

THE COUNTERWEIGHT

Providing the ingredients missing from your “balanced” education

Volume 1, Issue 3: April 9, 2002

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Busta Rhymes is a Bigot

By Charles Mitchell '05
cmitchel@bucknell.edu

My personal opinion is that Busta Rhymes’ music really sucks—if you can call it music at all. I’d like to think that Bucknellians would not really come out in droves to see someone whose most recent songs include “Break Ya Neck,” “Ass on Your Shoulders,” and “You Ain’t F**kin’ Wit Me.” And I find it a little strange that there has been no uproar that the lyrics to the 20 songs on Busta’s latest piece of musical excellence, “Genesis,” include the word—if it is a word—“nigga” 263 times, an average of 13 times per song. (I didn’t even bother to count how many times “the ‘F’ word” appears in the songs, but I assure you it’ll pop up far, far more frequently at Busta’s concert than it did at the Live concert last semester.) I would also like to send a “Where you at?” out to my sisters at V-Day Bucknell, who apparently have not protested that the University is bringing in a performer whose songs refer to women almost exclusively as “bitches” and thoroughly treat them as objects whose only purpose in life is to satisfy men’s sexual appetites.

But that is not why I am incredibly cranky that Busta is coming to Bucknell instead of, say, a real artist. I’m sure there are lots of people out there who think that my taste in music sucks, and that’s fine. What isn’t fine is that Busta Rhymes is a bigot.

Busta Rhymes is a member of a group called the Five Percent Nation of Gods and Earths, also known as simply the Five Percent. This is a fact without dispute. Even people trying to turn a profit off of Busta’s CDs acknowledge it—for proof, check out the listing for his CD “Genesis” on walmart.com. But even those vicious, selfish, profit-pursuing CD censors at Walmart fail to mention exactly what the Five Percent actually is.

The Five Percent is a black supremacist organization. Yusuf Nuruddin, an avowed Marxist and professor of African American studies at Seton Hall University, who is preparing his doctoral thesis on the Five Percent, has acknowledged it as such. Also, James Brent, a professor of political science at San Jose University, has the Five Percent on his list of “Race-Based Hate and Nazi Sites,” adding that “Anyone can be a racist. This anti-white site claims that white people were invented by a black scientist 6,000 years ago.”

A visit to the site linked on Prof. Brent’s homepage further proved that what we are dealing with here is the black equivalent of the Aryan Nation. It says that they teach that “black people are the original people of planet earth,” that they are also “the fathers and mothers of civilization,” and that “the blackman (sic) is god (sic) and his proper name is AL-LAH.” The Five Percent also teach that black women are Earths, which explains the “Nation of Gods and Earths” name.

Africana.com gives further insight into the group. It was started in 1964, when it split

off from the Nation of Islam under the leadership of Clarence 13X. In addition to the above teachings, Clarence 13X also held that “85 percent of the masses are ignorant and will never know the truth, that 10 percent of the people know the truth but will use it to exploit and manipulate the 85 percent, and that only 5 percent of humanity understand the ‘true divine nature of the black man who is God or Allah.’” To Five Percenters, Manhattan is known as “Mecca,” Queens is “the desert,” Brooklyn is “Medina,” the Bronx is “Pelam,” and New Jersey is “the New Jerusalem.” Africana.com also says, and many other sources confirm, that many hip hop lyrics, including those of Busta Rhymes, include Five Percenter references. Common expressions indicating these references include “Break it down,” and “droppin’ science.” There are also more overt references: mention of numerology (especially the 85, 15,



Portrait of a racist rapper (AP)

Continued on page 11...

WE GET LETTERS

A big important person!

To the Editor:

I am just reading my first issue of *The Counterweight* in between squashing the poor and foreclosing on the refrigerator boxes of homeless people. I feel if I really stated what I do—like working to solve problems for “all” the constituents of Congressman John Peterson, whatever their politics—I wouldn’t be believed ... after all, I am a conservative.

Your publication is pretty nifty. I was very pleased to see that some of the folks who, in the “Letters to the Editor” section, though disagreeing with the paper’s slant, recognized the right of a divergent opinion to be stated. I’m sure you received many more unprintable letters from the hooded knights of thought control known affectionately as liberals.

Keep speaking the truth; it really pisses off the other side.

Mike Glazer
District Representative
Office of Congressman John E. Peterson

P.S.- How about some real science ... the truth about “global warming.” That would get the other side almost as angry as chopping down a tree to make rifle stocks.

****Tom “Enchanted Forest” Elliott is all over that topic... keep your eye out for Issue 4. - Ed.**

Girls can like the CW, too! Seriously!

To the Editor:

I would like to continue to receive *The Counterweight*. I really enjoyed the last issue I received. Also, is it too late in the year to start attending your meetings?

Blair Floyd ‘02

****Nope, it isn’t too late to start attending our meetings. Come one, come all... we have lots of fun. Alternate Thursdays in LC 240. - Ed.**

From an oppressed minority (a BU wrestler)

To the Editor:

I don’t really consider myself liberal or conservative, but I think what you’re doing is great. I agree with some of the articles and I think it is important to have a medium such as *The Counterweight* that expresses opinions that differ from the status quo. This school, and the administration in particular, is clearly tightening its embrace of political-correctness. Until now it didn’t seem as though there was any organized effort within the student body to counter this trend. It was also nice to see support for the wrestling team. Keep up the good work.

Andrew Herbert ‘04

Can’t stomach us

To the Editor:

Generally, I can’t stomach the political point of view your publication privileges. Even so, please keep me on your mailing list so I will be reminded of the oppressive socio/economic agenda I remain committed to critiquing, undermining and subverting!

Mary E. Wyeth
Writing Center

****We hope that someday we can become an example of it, not just a reminder -Ed.**

We like Joel. A lot.

To the Editor:

Thanks for producing *The Counterweight* and giving everyone on campus access to it. As a longtime conservative, I think it is time that the Bucknell community starts to be more “open minded” to conservative values. It seems ironic that many liberals call conservatives “closed minded” when they won’t even give our ideas consideration. God knows we (conservatives) have definitely had to put up with many of the

liberal viewpoints and values on campus. I think it is about time that some conservative view points and values are given a try, that is only if the liberals are “open minded” enough to try it.

