

THE COUNTERWEIGHT

Providing the ingredients missing from your “balanced” education

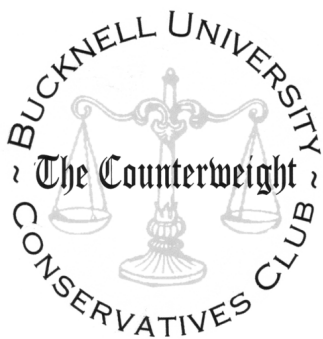
Volume 1, Issue 4: May 1, 2002

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Why Oppose a “Living Wage?”

By Michael Boland ‘03, Denise Chaykun ‘04, Adam Hersperger ‘05, and Charles Mitchell ‘05

You may have seen the Conservatives Club’s new orange “living wage” signs around campus—they’re certainly bright enough. On the other hand, it’s easy to miss them, since they are taken down or defaced just about as quickly as we can put them up.

A few who have managed to catch a glimpse of the signs have criticized them, and we would like to take the time to explain our position on “living wage” a bit more thoroughly than a flier allows.

It’s been said that the format of our signs mocks those put up by the Bucknell Caucus for Economic Justice (BCEJ). That’s accurate; we deliberately patterned our signs after theirs. We did this because we think there’s a lack of substance to the BCEJ signs. When you read them, you don’t get all the facts. You see “Here and now, justice”—not, “Bear in mind, the administration has estimated that this program will cost four to five million dollars.”

Are our signs an oversimplification? Of course. They were supposed to be. What we tried to bring to light with our own signs is that BCEJ’s are just as much of an oversimplification.

Our signs claim that “The money has to come from somewhere” and ask “How much is a hamburger worth to you?” This is our way of asking the campus to consider its *priorities*. The funds required to implement the “living wage” aren’t just sitting in Scrooge McDuck’s vault—they have to come from the University. But where does the University get money? From us, from our parents, and from trustees and other benefactors. We need to consider how much it is worth to us to have all the support staff make at least

\$10.54 an hour. Is it worth an increase in the comprehensive fee? Is it worth an increase in already-high food prices? Or are the trustees to cough up a cool four million to make this happen?

Many of the people propelling the “living wage” movement are economics professors. They, better than anyone, could tell you that even if Bucknell did come across a few million and decide to spend it on the “living wage,” there would

be an opportunity cost to that. We would be giving up whatever else we could have spent the money on. For example, with \$4 million the University could give each of us a \$1126.76 tuition break. Or perhaps some more residence halls could get air conditioning. Or the administration could give the money to the Bucknell wrestlers whose team it has thanklessly taken away (okay, maybe not.)

BCEJ also claims that since the administration raised tuition by 8 percent this year, it should not be making

such a fuss about possibly raising it again to fund a “living wage.” But once again, the issue is priorities. Which would you rather have: a school that can successfully attract top scholars to serve as professors (and for that we need competitive salaries), or a school that pays its support staff \$10.54 an hour? We’re here to learn, and in order to do that we need quality professors.

Our opposition to the “living wage” does not mean that we want the support staff to starve. But we think that there are better ways to help them (such as reforming the tax code so that people who don’t make much money don’t pay any income



See “BCEJ” on page 14.

WE GET LETTERS

The best letter ever

To the Editor:

Does this check make you happy – and it's from me to one of your favorite causes.

Love to Denise.

Love and prayers,

God love you,

Grandmom

Someone liked "The Penis Monologues?!"

To the Editor:

The Counterweight is a great publication, especially the recent comedic article "The Penis Monologues." I believe it is important to remember to represent the group of America that is regarded as the majority, but is often treated as the minority, as many different ethnic and feminist movements take hold of our society today. I am grateful that there is a voice for the conservatives.

Ryan Kaplan '05

Check your facts, CW

To the Editor:

Although I don't agree with anything you have to say, I value *The Counterweight* as a tool for campus awareness and think it was a great idea to bring some of these issues into an open debate. Just a quick word of advice; your articles would be much more compelling if they were (1) copyedited and (2) make sure that someone checks these facts because a lot of arguments get shot down simply because their information is flat-out wrong or outdated.

Aaron DeRosa '03

Birdcage carpet?

To the Editor:

OK, I disagree with you guys 98% of the time, but my birdcage needs fresh carpet. Really, it needs help now. Please put me on your mailing list. Thanks.

