Shannon Faulkner.

**PS** Jolly Old England put Florida on its list of dangerous tourist spots after a Dutch woman was killed when she and her husband took a wrong turn and ended up in a bad part of town. The list also included such resorts as Rwanda, Somalia, and Sudan. Better shut down the Magic Kingdom, Pocahontas is on the warpath again.

**PS** A fifty-one year-old high-school football fanatic invited a player to her home, fed him a few screwdrivers, and had him come up to her bedroom where she got naked and told him to "do it for the team." Court testimony revealed that the event took all of seven minutes. He must have fumbled.

**PS** Hope he only catches footballs.

**PS** Louis Farrakhan knows when not to mix politics and hate. Even though the rulers of Sudan still enslave black Africans, Farrakhan was sure to include the North African country in his third world tour. He blamed it on the Jews.

**PS** Jean Claude Van Damme's mistress said that the Belgian movie star is "very interesting [and] creative" in bed. He must not be acting.

**PS** The Grenadan government recently issued a series of stamps depicting Ronald Reagan, who liberated the island from the Commies. Even islanders swimming in rum and bad doctors know that Ronnie is a stud.

**PS** A California man paid \$500,000 for a love letter written by knife-wielding artist Vincent Van Gogh and then sent it to his sweetheart on Valentine's Day. It made a tremendous impression.

**PS** Let's hope she turned a kind ear to his romantic overtures.

**PS** Jesse Jackson told the media that he feels Pat Buchanan is more of a danger to the country than Louis Farrakhan. But at least there aren't a million Pats.

**PS** Morry Taylor, the droll dark-horse Republican presidential contender, likes to cut the rug on weekends. He wasn't so happy, however, when he showed up at one New Hampshire spot on a Sunday and walked around asking, "Where's the music? Where's a boom box?" Where the hell are your supporters?



**PS** Four years ago last February 20th, H. Ross Perot said he would run for President if supporters put his name on the ballot. He sucks.

**PS** Forty-two-year-old Rhonda Erving is on trial for using supermarket tabloids to start fires. Enquiring minds couldn't care less.

**PS** OJ says, "I can't see myself driving around in a red Ferrari at this time in my life;" so he's putting his up for auction. Maybe he should buy a bus pass.

**PS** Schoolchildren slated to appear in a Clinton press spot were allowed only limited access to bathrooms for over six hours. That explains the look on Chelsea's face.

**PS** One in five Americans want a moratorium on immigration. The other four want a moratorium on Pat Buchanan.

**PS** *The New York Post* reports that a city worker received a full year's pay while sitting at home waiting for a disciplinary hearing to take place. She reportedly answers the phone, "Dean Knable's office."

**PS** Senate investigators fear for the safety of Whitewater fink David Hale should he be taken into custody by Arkansas authorities who intend to file charges against him. No need to worry, Vince came out all right.

**PS** Las Vegas officials issued 1,089 marriage licenses on Valentine's Day. People really do like to gamble in Vegas.

**PS** A Harvard study found that monkeys might actually be able to perform simple arithmetic. Maybe we should replace Scott Lezberg with a baboon.

**PS** Homeless people in the nation's capital are complaining that the city has failed to fund groups that help them. Mayor Barry spent all the money on crack and skanky hookers.

**PS** A Michigan legislator wants to ban televisions and radios in state and county prisons. UPN and WB, however, are still permitted as alternatives to the death penalty.

**PS** According to *The Washington Times*, Bill and Hillary Clinton routinely claim \$1 and \$2 tax deductions for used underwear. That makes sense—those two have been crapping all over us for years.

**PS** Providence Mayor Vincent Cianci wants legislative leaders to reject Governor Almond's plan to cut funding for the arts by 36 percent. When the state refused to budge, Mayor McSleaze announced a paint-your-own-food-stamp contest.

**PS** Former football great Bo Jackson complains about public perception of athletes. "Whoever made up the phrase 'dumb jock,' I wish I could meet that person and punch him in the mouth." We thought Bo knew everything.

**PS** The Tennessee Senate is considering a bill that would encourage residents to live by the Ten Commandments. They should have a law like that in Arkansas.



**PS** Jan Kerouac, daughter of Beatnik bad boy Jack Kerouac, wants to exhume her father's body and bury it next to his ex-wife instead of his widow. Call it *The Subterraneans*.

**PS** And no, we didn't read it.

**PS** New Iberia, Louisiana, banned exotic and nude dancing in places selling alcoholic beverages. Now smut peddlers'll have to hire good looking women.

**PS** Former prostitute, 54-year-old Jesse Winchester has announced her bid for a congressional seat from Nevada. At least the public will enjoy it when this politician screws them.

**PS** Spotted in New Hampshire: a sign reading "FROSTHEAVES," with the words "for President" scribbled underneath. Sounds interesting, but he'll never lick Dick Lugar.

# Socialist Snake Oil

Keith Levenberg

On February 13, 1996, radical leftist author Holly Sklar delivered a lecture to the Tufts community entitled "The Dying American Dream and the Snake Oil of Scapegoating." Although the speaker's slant was obvious to critical attendees, many students may have considered the lecture a fair and accurate portrayal of America by an impartial scholar. Several mainstream academic departments, including Political Science and Economics, contributed to the false pretense of objectivity by co-sponsoring the lecture organized primarily by Peace and Justice Studies. Indeed, flyers described Sklar as an "analyst of the US political economy." In this deliberate attempt to conceal the speaker's true motives, the academics who supported Sklar's presentation compromised their own integrity and the lecture's educational validity.

The first hint of deceit appeared in the on-campus promotions which identified Sklar only as a published author, conveniently omitting other credentials which would have exposed the political objectives of her presentation. Sklar writes a column for *Z Magazine*, an openly socialist monthly, and is a member of the activist organization "Speak Out!" Last year, that group began a national "Campaign to Counter the Right on Campus," which dispatched radical activists such as Noam Chomsky, the late William Kunstler, Michael Parenti, and Holly Sklar to campus audiences.

According to an advertisement by "Speak Out!" which ran in *Z Magazine*, the organization "forg[es] partnerships between student activists and speakers that integrate a campus lecture into ongoing organizing efforts." More accurately, the group attempts to use college audiences to advance discreetly their political agenda while camouflaging propa-

ganda as traditional intellectual discourse. Given the overt political agenda of "Speak Out!," Tuftonian sponsors of Sklar's lecture had good reason to conceal her affiliation with the fanatical group. If students attending her talk had been aware that a political organization was using them to advance "ongoing efforts," surely they would have considered her statements more critically.

Each of Sklar's major points touted the trite positions of radical leftist ideology; thus not designating her lecture as one informed by a liberal position constituted intellectual dishonesty. Of course, truth did not appear on the lecture's menu. Unable to defend her positions objectively, Sklar had to support her arguments with blatant lies. In one instance, she cited a public opinion survey in which 20% of respondents believed social welfare programs were the biggest government expenditure, a position which, in her opinion, demonstrated how conservatives misinform the public. She exposed 'the right's lie' by untruthfully asserting that social programs

only account for one percent of federal spending.

A glance at the federal budget for Fiscal Year 1995 demonstrates that the one percent figure is pure fiction; social welfare programs account for an enormous portion of government spending. Last year, Washington sent out Social Security benefit checks totaling

\$334.5 billion. Medicare cost \$153.3 billion, and Medicaid tacked on another \$96.4 billion. Unemployment insurance amounted to a \$23 billion expenditure, and Aid for Families with Dependent Children also cost \$23 billion. In all, these public

welfare programs hemorrhaged \$630.2 billion of a \$1,518 billion budget—a figure topping 40 percent, not the one percent Sklar deceitfully claimed.