Joel Bettner ‘05

Why, thank you...

To the Editor:

I just read the copy of *The Counterweight* that was put in my mailbox. I really enjoyed the alternative viewpoint that I feel is

underexpressed on this campus. I think that you did a great job voicing your opinions and those of the conservative community on campus. Your devotion to reporting the facts, as opposed to blindly supporting a conservative agenda is evidenced by your criticism of some tradi-

tionally conservative ideas or leaders, such as your criticism of the Shays-Meehan campaign finance reform bill. Congratulations on faithfully reporting the conservative opinions of the campus, and for doing so with humor and wit. Please add me to the mailing list.

Brandi Porter ‘03

Intelligent criticism

To the Editor:

Congratulations on creating a publication that expresses an alternate point of view to the popular liberal Bucknell majority. I respect your right to participate in freedom of speech. However, in your own best interest, you might consider arguing your points in *The Counterweight* more thoroughly. In several articles it appears that your intentions are to shock, offend or come across as ultra conservative, instead of

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**Love us? Hate us?
WRITE US.**

**We delight in receiving
and printing letters,
emails, hateful rants,
and even poetry.
cmitchel@ or C-1514**

LETTERS – from pg. 2

clearly expressing and supporting a point of view. (Examples include the “Newsbriefs” and Gun Safety articles—particularly the caption below the picture of handguns.)

I am specifically writing to you to address a statement made at the very end of the “The ‘R’ Word” article in the “Newsbriefs” section. After arguing that Bucknell is too sensitive to race relations and “possible bias incidents,” the article concludes by stating: “The more the administration clamors on about our supposedly racist campus, the more race actually becomes an issue, and the further we move away from being a colorblind society, which should be the ideal.” I consider this statement to be ignorantly opinionated. Should the ideal really be a colorblind society? As a woman, I would argue that I would like to be considered equal to men, but not the same as them. I have also frequently heard the argument that minorities do not want to be forced to give up their identities, but rather to be valued as equals. Colorblindness is not only impossible, but degrading as a goal. Allow African Americans to be proud of their color, instead of requiring that we all deny our differences. The ideal is not to form a colorblind society, but a society that is tolerant, sensitive and accepting of the differences that exist in reality.

Publications such as *The Counterweight* remind me of what is great and at the same time frightening about this country. The right to freedom of speech uncovers ignorance, arrogance and narrow-mindedness that otherwise would remain silent.

Amanda Cardella ‘02

****What was meant by a “colorblind” society is one that does not judge people based on the color of their skin. How is that degrading? And for more on our intentions, check out the box on the right. Amanda’s points are well taken, though; her letter is thoughtfully argued and probably the most intelligent one we’ve received. That’s the kind of discussion we hope to see. - Ed.**

Woman of the right #3

To the Editor:

After reading this week’s edition of *The Counterweight*, I would like to keep receiving it. I was so glad to find out there are

other people at Bucknell who share my conservative opinions! Thanks a lot.

Morgan Lloyd ‘03

Glad to hear it

To the Editor:

I would love to be on the mailing list for *The Counterweight*! It is so refreshing to read a paper that expresses the same views that I have, and not just the same old liberal ways of thinking that we are pounded with on this campus. Keep up the good work, guys!

John Henry Jackson ‘05

Well, the equality article was a satire...

To the Editor:

I have a few comments. First, overall, the second issue of *The Counterweight* was slightly better than the first issue and was in fact more a source of amusement than anything else. However, this issue did have its moments. The article on inequality did not have anything that might be considered useful in it. Where it did say that to create equality, “we must eliminate certain differences that facilitate advantage,” the methods to eliminating these differences were outrageous. It brought about a Harris Bergeron complex in which the few in power decide to make everyone else “equal” by forcing handicaps on them in one method or another. Secondly, handguns have no other purpose than to be used on another human being. Anyone who defends their proliferation is no better than those that pull the trigger. Third, the article entitled “Some Sensitivities Seem Too Salty to Swallow” was a joke. If I had been the postmaster responsible for sending out that message, I would have just to get the whiny four year old to shut his mouth and stop complaining. Cutuli’s response borders on harassment. Finally, “The Penis Monologues” was just in bad taste. There was no need for that article to be written. We live in a patriarchal society, and to think otherwise is to be ignorant of your surroundings. “The Vagina Monologues” was written and is performed in order to help break away from some of that male-domi-

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THE COUNTERWEIGHT

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Published since 2001 by

THE BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
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Mission Statement

The Counterweight is a non-partisan publication dedicated to promoting the free exchange of ideas in an environment where meaningful debate and ideological diversity are often lacking. We, its staff, seek to serve the Bucknell community by infusing it with the ingredients necessary for a balanced educational experience. These ingredients include conservative, libertarian, and classical liberal thought. We aim to find and describe logical solutions to issues big and small, while adhering to the Constitution of the United States and all its amendments. We believe that peace is best achieved through strength, that utopia is nowhere, and that true equality is blind to race, creed, sex, and sexuality. We take it as our mission to expose the inadequacies of the leftist ideas that dominate this University and to articulate an alternative viewpoint. We strive to inform, engage, and perhaps even amuse our readers in doing so.

We invite the active participation of any student who shares our vision and would like to join our crusade.

Disclaimer

The views expressed in the articles herein are solely those of each respective author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of any other club members, the Conservatives Club at large, BSG, or Bucknell University. Especially Bucknell University.

Subscription Policy

Any person who would like to be on the mailing list for The Counterweight and is not, or who is on the mailing list and would like to be removed, should send a request to Charles Mitchell at cmitchel@bucknell.edu. Requests can also be sent by mail to the address below.

Club Information

The Conservatives Club holds meetings on every-other Thursday night at 8PM in the Faculty Lounge, LC 240. All are welcome.