Michael Carlin

Visiting Assistant Professor of English

****Hey, no problem. My dog craps on The**

New York Times exclusively. – Ed.

Time-warped faculty?

To the Editor:

I'm glad you started publishing. It's good to know there are other conservatives on a campus overrun with faculty who think they are still back in the 1960's protesting the Vietnam War.

Oh yeah, probably good to keep my name off this.

Anonymous

Very politically incorrect

To the Editor:

I thought *The Counterweight* was a great publication in terms of getting people to at least discuss serious topics more and I appreciate the balls that you all have (sorry to the women) to put your ideas and opinions out there.

John Buechler '02

Conservative criticism

To the Editor:

I'm a conservative, and love seeing what you guys have to say. Just one piece of advice: on every issue, you don't have to run all the way the right and jump off the bridge. Being a Republican/conservative does not mean you must take an ignorant view, or rather, find a radical view that people might get pissed about. The smoking article was horseshit. Just a friendly piece of advice from a GOP'er.

Eddie Bauer '03

Rock the boat!

To the Editor:

I don't agree with most of the articles in your newsletter, but that is due to my own liberal bias. However, I feel that there is a need for different opinions on campus, even if some or most people are offended by those opinions. It is a human quality to feel offended when an opinion clashes with your own. Only through debates and arguments can we learn if we really have the convic-

tion to stick with our original ideas and beliefs. Going through college at a place that is dominated by one-sided views could hinder the educational goals that universities are designed to promote. Furthermore, it has gotten to the point where writing an article such as the "1 in 4" article is frowned upon or viewed as an act of "taboo." It is interesting that conservatives are now the "radicals" on liberal arts college campuses, or maybe just Bucknell, raising points of views that the majority does not agree with. I like the fact that you are "rocking the boat" and stirring up some controversies. Lewisburg is too boring already, and if by starting this newsletter you can get people excited about debating ideas and beliefs, then I think that it has already achieved its educational goal.

Viet Quoc Mai Le '04

She said it, not us

To the Editor:

The best part of *The Counterweight* is reading the opposing view's ironic comments that conservatives are so horribly narrow-minded and biased.

Charissa Reimer '05

Actually, we do

To the Editor:

You might not want to hear this, but we agree on at least some views: 1) the Bucknell administration needs to get its damn act together (indeed, bureaucracy at work...) and 2) limiting freedom of speech is never the answer.

I'd also like to say that the Conservatives Club contributes to a much-needed politically active climate here, and indeed your arguments are very positively thought provoking among a "politically apathetic" campus. You make my job more interesting day after day, and you've come up with a few valid criticisms.

On the other hand, I'd like to offer a little friendly advice. If you do not wish to come off as "reactionary conservatives"—that is, conservative for the explicit purpose of

Continued on page 3...

opposing everything deemed “liberal”—then I would suggest you take a more serious and analytical approach to your arguments. I know you have scared away some less “extreme” conservatives with your approach, and while it is a good tactic for generating interest, it is not good for generating respect.

Your Conservatives Club “Anti-Living-Wage” flyers, albeit cleverly satirical on some level, generally lack substance. You mockingly use the same font and format that we at the BCEJ use, and you dismiss the research that we have done as “liberal propaganda” (could be a reactionary argument here). I will refer you to past issues of *The Catalyst* if you want to know what research we have done—we have put a lot of effort into it, and your criticisms are not going to earn you much respect. Thus far they consist of mere guesswork. For example, you continue to refer to the Living Wage as a plan targeting Dining Services, which is not entirely true—it targets all non-supervisory staff workers (i.e. secretaries, etc.). I took the time to read your *Counterweight*, and if you’d like to formulate a good idea of what the Living Wage campaign is all about, then I’ll put *Catalysts* in your mailboxes.

The second thing that I’d like to point out is that “those ugly green signs,” as you referred to them in the first *Counterweight*, have been put up by supporting faculty and staff in departments, not merely plastered around by us as propaganda. I have seen you put up your signs right over ours, which is just straight up, not cool. I personally would NEVER pull down one of yours out of principle, so the fact that they are disappearing might be because staff and faculty in the departments do not support your counter-campaign. I look forward to future debates and discussions, as the extreme difference in our ideologies makes it all very, very interesting.