It comes as no surprise that Sklar, like so many others, proceeded to blame the deficit on the military. But repeating outrageous lies like good little sycophants does

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**Unable to defend her positions objectively, Holly Sklar had to support her radical arguments with blatant lies.**

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not turn falsehoods into reality. The Pentagon accounted for only \$271.1 billion of expenditures in the same year that social programs drained \$630.2 billion.

Faulting both the size of the military and "tax cuts to the rich," Sklar lamented that "Now education, employment, housing, and child care are dying." Naturally, the truth unequivocally renders her claims unsubstantiated. The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, the first major tax hike by the Clinton Administration, raised "contributions" by an average of \$23,500 on families earning more than \$200,000 annually. These people, including both the "rich" and the upper-middle class, shouldered 80 percent of the taxes raised by OBRA-93. Moreover, the act increased marginal tax rates in the top bracket from 31% to 39.6%.

Even soaking the rich did not produce enough revenue for the big government programs advocated by Holly Sklar and Bill Clinton. Democrats also needed to raise taxes on the middle class, squeezing another \$3.6 billion out of families earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000. Even citizens in the \$30,000 to \$40,000 brackets felt the burden of major increases in the form of hidden taxes on energy and other products. The only people to win a cut were those earning less than \$30,000. The law cannot lie; no recent budget alleviated the tax

*Please see "Snake," continued on page 16.*

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Author  
*Chaos or Community? Seeking Solutions, Not Scapegoats*  
*For Bad Economics*  
*Streets of Hope: The Fall and Rise of an  
Urban Neighborhood*

Tuesday, February 13  
7:00 p.m. Barnum Hall 104

Co-sponsored by: American Studies, Political Science, Economics  
Sociology, Women's Studies, Women's Programs  
Hispanic American Center, Lincoln Filene Center  
Urban and Environmental Policy

# *A Communiqué* from **THE WASP CULTURE CLUB**

## A PATTERN OF DISCRIMINATION

□nstitutional bias against WASPs is the least-talked about problem at Tufts. This utter lack of discourse indicates just how extensive the campaign of repression is. How does this bias manifest itself? Consider, for a moment, the non-presence of WASPs in all levels of leadership at this university. Look at a cross-section of the administration, and what do you see? DiBiaggio, Bernstein, Knable, and Reitman. This lack of WASP representation extends beyond Ballou and down deep into the student body. The TCU Senate is headed by three Jews and an African-American. Furthermore, the campaign to eliminate any semblance of heritage-based representation on the Senate is headed by Lisa Cantos, who is most certainly not a WASP and could never understand what life is like in Greenwich or the Upper East Side. Even *THE PRIMARY SOURCE*, which you might think would be the voice of the Anglo-Saxon minority, is headed by an Irish Catholic.

This lack of representation, while not necessarily indicative of an intentional campaign of prejudice against students lacking color, has resulted in the on-campus repression of the WASP culture and its unique perspective. WASP students are forced to live in ramshackle university housing, eat substandard dining-hall food that is not reflective of their traditional cuisine, and attend declassé social functions like Hall Snacks. This is why we need a WASP seat on the Senate, a standing committee on WASP issues, and a tastefully furnished special-interest house.

The unintended conspiracy of discrimination does not limit itself to social affairs. We are continually forced to study the

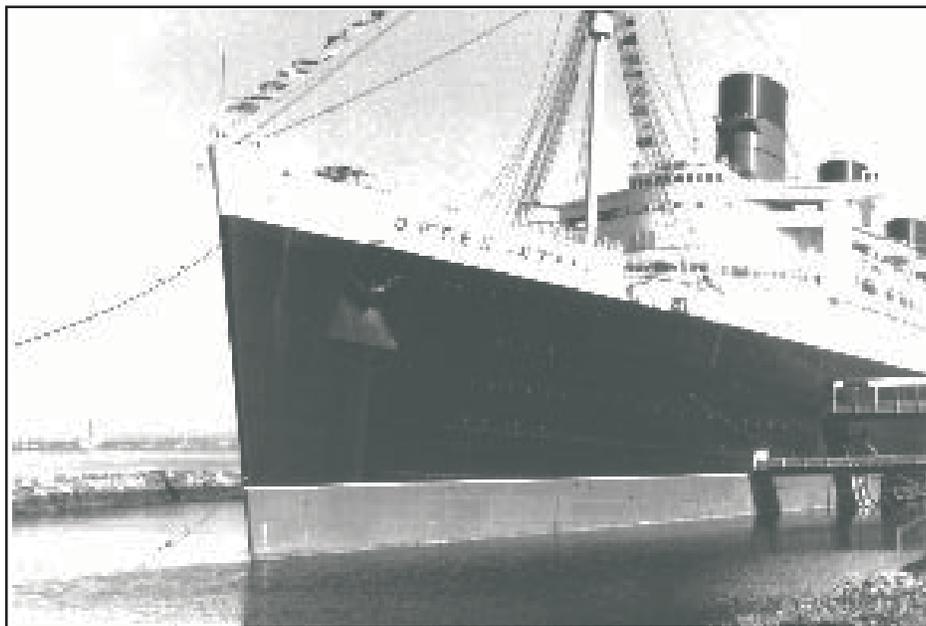
accomplishments of other cultures while WASP achievements are marginalized— we don't even have our own interdisciplinary studies program! Without this, where can we read about the against-all-odds triumphs of great WASPs such as Winston Churchill, William Weld, and Ernest Hemingway? An Italian might have discovered America, but it took an English-born WASP to make it the United States. The WASP version of history simply does not exist in America's classrooms today.

Furthermore, WASP culture does not get any recognition whatsoever from the University. Kwanzaa, National Coming Out Day, and Sukkot receive full support, but where is Ballou when the Kentucky Derby or the America's Cup rolls around? We demand to see WASPs in positions of authority in sports, and all we have are the squash and sailing teams, and who watches those anyway? Consider that while the dining halls gladly serve Oriental stir-fry, tacos, French Fries, and Baba Ganoush they fail to give WASP students any taste of their rich culinary heritage, which includes caviar, imported wine, and smoked brie. Martinis at Tuesday Night Pub? Ha! You can't even get a bottle of Beck's most of the time.

WASP students cannot be expected to perform to their fullest when their self-esteem is continually damaged by the exclusion of important WASP role models. WASP test scores and benchmarks will continue to fall unless a WASP-inclusive curriculum sensitive to the unique worldview and experiences of WASP students is enacted. The present non-WASP-centric course of study was designed by non-WASPs for non-WASPs in a non-WASP culture.



# THE WASP CULTURE CLUB ANNOUNCES: A SPECIAL TRIP to the Kennebunkport Sailing Club



## Bring Your Own Yacht

### DRESS CODE:

Khaki trousers, Brooks Bros. blazer,  
blue pinpoint shirt with Arrow  
Collar, Liberty tie, Panama Hat,  
and suede Oxfords. Be sure  
to have Muffy on your arm!



**Don't Forget the Dinghy!**

*Plus: An excursion to the slums so we can laugh at the poor people.*

# Meet the Old Boys



**Our Founder:**

H. Talbott Wentworth, LA '48

**Occupation:** Estate Holder

**Favorite Saying:** "I'm not just the President, I'm also a fat bore."

**Idol:** Mr. Bentley,  
from *The Jeffersons*

**Love Interest:** Dearie, J '49



**The Flagbearer:**

Gordon "Trip" Peabody, LA '99

**Favorite Saying:**

"I may not be bald, but I have hair on my back."