Any correspondence regarding the club should be mailed to P.O. Box 141, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

The Bucknell Conservatives are online at:
www.orgs.bucknell.edu/conservatives

PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

Sunday, April 7

REFORMED-BUT-DISORDERLY RIGHT-WINGER--At approximately 6:16 PM, Public Safety and Lewisburg Police responded to Coleman Hall due to a frantic call from a student. The student said that a senior, who was only described as being a white male, was behaving in an inappropriate manner.

Knowing only that information, one officer initially thought that he would perhaps apprehend, in his words, "the hoodlum who did the dastardly deed of leaving a condom in a refrigerator in Roberts Hall." Another officer hoped to perhaps even snag "the outlaw who had the audacity to bring a canine into Coleman."

Some administrators, in their Hugo Boss suits, also responded to the scene, having worked themselves into a tizzy believing that perhaps another "bias-related harassment" incident was going down. At least two deans are said to have dropped all other pending matters--one Dean unceremoniously walked out of a meeting with a Conservatives Club member--in order to fully explore whether or not anyone could possibly have been offended by the events of that evening, since both a white male and law enforcement were involved.

But what all these people saw was beyond even their outlandish expectations.

The student, later determined to be a member of the Conservatives Club, was standing on a desk, wearing at least six North Face vests, the pockets filled with Tiffany's necklaces. There was a fire raging in the wastepaper basket where, instead of recycling them like a good person, the student had deposited and then burned every copy of *The Counterweight* he could find.

When the officers and administrators arrived on the scene, the student, who had also stapled a green "living wage" sign to the back of his head, was in the process of hurling countless books on Ronald Reagan into the blaze. The process was accompanied by a substantial amount of screaming on the part of the student, which, he said, was practice for what he would do when the Conserva-

tives Club brings in a speaker.

Upon seeing the officers and administrators, the student attempted to explain his actions. He said that finally, after almost four years at Bucknell, the overwhelming truth and logic of radical ideology, with which he had been indoctrinated during freshman orientation and so many of his classes, had hit home.

He had realized that his life as a conservative and member of the "religious right" had been a farce and that he needed to finally, at long last, embrace the anti-globalist, high-taxes, big-government dogma that his professors had been urging him to accept all along. Finally, the student declared that as



This ex-conservative finally saw the light.

soon as he was finished ridding Bucknell of "pecuniary emulation," "conspicuous consumption", bourgeoisie tyranny, J Crew, Gap, American Eagle, Abercrombie, and even Fitch, he would resign from the Conservatives Club, which he now viewed as "a front group for the KKK." In pursuit of those goals, the student had confiscated all the North Face vests, Tiffany's necklaces, Doc Martens shoes, "conservative-mobile" convertibles, and other examples of capitalist excess that he could find—which, he said, are "certainly easy to come by on this gut-wrenchingly anti-progressive campus."

At that point, most of the officers and administrators were left clueless—except those who had received a "progressive" Ivy League education. A Public Safety officer decided it

was time to "cuff" the student, but the administrators reacted to that idea with vicious anger. They grabbed the officer and threw him out the door, exclaiming that the student was only expressing his ideas and that to stop him from doing so would be a crime against free speech, tolerance, and diversity. They told all the other officers that they, too, could leave, whereupon they asked the student if he needed any more *Counterweights* to burn, since they had each received one and certainly didn't want them.

A terrified, Abercrombie-clad female student then remarked that in pursuit of his aforementioned goals, the male student had threatened her with a stolen cafeteria knife because she refused to hand over her \$65 Kate Spade pencil case.

The administrators were initially inclined to accuse her of trying to censor the male's clearly laudable ideas, until they discovered that the terrified female happened to be African American. At that point, it became overwhelmingly clear to them that there had been some bias-related harassment, so they personally subdued the male student and drove him (ironically, in an Audi TT) to the Lewisburg Penitentiary. They are hoping to find a way to extradite him to somewhere where he could stand trial for a "hate crime."

Monday, March 25

CHUNKS BLOWN--In a related incident, Public Safety had also responded to Coleman Hall at 8:10 AM, this time in response to a request for help from Physical Plant. Apparently, there was so much vomit on the floor that Physical Plant staff members simply couldn't get rid of it all themselves.

This outpouring of half-digested breakfast was apparently due to the sight of the Conservatives Club's new, neon orange "living wage" signs, which had just been hung up the night before. One officer said of the puke-ridden scene, "It's unbelievable! I've never seen anything like it! Well, at least not since Ronald Reagan was elected..."

**—Fabricated by Officer C. Mitchell
cmitchel@bucknell.edu**

NEWSBRIEFS

And the “bias-related” hysteria continues...

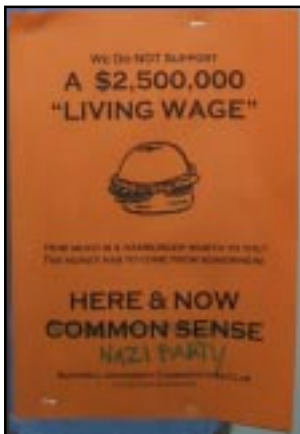
The campus community recently received yet another email from **Associate Dean of Students Richard Ferraro** claiming that two more incidences of “bias-related harassment” have occurred on campus. We have the scoop on one.

A girl, who had been drinking, decided to prank call her ex-boyfriend--a stupid move, and inexcusable. She dialed the number, but the ex-boyfriend’s roommate answered, so she panicked, throwing the phone to another person in the room, who put the phone to his ear and said, “What’s up, my negro?” Now granted, that is a pretty dumb way to say “Hi,” but that is all the boy was trying to say. He had no idea that the person on the other end, whom he did not know, happened to be half black. Public Safety was called, and **Dean Ferraro** has vowed to hold a CJB hearing. **Dean Commerford** told the crank-calling duo that they will have to prove that they did not conspire to racially insult the roommate--therefore the accused are *guilty until proven innocent!*

Obviously, the incident was stupid and mean, and that the perpetrators should be punished for the crank call. But was what they did racist? Is there *any* evidence that they conspired? And the larger question: does that even matter to Messrs. Ferraro and Commerford?