Josh Fisher ‘04
President, FLAG&BT
Treasurer, Bucknellians for Peace
Steering Committee, Bucknell Caucus for Economic Justice

****If any of our members did put one of our signs over one of BCEJ’s, they shouldn’t have. We agree; that’s uncalled for. But faculty and staff pulling down signs they don’t agree with is too, if that is indeed why our signs are gone. - Ed.**

Thanks for sharing

To the Editor:

hey, you suck.. shutup, you suck

Ryan Gens ’04

Consider other issues

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate you on your first few issues of *The Counterweight*; they were very well done. I am not usually into politics and such, but I had a couple of things that I wanted to share with you.

First, I am happy to see that there is a group of people who are trying to send out the message that there are other ways to view many of the issues that are usually very one sided in the liberal direction on this campus. Hopefully, your ideas will be thought through and considered before being judged as wrong simply because they are conservative.

However, I do have one problem with an article that was printed in an earlier issue. In the article titled “The Secondhand Smokescreen,” I believe that regardless of whether Elliott’s research about second hand smoke is valid or not, there are many other issues to consider before making the statement that smoking should be allowed everywhere. I have many friends who have asthma or who are allergic to cigarette smoke and can not be in places where it is present. Should those people have to suffer because a smoker is too lazy to go outside? These students can not avoid being in public buildings on campus, but smokers can simply move outside. Thus, banning smoking in University buildings is the only logical answer. But overall, keep up the good work!

Kristie Simon ‘04

From far, far away

To the Editor:

I believe your publication is one of the most impressive I have ever read that is completely written by students. Not only do you allow for all the readers to voice their opinions of your stance on controversial issues, but you publish both the positive and negative feedback.

To really add to the perspective from which I read your newsletter, you should know the following about me: I am a demo-

See “LETTERS” on page 15.

THE COUNTERWEIGHT

Charles Mitchell

Editor-in-chief

Denise Chaykun
Managing Editor

Timothy C. Lockwood
Editorial Cartoonist

Jason B. Goelitz
“Outside the Bubble” Editor

Thomas Elliott
Campus Editor

Editors

Michael R. Boland, Jr. Timothy C. Lockwood
Aaron R. Hanlon Dominic M. Puccio
Adam R. Hersperger Kristin Stangl

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THE BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY CONSERVATIVES CLUB

Michael R. Boland, Jr.

President

Vice Presidents: Adam R. Hersperger, *Special Events*; Charles Mitchell, *Counterweight*

Treasurer: Thomas Elliott

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Advisor: Thomas T. Shawe, Associate Professor of Chemistry

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 Denise Chaykun at dchaykun@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

POINT

The following was written in response to Allison Kasic's article "Girls Just Want to Have Fun," which appeared in the last issue.

To the Editor:

I have been reading with interest the articles in *The Counterweight*. I generally applaud your right to address various aspects of complex issues. The myriad sides of any issue should be analyzed, including those that might make us uncomfortable, so that we can critically evaluate an argument. However, I have noticed that some fundamental misconceptions about feminism are continually perpetuated in your publication, and in order for readers to formulate an educated opinion about this matter, certain stereotypes about feminism need to be deconstructed.

There are many different varieties of feminism, everything from post-modernist to socialist to psychoanalytic to lesbian to liberal and even (dare I say it) men's femi-

nism. Feminists themselves often disagree about which form best explains the patriarchal society that we do live in, but one underlying truth remains in the logic of the theorists. Feminism is not about hating men, discarding morality, and becoming a lesbian. The Feminist Majority Foundation, a national organization, defines feminism as the "policy, practice, or advocacy of political, economic, and social equality for women." This definition does not in any way include the hatred of men or bra burning as a fundamental ontology. Rather it is a promotion of equality—something of which I would venture many people, regardless of political beliefs, are in favor. Conservatives and liberals alike can be feminists and adhere to this belief. Organizations that work to end the oppression of women—including the much-ostracized groups V-Day Bucknell and NOW—should not be lambasted as anti-male or anti-American organizations for merely trying to better the situations of half of the national population. I am a member

of both of these groups, and being pro-choice or a radical lesbian is not a stipulation for membership to either. In fact, NOW has never claimed to "endorse all lifestyles except the traditional family" as your publication alleges. Rather, we accept the reality that "non-traditional" families exist, and offer support. It would be impossible to deny their existence—they are here, and regardless of morality, they have rights too. To accept one is not to reject the other. The goals of NOW or V-Day Bucknell are not to subvert some conservative agenda, but rather to educate others about the oppression of women and enact social change to those who do not have all the privileges that many of us here do. I would like to think that a collegiate organization would also aim to educate about social ills or political ideologies, rather than purport stereotypes, misconceptions, and outright lies.