**Favorite Activity:**

Firing household help

**Pet Peeve:**

Paying household help

**Idol:** George Steinbrenner

**Dream Date:** Mrs. Buttermilk

**The Treasurer:**

Henry Q. D.

Pennypacker, LA '97

**Favorite Saying:**

"I'm not just a fat bore,  
I'm bald, too."

**Favorite Activity:** Counting his money

**Favorite Book:** *Our Bodies, Our Selves*

**Dream Date:** Fanny Farmer



**The Chancellor:**

Thornton Wm. Millborough, LA '97

**Favorite Expression:**

"It's a she thing,  
and it's all in me."

**Favorite pastime:**

Laughing at poor people

**Favorite Novel:**

*Behind the Bushes,*  
by Izzy Nekid



**The Grand Poobah:**

Winslow Endicott Franklin, LA '96

**Favorite Song:** "I'm Every Woman"

**Favorite Pastime:** Dressing up in  
Grandmama's undies

**Favorite Movie:**

*To Wong Foo, Thanks For  
Everything!* —Julie Newmar

**Favorite Activity:**

Gameshooting with John du Pont



Visit  
our next  
Mixer



# WASP Culture Club Budget for 1996-1997

## **Kentucky Derby Party**

Bourbon, Sugar, Mint Leaves (for juleps).....	\$ 50.00
Foie Gras, Shrimp Cocktail, Oysters Rockefeller.....	\$ 67.50
Daily ad.....	\$175.00
Town and Country ad.....	\$900.00
Darjeeling.....	\$ 49.95
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,242.45</b>

## **Trip to the Hamptons (to explore our cultural heritage)**

Gulfstream charter.....	\$12,000.00
Tickets to Greenwich Polo Club.....	\$ 1,150.00
Picnic Lunch (smoked salmon, finger sandwiches, Chardonnay).....	\$ 356.75
Embezzlement.....	\$ 2,000.00
Poppycock.....	\$ 643.89
Orange Pekoe.....	\$ 49.95
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$16,200.59</b>

## **Weekend at Hilton Head**

Greens Fees.....	\$ Lotsa\$
Caddy.....	\$ 6.50
Hired Help.....	4 cents
Tea and Strumpets.....	\$130.00
Earl Grey.....	\$ 49.95

## **Wine-and-Cheese Tasting**

Guest lecturer from Rothschild Vineyards.....	\$987.00
Wines, cheeses, breads.....	\$540.00
Rental of Wedgewood China and Lalique crystal.....	\$300.00
Ceylon.....	\$ 49.95
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,876.95</b>

## **Polo League**

Purchase of ponies, stall space, barnboys.....	\$450,000.00
Horse Feed (Oats, Hay, Cognac).....	\$ 17,500.00
Barnboy Feed (Horse manure).....	no charge
Fox Hunt (a dozen English hounds and one fox, well muscled).....	\$ 25,347.00
Assam Extra Fancy.....	\$ 49.95
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$492,896.95</b>

## **Miscellaneous**

Publication of newsletter, <i>The Ascot</i> .....	\$ 850.00
Lessons in Snootiness, courtesy of Alfred Dunhill, Ltd. ....	\$ 923.50
Supply of Virginia Red and Tanqueray for meetings at Ritz-Carlton....	\$1200.00
Oolong.....	\$ 49.95
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$3,023.45</b>

**TOTAL: \$515,247.24**

**Please realize that any significant cut, say, of more than \$12.76, will unquestionably demonstrate your prejudice against our People. Face it, if you don't give us what we want, Daddy will sue.**

# Lazy Days

Steve Seltzer

Only in academia could the mainstream become the extreme. Such was the case when THE PRIMARY SOURCE proposed an open forum to discuss the issue of cultural representation on the TCU Senate. Apparently, the competitive exchange of conflicting ideas offends the sensibilities of close-minded champions of "tolerance" and "cooperation." The plan for a constructive dialogue never reached fruition, succumbing to the demand for a circus-like display of "personal feelings." Few would have remembered this production as the greatest show on earth. More appropriately, the event showed all the promise of a pathetic three-ring clown act.

The debacle exposes an underlying, pervasive strain of anti-intellectualism that governs the mindset and behavior of Medford's finest. A number of administrators and student leaders have mastered the skill of avoiding the challenges and commitments necessary to perpetuate intelligent conversation. Classical notions of spirited argument, articulate debate, and cerebral confrontation no longer receive universal Tuftonian approval. Now the campus must endure hollow workshops, stifling coalitions, and unambitious agreements to disagree. Conveniently, these formats silence the minority conservative viewpoint. Moreover, liberal devices of this variety invariably cheapen the quality of intellectual discourse that Tufts University claims to offer.

## The Means to a Dead End

On the evening of February 11th, in the aftermath of what has become the most infamous Senate meeting of all, three SOURCE editors decided that Tufts students would benefit from a public debate over the culture representative issue. These individuals brought the matter before their colleagues, whereby a precise arrangement for the forum was agreed upon. Two sides would argue the issue, with one contingent favoring cultural representation and the other opposing such an arrangement. An impartial moderator would preside over the debate and pose questions submitted by the panelists. Audience members would

also have the opportunity to ask questions, a guarantee that the forum would address the concerns of the larger community. The event was designed to be intelligent, orderly, and ideologically balanced.

The organizers first handled the necessary practical and technical details and then sought participation from other student groups. THE SOURCE scheduled a meeting to discuss the arrangements with other interested parties. At that conference two editors presented the publication's objective plan to foster thoughtful discourse. They encountered a response that mocked the principles of intellectual exchange.

A debate, according to those who opposed such an arrangement, would "polarize" the campus. The two sides, after all, will focus only on proving their respective positions; no benefit can result from such an obviously hostile environment, according to Tufts' self-proclaimed guardians of consensus. Furthermore, most students would not have the opportunity to participate, and could only observe while a few vocal individuals argued against each other. Race relations, the pundits maintained, are a deeply personal issue that each person must ponder on his own.

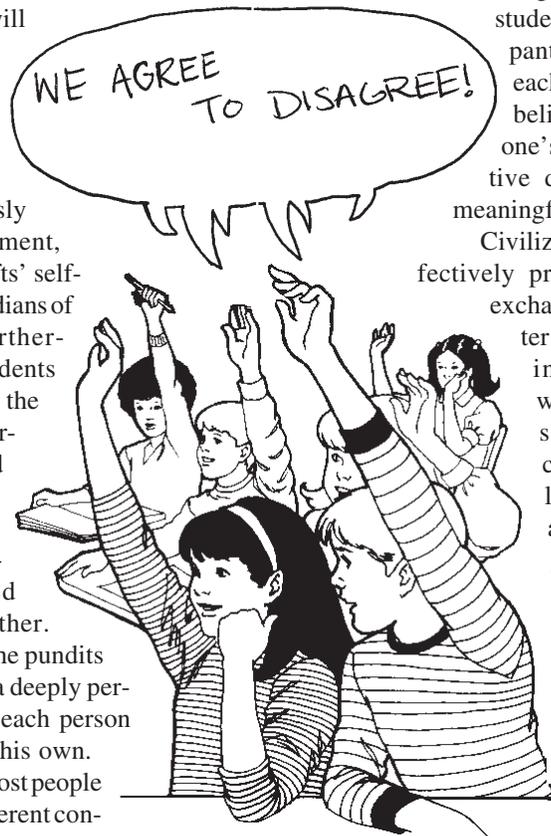
No doubt, most people will arrive at different conclusions about such a highly volatile subject. The format suggested as an alternative to a debate, however, does little to stimulate critical thinking. This supposedly new and improved forum would split up a large number of participants into smaller units and assign each group a "facilitator." Students would then describe and discuss their feelings about the issue. At the

program's conclusion a representative from each gathering would relay his group's conversation to the full assembly. Not surprisingly, the University's pre-eminent affirmative action officer has previously utilized this very procedure in a symposium at Tufts Medical School.