Conservative harassed

Yes, ‘tis true, the Conservatives Club itself has fallen victim to bias-related harassment. As you may not know, since they are defaced or taken down as fast as we can put them up, the club has come out



The defaced sign

with its own neon-colored “living wage” sign. One such sign, which was on a club member’s door, had “NAZI PARTY” written on it, referring to the club. Now, last time we checked, the Nazis didn’t exactly like smaller government, free speech, or the right to keep and bear arms, so the comparison totally lacks merit. And certainly, calling a group of students Nazis is at least as bad as what has passed for harassment around here. As this issue goes to press, **Dean Ferraro** has promised to pursue the matter with the **Committee for Campus Diversity**. Keep looking for the campus email.

Bush buffoonery

What is with *el presidente* lately? Is he still suffering from the effects of bumping his head during the infamous pretzel incident? Don’t misunderstand, we still think his war leadership is A-OK. But a steel tariff? What a great way to get our allies feeling good! And what good will it do? History tells us that other nations will surely retaliate with their own tariffs. Bush and advisor **Karl Rove** were clearly fishing for union votes here, and we don’t like it. The prez then followed up that moronic act by signing the unconstitutional **Shays-Meehan** campaign finance bill. The bill fits none of the guidelines Bush set for a signable bill, and he apparently thinks he can just leave the job of fixing it to the Supreme Court. Perhaps someone should remind him of the oath he swore to uphold the Constitution? Thankfully, **Sen. Mitch McConnell** of Kentucky remembers his, and immediately

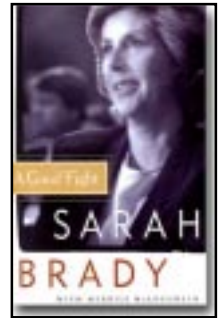


Waving his principles bye-bye?

filed a lawsuit.

Hypocrisy watch

Sarah Brady, America’s premier gun-banning advocate, may have managed to violate the laws she pushes for so vigorously. In her soon-to-be-released book, Brady reveals that two years ago she bought a hunting rifle for her son at a Delaware gun shop. But in her careful description of the experience, Brady mentions a background check being run on her, but *not on her son*. Delaware law requires that background checks be run on gift recipients! If Brady did not disclose that the gun was not for her (which is unclear), then she made a “straw purchase,” one of the many things her group strives to outlaw and *has gotten outlawed* in Delaware!



Can’t wait to read this one...

Even if it turns out that Brady somehow managed to stay within the law, surely it says something that the nation’s foremost gun controller can’t keep track of the myriad gun laws on the books. And besides, why would someone who says all the time that “the safest thing [to do] is not to keep a gun in the home” buy a gun for her son? Seems kind of like virulently anti-gun **Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Chuck Schumer** having permits to carry concealed guns (which they do)...

Debates!

On March 28th, the Conservatives Club and the College Democrats held a debate on the War on Terror in front of a decent crowd in the Vaughan Lit Auditorium. Thanks to all who came--we’re looking forward to more. If you have any preferences for future debate topics, send them to ahersper@.

–Compiled by Charles Mitchell and Tom Elliott (cmitchel & telliott@)

CAMPUS

Give Me Booze, or Give Me Death

By Tom Elliott '03
telliott@bucknell.edu

"I think this idea that somehow we're going to keep kids between 19 and 21 from drinking is a myth. We should recognize it's a myth. We ought to put it up front, and be morally responsible about it," Wisconsin attorney general Jim Doyle once said.

When it comes to booze, America has always had a long and proud tradition. From the rebellious, bourbon-addled revolutionary times, to the Roaring '20s, alcohol has always had a strong and meaningful societal presence. Visitors to this country during the 1950s were amazed at the tenacious American ability to dispose of copious amounts of alcohol. Alcohol and college students have had an equally long-lasting love affair.

"As someone who is now of legal drinking age, yet has sipped on brew since the beginning of high school..."

Influences from society and one's family have generally molded attitudes towards alcohol and its consumption. But in an attempt to combat young people's drinking problems, the federal government has taken on the role of Mom and Dad. As we learned from its previous attempts, sometimes other tactics are more effective.

According to the government, by your 18th birthday, you are mature enough to vote, drive, get married, enter into contracts, run lines of credit, start businesses, pay taxes, buy shares, scuba dive, skydive, bungee jump, smoke, have abortions without parental consent, fly a plane, drive a boat, be tried as an adult, and even see "R"-rated movies. However, this

maturational fails to enter the realm of drinking until three years later.

But alcohol is different, right? It corrupts uncontrollably, and must be federally regulated so kids don't drink and drive. The 1984 federal National Minimum Drinking Age Act, which denied states 10% of their federal highway funds every year they did not cease alcohol sales to the under-21 folk, quickly forced the previously out-in-the-open party scene underground.

The effectiveness of the rule—alleged in the oft-repeated statistic that since 1982, the number of fatalities involving teenage drunk driving accidents has dropped by 63 percent, and drinking and driving is no longer the leading killer of teens—is perilously hollow. The statistic itself shows that the decline began two years before the law was passed. And besides that, the policy didn't go into effect fully until 1987, five years after the decline began. It's also important to consider the impact of groups such as M.A.D.D.

and D.A.R.E., as well as societal, familial, and other influences.

The great Winston Churchill would surely have been aghast at America's current irrational fear of intoxicating spirits. Upon being told by Ibn Saud that the Saudi Arabian king's religious beliefs forbade the use of tobacco and liquor, Churchill remarked, "I must point out, that my rule of life prescribes as an absolutely sacred rite smoking cigars and also the drinking of alcohol before, after, and if need be during all meals and in the intervals between them."

As someone who is now of legal drinking age, yet has sipped on brew since the beginning of high school, I can attest to the fact that the overwhelming majority of underage drinkers don't consider legislation when debating whether or not to indulge.

Once upon a time, Bucknell had a strong reputation for having a superb social atmosphere. Its descent into its current state of near-demise has been a product, purportedly, of surrounding state and federal legislation. Dean Ferraro has told me this would not be the case if the drinking age were lowered to 18—political action he has pledged to support.