Emily Park '04

COUNTERPOINT

Allison Kasic responds:

Emily,

"I agree that there are many kinds of feminism and that feminism should not become a political issue, but sadly I believe it has. Leftist ideology is intrinsically present in many facets of modern-day 'feminism.' It is naive to deny that organizations like NOW are politically unbiased and it is especially naive to deny that pro-life people are not welcome in the ranks of NOW; just look at the organization's public stances on abortion, or its National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers, or do a search for 'abortion' on NOW's website—you will not find anything representing pro-life ideas. Organizations like NOW completely ignore the pro-life movement and pro-life woman candidates, even though many of the original suffragists, such as Susan B. Anthony, were both pro-life and pro-family.

"NOW (as well as other feminist groups) also portrays women as victims who need

protection and government assistance (affirmative action, etc.). That kind of thinking undermines the concept of equality. It says: woman are just as good as men, but in order to be equal with men we need the government to help us. I say that is crap—if a woman truly wants to make something of herself, she can do it on her own, without the government's help.

"And despite its claims to the contrary, NOW is not 'the voice of all women'—it certainly does not represent my views. When are more conservative organizations, some of whom have memberships outnumbering NOW's, invited to "represent women" on talk shows? While there ARE many types of feminism, only the more radical groups tend to draw the most public attention. The comment about NOW supporting all lifestyles but the traditional family was meant to point out that groups like NOW are critical of mothers who want to stay home with their kids. Check out this article: <http://www.now.org/nnt/01-97/divorce.html>, which is very critical of con-

servative ideas regarding the family and divorce. After reading that, can you honestly say that conservatives are welcome in NOW?

"My article was critical not of the idea of 'equality' (which I certainly subscribe to) but instead was critical of the radical feminist movement and it's unabashedly anti-male and pro-abortion agenda. I never made any reference to having to be a 'radical lesbian' to be a feminist, so I am not really sure where you are coming from on that. I think we would both agree that such a statement would be truly ignorant." - A.K.



Allison fires back

NEWSBRIEFS

An injustice to the Caucus

The Catalyst, the publication of the **Bucknell Caucus for Economic Justice** (BCEJ), was recently removed from the “Publications” page of the University website on the grounds that it is “applicable only to those on campus.” Yet the page includes links to *The Bucknellian* and even the STUDENTS email list, which don’t seem any more applicable to the off-campus community!

The Conservatives Club and BCEJ are now jointly seeking the establishment of a page for all student publications, regardless of ideology.

- Charles Mitchell '05

Parking? Where?

Kudos to **Morgan Lloyd '03** for working to get more student parking spaces on campus. While no one wants Bucknell to turn into one big parking lot, there was clearly a need for more spaces due to all of the construction. This should certainly help improve the safety for those walking from their cars in the dark and will be appreciated by most Bucknell drivers, so, thanks Morgan; you rock!

- Denise Chaykun '04

Oil idiocy

In a 46-54 vote, **the Senate** caved to environmental special interests and voted down an energy bill that would have allowed drilling in a small area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) set aside by the Democrats in the 1980 Senate. The bill fell 14 votes short, as it had to reach a threshold of 60 thanks to threats of a Democratic filibuster. This deals a major blow to our energy interests as well as our role in



Caribou love mating near nice, warm oil pipes.

the Middle East peace process.

Perhaps some senators were influenced by the footage constantly shown on CBS, NBC, and ABC of beautiful and pristine fields—all of which happened to be no where near the proposed drilling site. In response, **Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton** sent actual footage of the area



Where's *The Catalyst*?

to the networks—which is dark, barren, and uninhabitable. Democrat **Ed Markey** of Massachusetts responded by saying it was against the law for a government agency to release information which could sway a legislative vote—essentially meaning he feels it to be illegal to consider the truth when debating such issues.

Proponents of drilling such as Americans in general, Alaskans, Eskimos, Big Labor, and even the caribou will all undoubtedly be disappointed. Israelis will be most disappointed, since the revenues **Saddam Hussein** receives from his oil exports help fund Palestinian suicide bombers.