Although this program's proponents believe that it will create stimulating discussions, their plan is nothing if not intellectually bankrupt. The participants would more than likely raise too many issues for meaningful consideration; the sessions, despite the presence of a facilitator, would do little else than allow students to express their feelings. Additionally, the programmers could not guarantee (especially given the ideological proclivity of the student body) that participants would challenge each other's ideas and beliefs. Merely stating one's opinion or perspective does not constitute meaningful dialogue.

Civilized debate most effectively produces intellectual exchange. Ideas, no matter how personal, gain increased validity when they withstand serious, thoughtful challenges. The learning process achieves greater legitimacy when individuals with strong and well-considered convictions articulately present and defend those concepts. A true marketplace of ideas must, by definition, permit

competition among differing claims. The relativist argument that personal opinions should be free from challenge fails to meet the University's standard for erudition.



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the previous page.*

### **The Politics of Indolence**

The unsuccessful attempt at arranging a public forum insinuates an intellectual malaise that has consumed many a Tuftonian. Deans, professors, and students all too often discount conflicting positions as mere “differences of opinion.” Any attempt to arrive at a conclusion, therefore, becomes pointless. People with opposing ideas now “agree to disagree.” Such a practice reflects the mental laziness that dominates campus discourse; no one bothers to search for answers.

These same individuals choose hollow consensus for the sake of sheer political expediency. The left escapes embarrassment at the hands of its opponents by offering cheap compromise. If conservatives accept fundamental disagreement as a legitimate explanation for ideological conflict, they will never expose liberalism’s glaring fallacies. Instead, leftists salvage their collective reputation by “agreeing to disagree.”

Politics also motivates the University leadership’s insatiable desire to build coalitions among student organizations. Conveniently, coalition-building at Tufts silences the underrepresented conservative outlook. When *THE SOURCE* sought co-sponsorships for its forum from various offices, administrators refused to honor the requests unless other groups would help stage the

event. Ideological balance could only be achieved if a number of organizations worked together, they maintained. And, indeed, their argument is legitimate. Yet a number of the same offices co-sponsored highly partisan lectures by leftist demagogues Patricia Ireland and Joycelyn Elders just last year.

Officials seemingly believe that they can freely deem programs which coincide with their political sympathies objective. A speaker that argues the pro-choice position somehow transcends partisanship while a conservative organization that seeks a fair debate between two opposing sides does not. More likely, the duplicitous administrators do not want to help conservatives share their ideas with the student body. Accordingly, they seek to dilute, if not erase, the conservative message in the context of an overwhelmingly liberal coalition. As a result, Tufts has squandered an opportunity to enhance its intellectual climate.

### **The Bleeding Heart of the Matter**

Anti-intellectualism has infested Tufts because the University prioritizes feel-good politics over rationality. The mind no longer matters; race, gender, and sexuality distort the Tuftonian view of the world. Years ago, a majority of Americans joined together in their commitment to the natural rights of man. Contemporary academia has eroded that devotion through its sponsorship of

“culture” houses, resource centers, racial preferences, as well as race and gender studies. At Tufts, superficial characteristics take precedence over the intellect.

To worsen the situation, Tufts deposits concern for these non-essential characteristics in an overly sensitive campus environment. Shortly after the discovery of bigoted graffiti in Carmichael Hall, the directors of the Women’s- and LGB- Resource Centers held sessions during which students expressed how they felt about the incident. College students, though, possess enough intelligence to recognize the deplorability of overtly racist propaganda. But University officials would rather institute an orthodoxy of toleration than allow students to think for themselves.

Where sensitivity and politics reign, the intellect suffers. Tufts University has degenerated into an institution that no longer values vigorous and dynamic intellectual exchange. False claims to impartiality in addition to the proscription of competitive debate not only cheapen the academic experience, but also contradict the very essence of higher education. Tufts must allow the principles of open discourse and objective inquiry to replace political maneuvering if it hopes to reclaim respectability. Until then, we can entertain ourselves by agreeing to disagree.

*Mr. Seltzer is a senior majoring in Classics and Political Science.*

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*“Snake,” continued from page 10.*

burden placed upon the rich, a cold fact which Sklar ignored.

After airing all manner of concocted statistics to justify her political bent, Sklar painted a fantastic picture of a world reeling under a plethora of social “problems” begging for utopian solutions. She was none too happy to oblige the “oppressed masses,” advocating an array of feel-good government programs which may, like a bumper sticker, appear appealing at first glance but cannot withstand rational consideration. She suggested, for example, curtailing unemployment by coaxing corporations to change the work week from 40 hours to 35 hours so that more people could work. Quick, easy fixes to serious problems like those Sklar endorses may be attractive, but these simple-sounding solutions remain infeasible in the real world.

Liberals do not like to admit that people are unemployed for a reason; some are simply less competent than others to perform various tasks. Companies attempt to hire the best qualified candidates to ensure competency and maximum productivity. If corporations hired their best workers part time and filled the gap with mediocre employees, decreased productivity ensues, hurting both consumers and producers. For example, motor vehicle death tolls would rise if General Motors restrained its most talented engineers and had others work part-time. Even more bugs would torment Windows 95 users if Microsoft’s most skilled programmers had to take time off so that doltish neophytes could manage system design. Corporations strive for profit-bearing efficiency, benefiting themselves, the economy, and the community in the process. Regardless of activist laws that regulate private prop-

erty, no corporation would seek to employ the underqualified.

No matter how unreasonable or untruthful she may be, Holly Sklar has a right to hold whatever opinions she wishes. Universities benefit from diversity of the intellect. However, the academy must abide by a code of professional ethics that proscribes liars from presenting their falsehoods in an educational forum. There is a difference between holding revolutionary opinions and supporting those positions with outright lies. Moreover, Holly Sklar and “Speak Out!” compromised academic integrity by using Tufts’ forum to mislead students into accepting a radical political agenda. One wonders how well their efforts benefited from distortions and lies hitherto unchecked by campus media.

*Mr. Levenberg is a freshman majoring in Political Science.*

# Buchanan's Folly

Colin Delaney

Republican presidential candidate Patrick J. Buchanan claims to represent the conservative viewpoint. His somewhat scattered positions range from supporting a Constitutional Amendment banning abortion to building a wall around the United States that would keep jobs in and immigrants out. As his campaign spreads beyond the provincial confines of Iowa and New Hampshire, Buchanan will continue to dress extremist ideas in populist clothing. Unfortunately, neither his opponents nor the media have attempted to challenge the notion that Buchanan belongs within the modern conservative camp. Given many of his proposals' statist nature, the best descriptive for the current GOP front-runner would actually be "national socialist."