Sen. George Allen of Virginia has told his constituents that the drinking age would have been lowered a long time ago if their college students had gotten their political act together. In the name of all things decent and happy, uniting to make legal what is currently normal and commonplace would exhibit a powerful precedent upon the other 49 states.

After all, the "fruit of the vine" is a natural and wonderful substance, "given by God to gladden the heart of man" (Psalms 104:14-14).



A Toast to Common Sense

By Adam Hersperger '05
ahersper@bucknell.edu

Everyone wants to have fun. After all, wouldn't life be a little too boring if people never relaxed or didn't know how to enjoy themselves? I think this is the main reason why so many high school and college students are attracted to the party scene. The social atmosphere allows people to relax, have a good time, and forget about everything else that's happening in their lives.

At many parties and other social gatherings, alcohol will be present. Let's face it; human beings have been attracted to alcohol for centuries and I doubt that this will change anytime soon. However, I think people sometimes forget that alcohol is not something to be taken lightly. Serious consequences can result from its abuse. It is for this very reason that current laws prohibit anyone under the age of 21 from consuming alcohol. Government officials seem to think that most people are mature enough to drink alcohol whenever they wish by age 21.

I truly believe that lowering the drinking age in this country would be a deadly decision with unanticipated consequences. I am not going to attempt to back up my arguments with a plethora of facts and statistics; I will simply appeal to common sense in the hopes that it will prevail in this issue. Judging from the frequency with which alcohol is illegally consumed under the current laws, I shudder to think what would happen if the drinking age is lowered to 18. If it were lowered, those who would not be of age to drink but still decided to break the law would be even

younger than they are now.

The government and police forces around this country currently spend an incredible amount of time and money trying to curb underage drinking. Some people might think this is a waste of resources that could go to other, more worthwhile programs. However, I do not think this is a good enough reason to stop trying to curtail underage drinking. Trying to stop the dangers that can be related to the abuse of alcohol is a very worthwhile cause. The laws are in place for a reason. They were not enacted by the government on a whim in order to make young peoples' lives miserable.

Many European countries have very limited legislation regarding the age that someone is legally allowed to drink. However, we do not live in Europe. America has a totally different culture. It doesn't work to compare the

“Seeing as how I am only 19 years old, I now make a toast—with my protein drink, that is—to common sense.”

means that many seniors in high school would be of age to buy and consume alcohol. This also means that these same high school seniors could also share the alcohol they purchase with their friends who may be juniors, sophomores, or even freshmen. I just fail to see any benefits from lowering

the drinking age. The risks in this case far outweigh any conceivable advantages.

I do not think that many 18-year-olds are mature enough to handle the responsibility that comes with drinking. It is true that people of

the same age are allowed to vote and serve in the military, but neither one of those activities could cause the death of a fellow American. Alcohol poisoning and deaths caused by drunk drivers are tragedies that cause a lot of pain and tear families apart. I should know—my great-grandfather was killed by a drunk driver.

When it is done responsibly, there is absolutely nothing wrong with drinking. However, I highly doubt that the average 18 year old is capable of being mature enough to handle such tremendous responsibility. The current drinking age should remain unchanged. People can't have fun when they are killed by a drunk driver or find themselves in a hospital bed. Seeing as how I am only 19 years old, I now make a toast—with my protein drink, that is—to common sense.



Adam and his beverage of choice: a protein drink!

United States with Europe. Americans live by the rule “more is better.” For most aspects of life, this is an excellent philosophy that drives people to succeed. However, in the case of alcohol, the more screwdrivers a person has won't help him build the house any faster.

If 18-year-olds could buy alcohol, this

Speech Codes and Other, Related, Extremism

By Michael Boland '03
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A month ago, Vice President of Student Affairs Charlie Pollock sent a campus email describing the circumstances of a “bias-related incident” involving the derisive use of the word “gay” on a student webpage. Such usage allegedly constituted harassment of gays, because of its “negative impact on the larger community” in the way it made people feel- even though, by all accounts, there was no malicious intent in the student’s use of the word. It was not meant as an epithet; it was meant as a joke.

No matter. Vice President Pollock made it quite clear:

“We really must make an effort to avoid prejudiced and biased expression, regardless of intent.”

To that end, the Committee for Campus Diversity (CCD) has set out to fashion new policies to “eliminate instances of harassment, intimidation and derision based on difference.” What they will look like is still anyone’s guess as of this writing, but from the Gay Website episode and the Blackface fiasco, it is not unreasonable to assume that the “intent of the perpetrator” will not be a prominent determinant of whether he or she is guilty of bias-related harassment.

The worst possible outcome of their project would be the imposition of a speech code; that is, an outright prohibition on the utterance of certain words and phrases for their feared effects on campus diversity and tolerance. Such a decision on the part of the CCD would be unworkable, irresponsible, and morally wrong for a place of higher learning; fortunately, several interested students have received assurances that such a code is not in the works.

But even if the CCD does have the good sense and decency not to implement an all-out speech code, the battle is not yet won. To give the impression that it is, in fact, “responding” to the recent series of bias-related campus (non)events, the CCD will still presumably come out with the set of guidelines and procedures for dealing with suspected

bias-related harassment promised by Pollock in his campus email. His email indicates that the CCD may very well disregard “intent” as it goes about classifying and dealing with bias-related incidents. This would be a serious mistake.

To remove malicious intent as a criterion in determining whether a “bias-related incident” has occurred would open the floodgates to reports of bias-related harassment. Conceivably, any word or deed that could be stretched in any way to insinuate any sort of disapproval or disagreement with a protected system of thought could- if certain administrators are to be consis-

tent- be singled out and punished as an act of harassment. For if anything that offends another can be regarded as functionally “offensive,” then all bets are off. What the administration laid out in its handling of the Gay Website episode is that motivations or audience do not matter; the feelings of others do. Is it to be the policy of the University that feelings and impressions are enough to create a hostile “climate”, no matter what the reason a speaker gives for his words?