- Tom Elliott '03

On reparations

A high-profile lawsuit was recently filed to seek reparations for slavery. Former radical **David Horowitz** summed up these proposed reparations best: they are a bad idea

for *black people*--and racist, too. If you want to know why, check out <http://www.frontpagemag.com/notepad/hn01-03-01.htm>.

- Charles Mitchell '05

I am not a crook

Rep. Jim Traficant (D-Ohio) was convicted of bribery and racketeering earlier this month, stemming from his allegations that he accepted bribes, filed false tax returns, and forced his employees to do personal chores on his farm while on government time. Traficant has vowed not only to appeal, but to run for re-election. **House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt** (D-Mo.) has called on Traficant to resign his seat immediately rather than face the possibility of expulsion at the hands of the full House (two-thirds vote required).

Given Gephardt’s tireless defense of **former president Clinton** in the face of legal troubles, it is unclear why Gephardt offered so little defense of his fellow Democrat. Observers are quite certain, however, that it has nothing to do with the Minority Leader’s 2004 presidential aspirations, or the fact that Traficant supported Republican **Dennis Hastert**, not Gephardt, for Speaker of the House at the beginning of the 107th Congress.

- Michael Boland '03

Bye-bye Boxer?

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) recently traveled to Cuba on a “fact finding” mission, along with Grateful Dead drummer **Mickey Hart** and other VIPs. Cuban officials will probably lobby her to have US trade sanctions lifted. But given Boxer’s voting record, perhaps she might want to stay on the island for a while?

- Charles Mitchell '05

CAMPUS

A Third Way in the Gay Rights Debate

By Michael Boland '03
mboland@bucknell.edu

In honor of the recent National Day of Silence for Gay and Lesbian Rights, it's time to think about the voices I haven't been hearing. What can I do to end the silence?

Easy. I can briefly explicate the one perspective that's been relatively quiet lately: that homosexuality is morally wrong.

That God, through His written Word, has explicitly condemned homosexual activity and rejected the idea that it is morally equivalent to heterosexual relations. That further, we must not adopt the relativist position that "what is wrong for me might not be wrong for you," that there are discernible, universal standards of what is morally right and morally wrong, and that God, not humanity, gets to make those rules.

That at the same time, those of us who hold these views are obligated to "speak the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15) and yes, that precludes any physical violence and slander against people who practice homosexuality (after all, it's just one more sin, of the same sort that the rest of us commit every single day). That one can and should separate the practitioner--who must be loved--from the practice, which must be abhorred.

You might agree with this particular interpretation of Scripture and you might not. That's not the point. The point is that it is one legitimate and at the very least, defensible, position held by millions. It's one way of looking at things, and as an "alternate" perspective, one would imagine that the forces of "tolerance" should jump to its defense.

The problem with Bucknell's gay rights crowd in general and FLAG&BT in particular is that they aren't about tolerance at all. They don't articulate a middle ground. You

"The problem with Bucknell's gay rights crowd...is that they aren't about tolerance at all."

are either with them and all that they stand for (which, judging by their programming, seems to include the idea that there is nothing "wrong" with homosexuality), or you are against them, and all that they stand for (including respect for all people, which no one contests). There is little recognition of the more nuanced view of homosexuality, outlined above. They insist upon putting moral opposition to homosexuality in the same grungy box as they (and the rest of the civilized world) would put the blind hatred of the ignorant rednecks who murdered Matthew Shepard.

The premise of events such as "Diversity Week" and the National Day of Silence--that gays on campus lack voice--is nothing short of absurd. "Voice" requires money and organization. FLAG, quite obviously, lacks neither but its principled "opponents" lack both. Between the speakers and assorted programming sponsored by FLAG, Multicultural, the Women's Resource Center, the Office of the Deans, etc., it is simply false to say that we do not receive, on a regular basis, our fair share of pro-homosexuality arguments. Outright University support for other viewpoints on homosexuality is conspicuous only by its absence.

The University has provided for the FLAG faction--this one side of what ought to be a formidable debate--its own office,

its own staff, and its own (seemingly unlimited) budget for the sole purpose of addressing the issue of homosexuality. But with all of these resources, it does not simply advocate "safety" for gay students; that would make FLAG irrelevant, since no one disputes that point. They go beyond teaching us how to think and tell us what to think, in part by affixing society's ugliest labels (ie, "intolerance" or "bigoted") to those whom they perceive as needing "education." And by allowing FLAG to continue its rude classifications of either "pro-homosexuality" or "anti-gay", the University is complicit in FLAG's abuse of power- and by power, I mean the political capital and instant credibility that come with representing what others perceive as an oppressed minority.