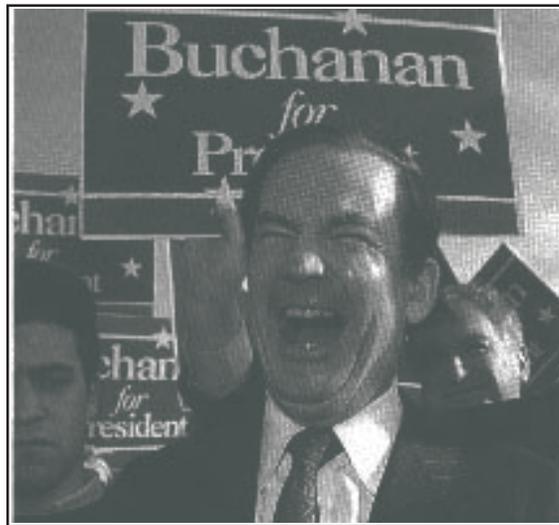
The 1996 campaign elucidates a common misconception of American politics: party identification somehow relates to ideology. Any high-school civics student knows that Republicans are not always conservative and Democrats not uniformly liberal. Nonetheless, Bob Dole has agreed to Pat Buchanan's terms and launched "a fight for the soul of the Republican party." Instead of focusing on party identification, Dole, Alexander, and Forbes should expose the ways in which Buchanan disregards fundamentals of modern American conservatism. Given his exploitation-obsessed xenophobic rhetoric, the man who professes to bear the conservative standard has departed from the teachings of such figures as Ronald Reagan, William F. Buckley, and Milton Friedman.

Buchanan decided to make his appeal to disenfranchised middle- and working-class voters the organizing idea of his campaign. Additionally, he masquerades as a Washington outsider who can shake up the capital and restore the federal government's commitment to enact the will of the people. In truth, the "populist" has spent much of his adult life in Washington, beginning with a speech-writing stint for Nixon and

continuing through years on CNN's *Crossfire*. The candidate may understand the concerns of "average Americans" but asserting outsider standing willfully disregards fact.

**Contrary to Buchanan's assertions, the economy does not exist so that all people have a job at all times.**

Along with his anti-Washington rhetoric, Buchanan focuses on illiberal anti-trade messages. As New Hampshire exit polls demonstrated, the populist candidate owes much of his support to working class people fearing job-flight, sinking wages, and economic insecurity. His opposition to NAFTA and GATT generated a cult-like following of workers who now face competition from around the world. To protect "American jobs," President Buchanan would repeal both trade deals and impose



high tariffs on America's competitors, chief among them Japan.

These new barriers to free trade would raise import prices and impede the freedom of US companies to find workers abroad, thus increasing the production costs of many retail goods. In addition to obstructing the liberty of employers, short-term job protection equates with long-term inefficiency; both reject the conservative commitment to the enrichment of society

through capitalism. Ultimately, Buchanan and his cronies are only "conservative" in the old English sense that they seek to preserve the economic *status quo*.

Such restrictions on freedom necessarily oppose the natural dynamic of a liberal economy. Not a single intellectually justifiable position exists which supports maintaining current economic conditions, whatever they might be. A hundred and fifty years ago, Buchanan's ideological ancestors argued against industrialization, for it disrupted the lives of the 90% of Americans working on farms. One can only wonder where the United States would be today if the interested sophistry of agrarians had gained favor in Washington.

The entire economy reaps the profits won by employing people in newly opened labor markets and paying them less. If a Mexican can do the work of an American for one-eighth the price, the US government should not stop him. A company with lower production expenses reaps greater profits and may invest those funds in new markets while cutting prices for all. In short, everyone has more money under a free trade policy. Some American workers may experience temporary unemployment, but, contrary to Buchanan's assertions, the economy does not exist so that all people have a job at all times. Actors in a free society voluntarily organize for their mutual advancement; only in a socialist system does the government promise universal employment.

The United States has dabbled in illiberal trade policies before, hindering progress each time. The Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1932 raised an insurmountable barrier to trade, and America fell even further into the Depression. More recently, the quotas demanded by a pro-union Congress in the early 1980s to protect domestic auto makers discouraged innovation and inflated car prices across the board. History's lesson is clear. In the long term, illiberal trade policies benefit no one.

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Apparently, protectionist rhetoric did not offer Buchanan enough ways to air misanthropic messages about his favorite topics. Stump speeches now include mindless discussions of class warfare. Rather than admitting that employers and employees in a free market work together for each others' benefit, the populist advances his vision of an America in which companies (capitalists) exploit workers (the proletariat) by depressing wages, laying-off laborers, and shipping jobs overseas. He demonizes multi-national corporations and even predicted that "when the next economic downturn occurs, the spirit of angry rebellion abroad in this land may cease to look for peaceful outlets for its expression."

Portraying himself as the champion of people exploited by industrial conglomerates, Buchanan declared that "working-class... folks don't have any voice in Washington," and called for legislative action to end downsizing. He also criticized the rapidly rising salaries of executives—an argument Bob Dole now echoes—and spoke in broad terms of ways to prevent economic inequality. Short of wealth redistribution programs, propping up sinking wages (or limiting upper-level incomes) requires strict regulation of payment and hiring practices.

Any plan of that nature would constrain the freedom of individuals and corporations to utilize their property. No matter how admirable the intentions, controlling other people's assets eschews conservative values. Moreover, Buchanan's support for anti-unemployment regulation contradicts positions he promoted for years before his presidential campaigns. Whether a law is intended to save the spotted owl by preventing logging concessions from cutting down trees, or preserve lumberjacks' jobs by outlawing lay-offs, it repudiates the very foundation of free capitalism. Owners and company managers should never be compelled to do anything unless they have

violated the rights of others to life and liberty— such is the very bedrock of conservatism.

The economic principles Buchanan espouses are actually warmed-over propaganda from history's failed regimes. The promise to protect everyone's job sounds much like the communist guarantee of lifelong economic security. Indeed, the very

**The candidate whom the media bills as the most conservative actually advocates the classic socialist arguments.**

notion that ruthless corporations oppress the working class comes directly from Karl Marx's socialist playbook. Similarly, xenophobic disgust for foreign workers and immigrants recalls the radical nationalism epitomized by the Third Reich. And Buchanan's ill-informed proposal to literally build a wall along the southern border and guard it with US Army infantry resembles a perverse Berlin Wall. For it would prevent capital from leaving the United States while keeping ambitious people from entering. Buchanan's unusual marriage of conservative social activism

boil down to the age-old contest between security and freedom. The candidate whom the media bills as the most conservative actually advocates the classic socialist argument that people should trade their freedom for economic security. But, as Theodore Forstmann once said, the opposite of security is not risk, but insecurity. Free capitalist societies reward successful entrepreneurs with profits which they can translate into economic invulnerability. But when the state controls the provision of security, whether by owning or regulating the means of production, it creates insecurity for all. No government bureaucrat can allocate resources more efficiently or for greater profit

than the private sector. Rather than assuring prosperity for all, Pat Buchanan's Administration would leave Americans worrying about how little their next wage-controlled paycheck will actually be worth.

Instead of allowing a fringe candidate like Buchanan to define the political debate, the other GOP presidential hopefuls should disregard his treacherous forays into protectionism and class warfare. The values which propelled Ronald Reagan to the Presidency and Newt Gingrich to the Speakership embraced both social conservatism and economic freedom. The rebirth

of liberty in America must include a mass movement for the regeneration of traditional values and a concerted effort to reduce the size and reach of government. Pat Buchanan's deceptive claims to the conservative label are destroying the coalition of ideologically consistent voters who formed the Republican Party of 1994. Unfortunately, GOP leaders have made no attempt to dissociate his extremist views from their party. The

principles of free minds and free societies which built this nation and ignited the Republican Revolution leave no room for dishonesty and radicalism.

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



intended to save the spotted owl by preventing logging concessions from cutting down trees, or preserve lumberjacks' jobs by outlawing lay-offs, it repudiates the very foundation of free capitalism. Owners and company managers should never be compelled to do anything unless they have

(such as his concern for the life of the unborn and the deterioration of traditional values) with isolationist economics resembles national socialism much more than it does conservatism.