Think carefully about what happened in the Gay Website case, and the precedent it established. In that situation, a student made a comment. Someone was offended by his comment, so it was scrubbed from the record. His motivations did not matter; the fact that his words offended another took center stage and provided, on its own, grounds for punishment. The only logical end to such a policy is to give subjective, free-floating, ever-changing, wide-ranging

sensitivities of 3500 students veto power over the voices of their fellow students.

The most likely effect of removing intent from the bias-related incidents, specifically as they relate to mere words (as opposed to actions) is what pretentious legal-types like to call “chilling” effects on speech. Simply put, if people think they’re going to get punished or smeared for putting forward some idea, it makes them less likely to do it.

Take, for example, some conservative religious group addressing the subject of homosexuality. If they were to teach, at a meeting or in a study open to the public, that God has condemned homosexual behavior, and a gay student heard these words and was offended by the notion that he or she is “sinning”- would a complaint by that gay student, accompanied by sincerely held feelings of hurt or grief, make that religious group guilty of “bias-related harassment”? Would the fear of such charges discourage the group from teaching its message in the first place? As things stand now, it seems as though they would, and that is intolerable. The group could be denied its right to teach and exercise its religious beliefs- all in the name of preserving diversity and, insanely, “tolerance.” What a troubling development

that would be, for this or any other campus.

Issues of race, gender, and sexuality look like they’ll be the primary concerns of the future “bias related” guidelines, given the nature of the events that have the CCD working in the first place. Given the chilling effects on speech under a code that ignores the intent of the speaker, it is likely that these same issues- race, gender, and sexual-

ity- would be the first to disappear from public discourse. Not only would the campus be poorer for the lack of debate on these issues as a place of learning and living and growing- for removing an en



“The sad but precious fact of free speech is that no one, not even the historically oppressed, has the right not to be offended.”

Continued on page 11...

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

Stem Cells 101

By Dominic Puccio '03
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A stem cell, according to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), is “a cell from the embryo, fetus, or adult that...can give rise to specialized cells that make up the tissues and organs of the body.” Scientists hope to use stem cells to replace cells in the human body that are destroyed by injuries or incurable diseases, such as Parkinson’s disease, diabetes, chronic heart disease, spinal cord injury, Alzheimer’s disease, and cancer. To me—an English major with little understanding of science—the possible benefits of stem cell research can be best understood by the following two examples: Christopher Reeve, confined to a wheel chair due to a tragic spinal cord injury, may be able to walk again, and Michael J. Fox, forced to retire from acting at a young age due to Parkinson’s disease, may be able to fully regain his health.

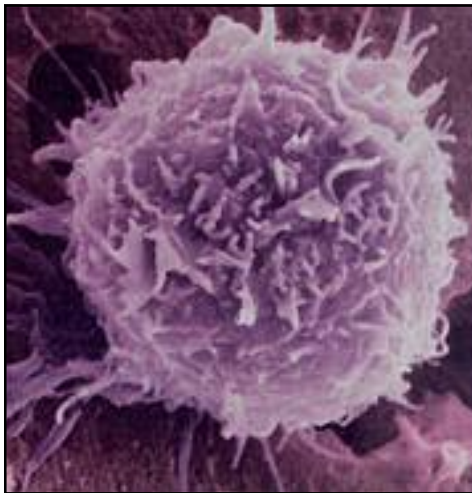
Currently, researchers are focusing in on two types of stem cells: adult and embryonic. Embryonic stem cells are thought to be superior to their adult counterparts. They are much easier to find (or, more accurately, to make, as we shall see later) and they have a wider range of capabilities than adult stem cells. “A single embryonic stem cell has been shown to give rise to specialized cells from all three embryonic layers [essentially the skin, skeleton, and organs],” as the NIH has said. It has not yet been proven that a single adult stem cell can do the same.

For a number of months now, researchers, politicians, the media, and the general public have been paying a great deal of attention to embryonic stem cell research due to the controversial nature of this research. To make embryonic stem cells, scientists must fertilize an isolated female egg with isolated male sperm, thereby creating a human embryo. But only by destroying the embryo can the stem cells be extracted. And to people who believe that life begins at conception, the destruction of human embryos is the murder of human life, and it is morally wrong to destroy human life in order to save human life. Among the opposition to stem cell research are many Christians and conservatives who stand on the pro-life side of the also controversial

abortion issue.

President Bush is among those who believe that life begins at conception. This belief influenced his decision to allow very limited federal funding of embryonic stem cell research. He supports the research being done on “existing lines of stem cells—which were derived from human embryos that already had been destroyed,” but will not condone the destruction of any additional embryos in the future.

Among those on the other side of the issue are those who believe that stem cell research is too important to abandon—that the end justifies the means, so to speak—and that an embryo is not actually a human



A stem cell (Courtesy *Time*)

life. For example, Singapore’s Bioethics Advisory Committee has approved the use of early embryos in research because an embryo’s nervous systems do not begin to form until the fourteenth day, and they do not consider the embryo a human life until that time.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*, scientists are currently looking for alternative ways to create embryonic stem cells. One method is through cloning, in which “an egg’s genetic material is removed and replaced with the chromosomes of an adult cell.” The cloned embryo is a nearly perfect genetic twin of the donor. Since the embryo is not a brand-new human life, but merely a copy of an already existing life, it is ethical to extract its stem cells. Furthermore, these cells are a perfect match

with the donor. However, cloning is frowned upon by a minority of scientists “who now are increasingly opposed to human embryo cloning efforts, fearing it will lead to the birth of a human clone.” They fear that such an event could be threatening to humankind. President Bush is also against cloning. “I just don’t think it’s right,” he says.

An alternative method of creating embryonic stem cells is a process known as “parthenogenesis,” which is a Greek term meaning “virgin birth.” In this process, an egg is given an electrical or chemical shock, sometimes causing it to develop into an embryo. This type of embryo is known as a “parthenote embryo,” and contains a double set of the mother’s twenty-three chromosomes (as opposed to a normal embryo, which contains twenty-three pairs of chromosomes, one set from each parent). A parthenote embryo lives for about a week, and since it does not contain any paternal chromosomes, it cannot develop into a fetus.