The saddest part is that all this takes place under the veneer of encouraging "diversity," when all it does is foster intellectual homogeneity. We can all agree that gays ought to be safe from physical abuses (which on this campus, they already are), and that they ought not be subject to personal hatred for

what they do in the bedroom. But the moral question, well, it's just that: a question, for which there are many answers. We don't all have to agree that what they do (or might do in the future) is morally right in order to give gay students the respect they deserve, and that is a distinction that FLAG refuses to make; it's all or nothing, for or against. This is

a false choice, one that the freethinking student ought not have to make.

To the people at FLAG: the moral pro-

See "GAY RIGHTS" on page 15.



"The Rev." Michael Boland

Another Perspective on "One in Four"

By Aaron Hanlon '04
ahanlon@bucknell.edu

Being a conservative is not all about ruthless capitalism, oppressing the masses, and owning firearms. Quite often it is about taking a stand against a problem, and helping to alleviate some of the evils that pervade our society. Such evils often find a way of slipping through the cracks on college campuses, and this one is no exception. Sexual assault is a problem that needs to be dealt with, and we should welcome any virtuous effort on the behalf of students or administration to help do so.

Rape is not about statistics. It is about warped attitudes and moral ineptitude. Likewise, Bucknell's One in Four is not a statistic, but a helpful program designed to help transform warped attitudes about sex into values of respect for the will of others, and compassion for those who have been victims of carelessness, pressure, violence, and the many other atrocities of sexual assault. One in four, one in two, one in eight, and one in twenty all have equal meaning: one too many. Without question, sexual assault occurs on this campus. Whether or not it occurs frequently is irrelevant, because it should not occur at all. Unfortunately (and contrary to the beliefs of some of our cam-

pus idealists), Bucknell is not utopia, and it never will be. Some Bucknell students lack restraint, and hold unhealthy attitudes about sex and women.

One in Four is a tremendous asset to the campus community. The repercussions of sexual assault can affect its victims long after the act occurs, but One in Four helps victims through those difficult times. It is a presentation that is designed to make stu-

"One in Four" has grown into a program that focuses not on the ridiculous statistic, but on prevention of sexual assault."

dents aware of those long-lasting, painful effects of sexual assault while educating them with telling facts that can help change their attitudes and tendencies. Though it carries the "One in Four" title, taken from the controversial and often-criticized Mary P. Koss study for *Ms. Magazine* that concluded that one in four students surveyed were victims of rape or attempted rape, One in Four at Bucknell actually started from a discussion among male students about sexual assault. Since then, it has grown into

a program that focuses not on the ridiculous statistic, but on prevention of sexual assault through education, and ways to help comfort and rehabilitate a sexual assault victim.

One of the strengths of the program is its ability to make those in the audience evaluate their moral values and attitudes about sex. What do you do when you think she is consenting but you are not quite sure? What if both of you are drunk and incoherent?

What if you are uncomfortable verbalizing your concerns, or asserting your will when you do not want to go any further? For some, these are difficult questions that need to be answered. For others, his or her will may not even matter. One in Four can help give such people a much-needed attitude adjustment by placing them (hypothetically, of course) in situations in which their

will does not matter. Unfortunately, some of us on campus need to examine our values and attitudes. Sexual assault certainly occurs, and the perpetrators are among us. Whether you are a man or woman, feminist or conservative, whether or not you believe in the Ms. Magazine study or dislike the statistic, fighting the problem of sexual assault and helping its victims should be on your agenda. If you find yourself on the right side of the battle, the One in Four program is an effective ally.

The Word on the Quad

Counterweight correspondent Tom Elliott '03 asked four Bucknellians:
"What's the biggest problem on campus?"



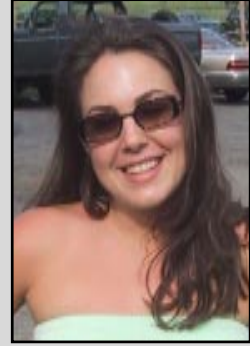
"Since I have been here, I have yet to be able to walk around without some sort of annoying construction going on."
- Carl Perrone '03



"Parking."
- Jamie Ritzcovan '04



"The demise of KDR."
- Dan Lonnerdal '03



"The fact that I can't major in what I want to, thanks to the capping of majors."
- Christina Guevara '04

R.O.T.C. Stands for Freedom

By Adam Hersperger '05
ahersper@bucknell.edu

What is ROTC and why should we care? Well, ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) programs offered by the Army, Navy, Air Force, and the Marine Corps train qualified young men and women from around the country to become officers in the respective branches of the military upon graduation from college. We should care about ROTC programs because they teach leadership and help to bolster patriotism on college campuses, not to mention providing us with the next generation of people who will be protecting our country.