The populist proposals which have provided Buchanan much of his support

# Heart and Soul

Micaela Dawson

“We are engaged in a fight,” declared a noticeably distressed Senator Bob Dole, “for the heart and soul of the Republican Party.” And his proclamation did not pass unnoticed; the Washington establishment, popular media, and think tank circuit were all listening intently. The Majority Leader’s words describe a sharp rift developing within his party just as the presidential election season is getting under way. Republicans face the monumental task of reconciling economic and social policy disputes between current candidates for the White House. The root of the problem lies in the misplaced focus of many of their campaigns. Conservatives who believe America must concentrate on rebuilding the nation’s collapsed moral character object to the fiscally-oriented focus of GOP campaigns and seek to change fundamentally the direction of 1990s politics.

The divisions within the Republican Party helped Patrick Buchanan emerge victorious in New Hampshire, perturbing moderates and scions of the New Right. Party chiefs in Washington stigmatized the traditional values and steadfast convictions of both Buchanan and fellow candidate Alan Keyes as extremist, hinting that they will not support Buchanan should he win the nomination. Given that attitude, the GOP stands to lose a significant block of constituents if it fails to address adequately the concerns of social conservatives. Unless the party membership can reach ideological consensus in time for the San Diego convention in mid-August, their ill-begotten nominee will surely fail in his attempt to recapture the White House.

The upper echelons of the Grand Old Party profess inclusiveness; nevertheless, those leaders discourage what they perceive as “extremism,” including hard line positions on social issues such as affirmative action, immigration, multiculturalism, and gun control. Candidates who shun a right-wing “stigmatism” ignore the dan-

gers to society posed by moral relativism, secular humanism, and radical feminism. In attempting to treat society’s ailments with low taxation and a balanced budget,

**Thus, the GOP risks alienating a core group of supporters, that which its leaders unfairly label “extremist.”**

they fail to diagnose the more deeply rooted ethical crises plaguing the American people.

By arbitrarily deciding which positions to denounce as inconsistent with membership, the party elite has cornered the market on inconsistency. Those individuals courted Colin Powell despite his decidedly liberal stances on abortion and affirmative action. They maintained support for William Bennett, even as the former education secretary fraternized with liberal activists in an effort to derail California’s Proposition 187. In 1990, Phil Gramm engineered, and Bob Dole supported, passage of a tax increase unprecedented in American history; still, the Republican Party opens its arms to them.



When it comes to defending the rights of the unborn, holding the line on strict Constitutionalism, and taking the offensive against moral decline, the GOP remains uncommitted. The “big tent” shelters advocates of abortion, affirmative action, and confiscatory federal income tax hikes—the staples of liberal Democrats. If

the Republican leadership continues to advocate this misguided inclusiveness, a split will certainly result. Thus, the GOP risks alienating a core group of supporters, that which its leaders unfairly label “extremist.”

The combination of Steve Forbes’ flat-tax’s declining popularity, Senator Gramm’s Louisiana debacle, and Patrick Buchanan’s populist upsurge have created a chaotic political climate, with many voters clamoring for a clearer enumeration of the conservative Republican message. Political pundits and analysts wonder whether the Party’s moral heart and economic soul will ever again enjoy the unity created by President Reagan.

Not long after George Bush surrendered the White House to Bill Clinton, America evicted the Democrats from “that other House.” Under the energetic leadership of Newt Gingrich and a group of dedicated freshman Republicans, the United States Congress experienced a true revolution. A call for responsible fiscal management, decentralized government, low taxation, and the eradication of the federal deficit replaced forty years of liberal expansionism. The GOP had finally achieved a winning formula in the ten ideals of the Contract With America.

Senator Phil Gramm, who espoused the economic principles of the Contract, failed to ride the coattails of the revolution through the country’s first primary. After personally engineering the Louisiana caucuses as a means of generating positive publicity, Gramm lost to Pat Buchanan, whose campaign ignored the Contract and Gingrich’s Congress.

Meanwhile, political analysts marvelled at the rise of Malcolm “Steve” Forbes, Jr., whose vision of “hope, growth, and opportunity,” and its incarnation in the highly scrutinized 17% flat tax propelled a

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political outsider into the arena of viable contenders. But after spending millions on a barrage of advertisements defining his vision and criticizing his opponents', Forbes placed a distant fourth in both the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary.

Buchanan's victories in New Hampshire, Alaska, and Louisiana, and his close second in Iowa demonstrate that a sizable percentage of Republican voters are less interested in the tax-and-deficit agendas of the Dole, Alexander, and Forbes campaigns. According to *The Boston Globe*, 43% of those who attended the Iowa caucuses asserted that Buchanan best represents conservative values, while only thirteen percent selected Dole.

Buchanan energizes a constituency that embraces the interests of the Christian Coalition and advocates of "America First." A stump speech typically assails New Age liberalism and upholds traditional values: "You know, in California, Christmas Day is out; UN Day is in. Easter is out; Earth Day is in— so we can all worship dirt!"

Radio commentator Alan Keyes is one of few candidates who joins Buchanan in subordinating economics to social issues. While trailing the other contenders in the polls by a wide margin, Keyes continues to enhance the political debate. He has appealed to other candidates to focus on the decline in morality that resulted in the dissolution of the family unit. Decrying "store bought politicians" and "money-obsessed leaders," Keyes called on all politicians to recognize moral priorities.

Members of the Religious Right's Christian Coalition, then, have embraced the candidacies of Keyes and Buchanan, who promised to voice the concerns of the "silent majority." As Buchanan admonished, "Conservatives ought to be worshipping at a higher altar than the bottom line of a balance sheet." Cautioning against the excesses of a free society untempered by a sense of responsibility, the conservative candidates add a significantly more intellectual element to the national debate than "mainstream" contenders.

If enough Republican and right-wing voters choose the "extremist" positions of Buchanan and Keyes, the Republican Party

must either incorporate their social views or "excommunicate" a third of its membership. The party's exalted elite has no direct control over the public and must be willing to support whomever voters nominate. At its core, conservatism is about right versus wrong, and it would be wrong for the Republican Party to undercut the significance of this message by overemphasizing economics. The challenge should be to nominate the candidate who most charismatically champions public morality and personal responsibility.

Presidential long-shot Bob Dornan's most important contribution to this campaign was a sound reminder to his fellow candidates: "Gentlemen, keep your eyes on the ball." Republicans must stand together in November to bounce Clinton & Clinton out of office. But just as staunch conservatives in the Republican ranks were expected to cast a vote for a centrist George Bush in 1992, moderates must now demonstrate a willingness to support a right wing contender in 1996.

*Miss Dawson is a sophomore majoring in  
Philosophy and Classics.*

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***“Walking,” continued from page 22.***

conscience of blameworthy inmates, silver screen fanatics would better spend their time addressing genuine societal ills. Moreover, tangential, even irrelevant, issues such as bigotry and classism only obfuscate legitimate discourse on the matter of primary concern. Rivals of the death penalty would be wise to focus on constructive debate concerning the lack of civility inherent in execution.

Although the media infrequently presents them, strong arguments on both sides of the issue do exist. Capital punishment is an inhumane response to a problem without adequate solution. Some oppose the death penalty merely because it is costly and consumes excessive court time, but much more substantive points deserve consideration. While exterminating a murderer might grant the victim's family peace, another calculated killing does not bring back the departed. Conversely, many propose that a strictly enforced death sentence serves as a deterrent. Further, proponents claim that criminals must pay for their transgressions— regardless of remorse— and argue that someone who has committed an atro-

cious act will never be able to constructively contribute to society again. Because it presents all of these arguments— not Stonesque rationalizations— *Dead Man Walking* offers compelling and persuasive arguments all can appreciate.