This method may be the solution to the embryonic stem cell controversy. Currently, two companies—Advanced Cell Technology Inc. of Worcester, Mass. and Stemron Corp. of Gaithersburg, Md.—are racing one another to be the first company to successfully extract stem cells from a human parthenote embryo. So far, Advanced Cell has been able to extract stem cells using a parthenote embryo from a macaque monkey. Researchers are also hopeful that parthenogenesis can be used to create a type of “stem cell bank for everyone.”

We’d like to thank...

Mr. Thor Halvorsen, for his helpful advice; The College Democrats, for putting on the debate with us; The Department of Political Science, for co-sponsoring the debate; Prof. Gary Sojka, for moderating the debate; Saddam Hussein, for giving us something to talk about at the debate; V-Day Bucknell, for inviting us to be on their panel to discuss the Vagina Monologues; Mr. Charles F. Mitchell, Sr., for another generous donation; and, as always, the Bucknell Student Government, who paid for this thing.

EDITORIAL

Girls Just Want to Have Fun

By Allison Kasic
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I am a girl. I am a conservative. I do not fit into the “grumpy old man” stereotype of conservatives put forth by liberals. For goodness sakes, somebody should call the GOP and report me! I might be a liberal spy!

To tell the truth, though, it is not always easy. But contrary to popular opinion, that is not due to the abuse I face from my elderly male counterparts. Actually, the problem is that I am constantly forced to defend my political position to would-be agitators who demand to know, “How can you possibly be a woman and a conservative?” This absurd question is based on the false premise that conservatism in some way discriminates against women, or all minorities for that matter. On the contrary, I am a conservative because I believe liberal policies in such areas as education, welfare, and employment have failed to promote the meaningful racial and sexual equality that right-thinking Americans want.

I hope the point has sunk in by now: it is okay for women to be conservatives! But wait, does that mean I have to dress like Barbara Bush? The thought of conservative women brings to mind hideous blouses and penny loafers—not exactly Cosmo material—and visions of carpools to the Talbot’s outlet store. (Now, repeat after me: Function over fashion!) Aside from clothing, there are two other, equally fallacious stereotypes of conservative women. The first stereotype is that of the rich aristocrat’s wife who spends her time having tea at the country club mumbling “Darling” and bragging about her husband’s new yacht to all of her fellow WASP friends. The other portrays the innocent Bible Study mom who can cook up a mean turkey pot pie and whose

favorite leisure activity is watching “Little House on the Prairie” on PAX TV.

Both of these stereotypes are outdated. Women today are empowered! Haven’t you watched “Sex and the City?” Okay, maybe today’s conservative women don’t quite share Carrie Bradshaw’s obsession with stilettos. Still, they can be considered “stiletto conservatives,” a term coined by Concerned Women for America’s Catherina Hurlburt. Stiletto conservatives “want a return to integrity, a focus on moral values and family, and respect for the inherent differences between men and women.” And all without the fashion faux pas!

We conservative women of today are not afraid to share our political views. Hurlburt point out that unlike the Steinem-era feminists, “our empowerment comes from controlling our sexuality, rather than letting it control us.” Are you listening, Britney Spears?

Many of today’s conservative women have modern views on sexuality, while at the same time striving to uphold the values of the traditional family. For example, as former New Jersey Governor and current

EPA Director Christine Todd Whitman has shown, it’s even okay to be pro-choice and a conservative. Such freedom of opinion is not permitted among feminists—either you are pro-choice or you don’t belong. Not very “sisterly,” if you ask me. Indeed, paradoxically, the loss of traditional family values seems to be a by product of several failed liberal policies, ranging from a welfare system that destroyed family formation in many poor communities to the liberal-based feminist movement that, at the very least, disdained women who chose traditional family roles. For example, the unabashedly liberal National Organization for Women (NOW) endorses all lifestyles except the traditional family. Men are evil and only want to oppress women, they say! But I guess I missed that memo, because I still believe that marriage is a partnership, not the form of enslavement that radical feminists make it out to be.

If feminism were truly about equality between the sexes, then I would gladly sign up for “sisterhood.” I might even sing Kumbaya around a campfire. But the truth is that feminism is strictly for the left side of the political spectrum; conservatives simply are not welcome. If my political ideology bars me from participating in a singalong or two, so be it. I am a conservative because I find that conservatism fosters and protects individual rights and freedoms. It is through the exercise of that freedom that an individual has the best opportunity to pursue and find happiness. And, after all, as Cyndi Lauper proclaimed, “girls just want to have fun!”

“If feminism were truly about equality between the sexes, then I would gladly sign up for sisterhood...”



At Counterweight Committee meetings, conservatives of both sexes have tons of fun!

BIGOT RHYMES – from pg. 1

and five percent) and denigration of whites (who are referred to as “white devils” or “cave-dwellers”) and women.

Busta Rhymes is clearly a bigot. He is a member of an organization that believes that one race is superior to the others—and that is

despicable, regardless of which race is said to be superior. The Five Percent is no better than the KKK or the Aryan Nation.

There would be a huge uproar if the Concert Committee brought in a controversial artist such as Eminem. And now that Busta Rhymes’ racism has been exposed, it is up to the Bucknell community to decide: do we re-

ally want someone like him on our campus? Do we want the Gerhard Fieldhouse to be filled with racist rap? And do we want to be paying thousands of dollars (Dean Conrad told me she is contractually prohibited from saying exactly how many thousands) and then 15 bucks a ticket for it? I personally say, “Hell no!” But decide for yourself.

LETTERS – from pg. 3

nated stigma. Where the actual script is about vaginas and women’s thoughts about them, the point is to create awareness of the fact that women are people too. I would like to continue receiving your publication, however.

Jon Hoyle ‘04
President, Bucknellians For Peace

****So... George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and the overwhelming majority of the Founding Fathers are “no better than” criminals? An interesting proposition. Also, you might want to run your interpretation of the purpose of the V-Monologues by the performers--it doesn’t jibe with the reasons they said at the V-Day Bucknell forum. - Ed.**

It must not be working

To the Editor:

I’m delighted to hear that I won’t be receiving *The Counterweight* in my mailbox anymore. Generally, I pride myself on being open-minded to other people’s political views (perhaps some of your writers should give this idea a try?), but even I have my limits.