Fortunately, Bucknell has a vibrant ROTC program. Students in the program take military science courses, participate in various training drills, learn leadership qualities, and take part in other activities. However, other college campuses are not as lucky as Bucknell. Many colleges and universities have discontinued their ROTC programs. For example, ROTC has been banned from Columbia, Harvard, Stanford, Yale, and Dartmouth Universities.

At Harvard, students who wish to be a cadet in the ROTC has to drill on the grounds of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Yale's Air Force ROTC candidates must drive 75 miles to the University of Connecticut at Storrs in order to carry out their training. Why is it that so many prestigious colleges and universities make it so difficult for the young men and women on their campuses to participate in a program whose only goal is to foster a lively American spirit? Many of these colleges do not support ROTC because of the military's "Don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding homosexuals. However, the only goal of this policy, which was implemented by a Democratic president, is to protect homosexuals from bigotry while serving in the Armed Forces. A soldier is unable to be a victim

of discrimination if his or her sexual preferences are not brought out into the open. A bigot can't show hate towards something that he or she doesn't even know exists.

College administrators constantly talk about promoting diversity. However, by excluding ROTC from the ranks of programs offered to students, colleges are actually decreasing that which they claim is so important – campus diversity. Apparently, the "diversity" of thought and

bate and discussion where diversity is hailed as the ultimate goal. However, the freedom of expression that they so freely enjoy would not exist without the brave men and women who have protected such a right, sometimes with their very lives.

How would administrators at Columbia explain to Alexander Hamilton, an earlier Columbia scholar, why ROTC has been removed from its campus? Hamilton's patriotic spirit remains alive to this day because of organizations and programs such as ROTC. The administrators at Harvard should be ashamed of themselves for banning a program that fosters American pride, especially since many Harvard graduates were counted among those who died in the Civil War.

All Bucknell students should be glad that the University allows ROTC to function. On the other hand, it seems that the colleges and universities who do not allow ROTC need to rethink their stance on a program that trains men and women for the service of their country. The unpatriotic professors and students who support the decision of their respective schools to ban ROTC need a little lesson



attitude espoused by American colleges and universities does not include the virtues of gallantry displayed on the field of battle or of bravery demonstrated in the defense of freedom. The Reserve Officer Training Corps, which upholds such patriotic ideals and principles, cannot instill such virtues or foster diversity if it is not allowed to function in the college setting.

In fact, college students and professors at the institutions that have banned ROTC should be fighting for the reinstatement of the program – but few of them are. On an everyday basis, students and professors engage in intellectual de-

Want to vent?

*Post to the
Conservatives Club forum @
[www.orgs.bucknell.edu/
conservatives](http://www.orgs.bucknell.edu/conservatives)*

in history. ROTC is a program worth saving, and should not disappear from colleges—because an appreciation for the right to freedom of expression and the value of freedom in general would disappear along with it.

Campus Climate Survey Fails to Reveal True Climate

By Jason Goelitz '04
jgoelitz@bucknell.edu

During the spring semester of 2001, Bucknell conducted a "campus climate" survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. A report on the surveys was compiled and released in February of 2002, and the figures it contained were startling and terrifying.

For instance, 39% of those who responded claimed to have been harassed within the past year, with 88% of undergraduate respondents having faced harassment. 29% of the respondents had even received threats of physical violence.

But what do these numbers really mean? Is this campus really so homophobic that discrimination lurks around every corner? I'd like to think not, and was therefore quite disturbed when I heard about the report. So, I did what any good conservative would do: I sat down, read the thing, and looked at what it was really saying. And what I discovered was even more startling than the "figures" strewn throughout the report.

The strength of the report comes from the many large percentages displayed within. But the weakness of the report can be seen by divorcing the numbers from the percentages. It didn't take me long to realize why everything was spoken of in terms of percentages (with but one exception): the numbers themselves were too small to have any impact.