At the end of the film, Matt is strapped to a table with lethal injection imminent. Poncelet's constricted form conjures images of Jesus on the Cross as prison guards tilt the death stand to a vertical position and allow the condemned to deliver his last words. After apologizing to the victims' parents, he pronounces that "killing is wrong; wrong when I do it; wrong when you do it; and wrong when the government does it." At this point, even an ardent death penalty supporter must question his convictions. Enforcing capital punishment places an inordinate amount of responsibility and power in the hands of the state— an authority which, in an ideal world, only God would have.

Sister Helen tries to explain to those eagerly anticipating Poncelet's demise that all are God's children and should concentrate on loving each other rather than raging with hate. Although she does not truly expect the victims' families to love Matt,

she wants them to understand and appreciate the value of human life. Helen acknowledges the difficulty of 'turning the other cheek,' but manifests the greatness of that virtue. Sarandon's character so thoroughly impresses one of the victim's father that he appears at Matt's funeral. The fade-away shot depicts Sarandon and the father of the male victim praying together at a church, trying to free him of his hate.

Although Robbins took care to dissuade the audience from becoming sympathetic to Matt for impartiality's sake, the execution scene illustrates the barbarity of the supposedly gentler form of extermination. A prison nurse coldly inserted the needle into Poncelet while the families and witnesses watched nervously. Once he said his last words, two guards simultaneously 'flipped the switch' in an effort to create a preposterous ambiguity of who actually drained the life. *Dead Man Walking* demonstrates the undeniable inhumanity of this ultimate form of punishment— the savagery of men taking the lives of other men.

*Miss Schupak is a sophomore  
majoring in History.*

# Through Superior Firepower

Ananda Gupta

Following the Waco and Ruby Ridge outrages, gun owners came under renewed siege from the media and the left-wing establishment, despite their belief that they are merely exercising rights guaranteed by the Founding Fathers. Unfortunately, the Constitution is not an unambiguous ally of gun owners, and has been creatively interpreted to support gun control. These interpretations, however, collapse under intense scrutiny.

Justifying gun control within the bounds of our Constitution is a daunting task indeed. One may certainly argue that the hallowed document does not explicitly guarantee the right to bear arms, but holding the position that it allows the United States to regulate weapons ownership is another matter entirely. Unless one can cite a specific clause permitting the federal government the authority to regulate firearms sales and possession, the Tenth Amendment reserves that power for the individual states.

Gun control supporters often invoke a proviso of Article I that gives Congress absolute control over the militia. Constitutional scholar Garry Wills argues that this section allows the national government boundless power to control arms. If the first section of the Second Amendment applies only to organized state militias, then that law must be considered subordinate to congressional authority enumerated in Article I. Thus, Wills' reasoning clearly justifies the right of the United States to regulate firearms other than those owned by the "well-regulated militia." Mission accomplished? Not quite.

Wills' thesis rests on the assumption that the militia referred to in Article I and the militia in the Second Amendment are the same entity. Such an assumption, however, begs the question of why there were ten amendments in the Bill of Rights and not nine. Wills' response is that James Madison, an ardent federalist, submitted a meaningless Second Amendment to placate delegates wary of standing armies and federal power. That Madison actually opposed the whole idea of a Bill of Rights strengthens that assertion. Unfortunately

for Madison, organizing the Republic dictated concession and the Second Amendment's its inclusion.

In that compromise lies the ultimate nullification of Wills' position. Scholars Sanford Levinson and Joyce Malcolm quote

**Gun control advocates erroneously use a proviso of the Constitution that gives Congress absolute control over the militia for their own ends.**

George Mason, an anti-federalist delegate from Virginia: "Who are the militia? They consist now of the whole people." At first this appears to support Wills' interpretation that "the whole people" constitute the militia; and if Congress can regulate armament of that militia, it has the power to control all weapons. But, as Levinson and Malcolm argue, the quote only shows that people in the eighteenth century also found the Second Amendment vague.

According to another scholar, David Lee Williams, Mason's views (along with those of many other delegates) were "significantly anti-statist." In a reply to Wills, Williams further posits that Madison's "opportunism" ought not disqualify the views of dozens of other delegates, all of whom worried about the possibility of federal tyranny. On the basis of those concerns, the other delegates voted for the Second Amendment, and their opinions are every bit as significant as Madison's. Collectively, they far outweigh the statement's of the Constitution's drafter.

Contemporary judicial opinion also offers a rejoinder to Madison's views. Justice Joseph Story, in his 1833 Commentaries on the Constitution, wrote that "the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms...

offers a strong moral check against the usurpation and arbitrary power of rulers." Given the noticeable lack of contrary opinion, one may reasonably suppose that views similar to Story's dominated 19th-century discussion of gun rights. Further reinforcement of these attitudes can be found in English common law, the influence of which is evident throughout the Constitution.

Better understanding of original intent can therefore be gleaned from relevant parts of British law. Joyce Malcolm provides such an examination in her 1994 book *To Keep and Bear Arms*. According to Malcolm, Parliament's fear of tyranny found comfort in an armed citizenry. Perhaps the most decisive evidence that contemporary British law endorsed the right to bear arms is the 1689 classification of that right as "true, ancient, and indomitable" (although Malcolm points out that, historically, it was none of those). Delegates to a convention whose purpose was to clearly determine the powers of the king made that

proclamation. Furthermore, the representatives roundly condemned the Militia Act of 1660, which gave the state the power to disarm citizens not in the militia.

No matter how strong the Constitutional argument against gun control is, there is little chance that the issue will die anytime soon. As in the case of abortion, the debate over gun control is fueled by the passions of the combatants at least as much as it is by the pertinent facts. Ultimately, though, the nation must rise above uninformed positions and look for truth. On this basis, with the Constitution as the final authority, gun control has no place in these United States of America.



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*Mr. Gupta is a sophomore majoring in Philosophy and Economics.*

# The Capital Dilemma

Jessica Schupak

The film industry rarely produces serious thought-provoking films. *Dead Man Walking*, directed by Tim Robbins, is both a pleasantly surprising exception and

## Film Review: *Dead Man Walking*

HOLLYWOOD

Hollywood's intellectual highlight of the year. The movie objectively, yet critically, explores the divisive issue of capital punishment while thankfully sparing viewers trite pleas for sympathy and clichéd portrayals of retribution-ridden families. Despite *Dead Man Walking's* impartial exhibition, monumental acting and direction create a tremendously provocative display.

Susan Sarandon stars as Sister Helen Prejean, spiritual advisor to death row inmate Matthew Poncelet (Sean Penn). Matt is awaiting execution for participation in a rape and double murder of a teenage couple which he, at first, denies committing. While counseling Penn's character, Helen struggles with the contradictions of the Old-Testament principle of "an eye for an eye" and the New-Testament virtue of forgiveness. The movie vacillates between promoting vengeance and exalting mercy, which consequently prevents the audience from choosing a position during the film and forces viewers to think carefully about the perspectives presented.

Surprisingly, *Dead Man Walking* departs from mainstream victimization portrayals and relays powerful messages about personal responsibility. In the film's opening scenes, Matt ascribes his actions to everything except himself. He blames a poor upbringing, his rowdy accomplice, drugs, alcohol, and blacks, exonerating himself of culpability. Although the convict repeatedly declares that he is not a "victim," constantly scapegoating

drugs and other influences is tantamount to labeling himself one. Matthew Poncelet was not a victim of circumstance; he was a victim of his own destructive nature and had no one to condemn but himself. While Penn's character may have endured hardships which contributed to his rough demeanor, none of those factors forced him to rape a young girl and shoot her boyfriend twice in the back of the head.