Janet Serafin ‘04

****The mere fact that our writers dare to dif-**

fer with and stand up to the leftist viewpoint on campus certainly does not make them “closed minded.” Please refer to Tom Goodman’s article on the topic in the last issue. - Ed.

From the land of the Dems

To the Editor:

I am a Democrat from a Democratic family and a Democratic town. For this reason I read

**The editor has
no friends.**

**Write him a letter
so he feels special.
cmitchel@ or C-1514**

The Counterweight with fascination. While I seriously disagree with most of its ideas, I admire the well-written and informed way they are presented. I’ll keep reading it, and I hope you keep fueling a much-needed political dialogue on this campus.

I only have one complaint: I think you made a mistake by printing the letter from Ayman Billah as the headlining negative response to the first *Counterweight*. I’m sure there were many coherent and substantial letters to choose from, and printing this one pre-

sumably as a joke was an immature low blow. Choosing to print that letter hurt your credibility.

Katie Tarca ‘04

And from the staff

To the Editor:

I think it’s wonderful that you are getting the word out so that the campus community realizes that there are students, faculty, and staff who also have a conservative approach to issues. Prior to your publication, the impression given by most of the publicity, lectures, seminars, etc. was that this educational institution has a liberal slant. Now, maybe we will be better educated to ALL sides of important issues. It seems to me that this should be the main academic goal of a liberal arts institution. “Liberal arts” should imply balance in every area of this institution, NOT the equivalent of political, and social liberalism. Your publication also helps to destroy the notion that all conservatives are extremists. When these labels get thrown around, it negates true education and promotes a bias and sometimes, even intellectual harassment. Thanks for all your efforts; they are very important and appreciated!

Please don’t use my name if you quote anything of mine.

Anonymous University staff member

SPEECH CODES – from pg. 8

tire side of arguments on debatable subjects like homosexuality would create an intellectual monopoly- but it would betray the entire mission of the modern university. Race, gender, and sexuality are some of the most hotly contested issues outside the Bubble, in today’s society.

To rob the student of debate, struggle, and challenge to even their most closely held beliefs makes them ill-prepared to think critically about these very same issues once they’ve left the confines of Bucknell and its “bias-related traction puts the fear of God into

incident procedures,” while it is these very same issues that the university should be preparing the student to engage once they pass beyond these walls.

The sad but precious fact of free speech is that no one, not even the historically oppressed, has the right not to be offended. Not if we are to have a free exchange of ideas and make any attempt to learn from or engage one another. 3,500 disparate backgrounds and ideologies make it quite literally impossible to avoid ideas or causes that we dislike or even offend us; that doesn’t mean they ought not be expressed. And that is exactly what will happen if the adminis-

dissenting minds by removing “intent” in its forthcoming guidelines for classifying events as “bias-related.”

A speech code would be intolerable, and we need to keep our eyes peeled for even the hint of one. But its noble-sounding cousin- the quest to ignore intent and enshrine Feelings as the standard for harassment irrespective of the intent of the speaker- has the potential to do just as much damage to the integrity of our school and a student body that still shows signs of wanting to learn, and teach, and think.

THE LAST WORD

So the radicals want a speech code...

Here's what they'd write if they were honest about it (well, almost).

By Denise Chaykun '04, Matt Donnelley '02, Charles Mitchell '05, and Dominic Puccio '03
dchaykun, donnelle, cmitchel, and dpuccio@bucknell.edu, respectively

We the Leftist Radicals of Bucknell University, in Order to form a more politically correct University, establish Injustice, insure domestic Unoffendedness, provide for the common "open-mindedness," promote the general Shelteredness, and secure the Blessings of The Bubble to ourselves and our Administration, do ordain and establish this Speech Code for the Bucknell Community.

Article I

Race may not be discussed in a way that does not promote multicultural utopianism. Proper discussions of race may include, and are limited to, emphasizing that the Caucasian race has consistently oppressed and subjugated all other races and that any problems experienced by said other races are a direct consequence of the West's endless pursuit of capitalist materialism.

Article II

The word "gay" shall not be used by any person, in any context, especially as slang.

Article III

Evangelical Christians shall be viewed with suspicion, especially when they address topics of sexuality. As it is well known that they believe that homosexuality is wrong, they shall not be allowed to say so.

All Bibles shall be removed from campus since they perpetuate this archaic notion and glorify patriarchy, heterosexism, na-

tionalism, and slavery. This action shall not be construed by any person as "bias-related harassment." Any person who finds a Bible, or has ever believed anything in a Bible, should immediately consult a Dean or Psychological Services staff member, who will inform him or her of what his or her new belief system shall be.

Article IV

Campus-wide emails shall be immediately sent out as soon as anything even remotely bad happens to any member of any approved (see Article V) minority, regardless of whether or not there is any evidence whatsoever that the incident was motivated by any sort of bias.



Article V

Those who shall be considered "minorities" shall include, but not be limited to, the following: blacks, Asians, Hispanics, homosexuals, transsexuals, females, vegetarians, vegans, meat haters, vampires, cartoon characters, non-squirrel

small rodents, those of Icelandic or Greenlandic descent, people whose second toe is longer than their first, people



A newly-protected minority: the non-squirrel small rodent

born on February 29th, any Bucknell girl not owning a pair of tight black pants, those who enjoy eating in the new Caf s y s t e m , people who actually go on dates instead of just ran-

domly hooking up, and any Bucknellian who refrains from drinking alcoholic beverages until the age of 21.

The following groups shall not be protected: those in favor of capitalism, Christians, Bucknell wrestlers, those who do not think the new BYOB system is working, any professor who has ever (ever!) voted for any Republican, the bourgeoisie, omnivores, and those who disagree with this speech code or believe that it somehow inhibits appropriate "free speech."

Article VI

The Conservatives Club shall be banned from campus, so that it can never again spread its bigoted, closed-minded, right-wing, extremist, fascist, reactionary ideas ever again. So there.