Helen exposes Matt's inconsistency and, more importantly, teaches him that all individuals are ultimately accountable for their actions. The process of self-realization culminates when Matt admits his guilt and apologizes to the teens' parents. With Helen's encouragement, Matt understands that only if he comes to terms with his unthinkable crime and feels remorse for what his own hands did, should he be forgiven and granted salvation.

But the film's primary focus is not deliverance. Director Robbins and star Sarandon openly endorse liberal causes, a sentiment which shines through as the movie tilts ever so slightly against the death pen-

ner support, these partisans reach out to fence sitters and opponents alike asking, "What if it was your wife or your child?" While a grief-stricken man may yearn to see a perpetrator suffer the same pain brutally inflicted upon his kin, such disingenuous tactics evade more complex and challenging dilemmas. Emotionally charged

***Dead Man Walking* departs from traditional victimization portrayals and relays powerful messages about personal responsibility.**

individuals are incapable of rationally considering whether executing criminals really rectifies misfortune. It is this rash, passionate impulse to which death penalty champions customarily appeal.

Capital punishment foes frequently prove just as mendacious. Such people, generally heedless liberals, rely on falsities to build sympathy for the "true victim," the individual the other camp refers to as the villain. For instance, earlier this year, several

celebrity social activists including Oliver Stone campaigned to stay the execution of death-row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal. While incontrovertible evidence established the prisoner's guilt, Stone and his band of do-gooders battled to convince the world of the felon's concocted innocence.

Typical of thoughtless opposition to the death penalty, Abu-Jamal's supporters point to racism as both the cause of his sentence and the reason for the wave of crime committed by urban blacks. Like Matt Poncelet, Abu-

Jamal should realize that he is not entitled to victim status and should accept responsibility for his reprehensible actions. Rather than contributing to the deterioration of decency by attempting to prove clear



Sister Helen Prejean (Sarandon) counsels condemned murderer Matthew Poncelet (Penn) in *Dead Man Walking*.

ality. This inequity is trifling, however. *Dead Man Walking* approaches capital punishment in a much more fair and reasoned fashion than zealots on both sides generally offer.

Proponents of capital punishment often call on passionate reaction to convince the undecided. Aggressively trying to gar-

***Please see "Walking," continued on page 20.***

# Can YOU pick out the Real Leftists?

## GREEN GUERRILLAS

### THE FIGHT FOR THE PHILIPPINE RAINFOREST

*This 1994 documentary shows the struggle of the indigenous peoples of the Philippines, together with the nationally-organized revolutionary movement, to save the last remaining rain forest of their country. It focuses on the work of the Maoist New People's Army, or NPA, organizing with the people of the mountains to prepare to enforce a ban on commercial logging. The film illustrates the interdependency of environmental protection, indigenous culture, and revolution. It will be followed by a discussion of this communist understanding of environmentalism, in which the assault on imperialism is the focus and the struggles of oppressed peoples are recognized as the way forward.*

*This 1994 documentary, based on the 1987 Lokhtali Fruit-Farm massacre in the islands known to colonialists as The Philippines (unreported in the bourgeois media), shows the struggle of Maoist revolutionaries, informed by interdependency and guided by an eco-centric worldview. This film highlights the work of the People's Revolutionary Army, which is working with the indigenous population to save the rainforests and village people from depredation by multinational conglomerates and the capitalist power structure. It will be followed by a discussion of this communitarian understanding of third-world eco-conflict (as opposed to environmentalism, which was created by the imperialists to oppress lesser developed countries), and will include a sampling of fruits and nuts cultivated by the indigenous population.*

[Not] Sponsored by the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) and the Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM).

Answer: A, but does it really make a difference?

## NOTABLE AND QUOTABLE

*As long as men are free to ask what they must, free to say what they think, free to think what they will, freedom can never be lost and science can never regress.*

—J. Robert Oppenheimer

*Liberty not only means that the individual has both the opportunity and the burden of choice; it also means that he must bear the consequences of his actions.... Liberty and responsibility are inseparable.*

—Friedrich August von Hayek

*Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better.*

—Albert Camus

*Every action in our lives touches on some chord that will vibrate in eternity.*

—Edwin Hubbel Chapin

*Nature is usually wrong.*

—James McNeill Whistler

*Courses of action which run only to be justified in terms of practicality ultimately prove destructive and impractical.*

—Mark Cohen

*Procrastination is the thief of time.*

—Edward Young

*Every great and original writer, in proportion as he is great and original, must himself create the taste by which he is to be relished.*

—William Wordsworth

*From the errors of others a wise man corrects his own.*

—Publius Syrus

*There is so much to be said in favour of modern journalism. By giving us the opinions of the uneducated it keeps us in touch with the ignorance of the community.*

—Oscar Wilde

*Let us beware that while they [Soviet leaders] preach the supremacy of the state, declare its omnipotence over individual man, and predict its eventual domination over all the peoples of the earth, they are the focus of evil in the modern world.*

—Ronald Reagan, in his famous “Evil Empire” speech

*Many is the bond between the hopeful and the*

*damned.*

—Roger Waters

*Finding the occasional straw of truth awash in a great ocean of confusion and bamboozle requires intelligence, vigilance, dedication and courage. But if we don't practice these tough habits of thought, we cannot hope to solve the truly serious problems that face us—and we risk becoming a nation of suckers, up for grabs by the next charlatan who comes along.*

—Carl Sagan

*Democracy is that form of government where everybody gets what the majority deserves.*

—James Dale Davidson

*Any philosophy that can be put in a nutshell belongs there.*

—Sydney Harris

*Creative intelligence in its various forms and activities is what makes Man.*

—James Harvey Robinson

*Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, “What? You, too? I thought I was the only one.”*

—C. S. Lewis

*Good judgment comes from experience. And experience comes from having bad judgment.*

—James Horning

*Given a choice between two bald political candidates, the American people will vote for the less bald of the two.*

—Victor Gold

*It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail.*

—Gore Vidal

*Death comes to all, but great achievements build a monument which shall endure until the sun grows cold.*

—George Fabricius

*As long as mankind shall continue to bestow more liberal applause on their destroyers than on their benefactors, the thirst of military glory will ever be the vice of the most exalted characters.*

—Edward Gibbon

*Live in the vision of the One for whom great deeds are done.*

—Don Quixote

*I can endure my own despair, but not another's hope.*

—William Walsh

*Even if you do learn to speak correct English, whom are you going to speak it to?*

—Clarence Darrow

*We owe respect to the living; to the dead we owe only truth.*

—Voltaire

*The first and fundamental structure for “human ecology” is the family, in which man receives his first ideas about truth and goodness, and learns what it means to love and be loved, and thus what it means to be a person.*

—Pope John Paul II

*Don't let your mouth write no check that your tail can't cash.*

—Bo Diddley

*Enthusiasm is the greatest asset in the world. It beats money and power and influence.*

—Henry Chester

*And oftentimes, excusing of a fault doth make a fault the worse by the excuse; as patches set upon a little breach, discredit more in hiding of the fault, than did the fault before it was so patch'd.*

—William Shakespeare

*Dawn: The time when men of reason go to bed.*

—Ambrose Bierce, *The Devil's Dictionary*

*Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.*

—Alexander Pope

*Discovery consists of seeing what everyone else has seen and thinking what no one else has thought.*

—Albert Szent-Gyorgi

*At the source of every error which is blamed on the computer you will find at least two human errors, including the error of blaming it on the computer.*

—Tom Gibb

*Equality of opportunity is an equal opportunity to prove unequal talents.*

—Sir Herbert Samuel