Before one can look past the introduction to the report (explaining who was contacted for the survey and who responded), it's necessary to get a little extra background info

on what exactly is going on here. So here are some facts about Bucknell:

3,350 undergraduate students

200 graduate students

296 full- or part-time instructors

Combining the information on Bucknell with that of the campus climate report

provides some interesting numbers:

9 undergraduates = .27% of the student body

8 graduate students = 4% of graduate students

8 faculty members = 2.7% of the faculty

Now let's go ahead and take another look at this report. Out of the entire (undergraduate) student body, a mere .27% responded to this survey, and only 88% of those have been harassed! So we're now talking .238% of the undergraduate student body.

How about the faculty? Of the 8 professors who responded, three of them claimed to have been harassed. So we're now talking about 1% of the faculty. Similarly, 3 graduate students come out to 1.5% of the graduate student body.

Gone are the massive percentages of people being harassed, threatened, and the like. Instead we have some extremely small numbers, and rather than dealing with large groups of people, we're analyzing the experiences of a few individuals. And if you continue reading the campus climate report, you'll continue to encounter the experiences of a few rather than those of a large group.

So, how does the fact that so few people actually face harassment affect anything?

Don't we still need to go out and solve the problems of homophobia and make this a happy place for everyone? Well, let me put it to you this way – I've lost faith in the accuracy of this report, and I see no need to follow any of the report's "suggestions."

The first thing to realize about this survey is the number of people who responded, com-

pared of the total number that were contacted. But before we look at who responded, we need to know who was given the chance to respond. An email was sent out to several LGBT listservs and Fran McDaniel (from the office of LGBT Awareness) contacted specific individuals she

knew of. But why didn't we see a campus-wide email asking LGBT people to respond to the survey? Why limit it to specific listservs and other specific, handpicked individuals? After extensive thought, there's just one reason I've come up with – a desire to influence the data gathered.

Ask yourself this: who is going to be on the LGBT listserv? Who's going to be personally known to the office of LGBT Awareness? It's going to be the more active, extremist members of the LGBT community. So when you ask them questions regarding harassment, what's the probability that their answers will line up with those of the average member of the LGBT community? In case you're unfamiliar with the general differences between extremists and moderates, the answer would be "pretty small."

Personally, I was quite startled by the turnout, considering they're the more active members of LGBT... a mere 36% (54 out of 150) felt the need to respond to the survey. And now, I'm wondering, why wouldn't someone fill out a completely anonymous survey if that survey could result in improved conditions on campus? That just doesn't make sense! Once again, I sat down and thought this through. And, once again, I reached just one conclusion... that most of those 64% who didn't respond didn't have anything to say. That is, they haven't been harassed, and so felt no great desire to fill out the survey. And if we take the total number of those who claimed to have experienced harassment compared to the total number who chose not to respond, the percentage of those being 'harassed' continues to fall.

There are those of you out there who will try to argue that certain "pressures" kept people from responding to an anonymous survey accessed via a link in an email they had already received. But I don't buy that; why wouldn't you respond to a survey if your future well-being depended upon the success of that survey? That would simply be foolish, and I refuse to believe that we have so many completely foolish people out there.

Regardless of the particulars, the number of people we're dealing with who have been harassed is quite small, and that in itself raises important questions regarding the

See "CLIMATE" on page 15.



The author and his trusty thermometer did a study that was about as accurate as Bucknell's.

Rethinking the Hookup Culture

By Charles Mitchell '05
cmitchel@bucknell.edu

"Truth, beauty, freedom, and above all things, love." It's the recurring phrase in the movie "Moulin Rouge." Call me what you will, but I like it. Bucknell would be a better place if it had more of the last two.

Freedom—especially freedom of speech—is a topic for another article. What I want to talk about is love, which is also dangerously rare on this campus, thanks to the rampant and repugnant institution known as the hookup culture.

I suppose I should clarify what I mean by the word "love." I'm talking about the real kind of love, the kind that doesn't happen umpteen times in every frat house each weekend. The kind that makes you feel all warm and squishy inside—not just in your crotch. The kind that makes you want to spend every waking moment with someone—not just a few sweaty minutes before you pass out. The kind that means you have that special person inside your heart—not the kind that means you've literally been inside that person (or vice versa...you get what I'm saying). The kind that necessitates actually knowing the other person's name. The blissful mental state, not the orgasmic physical act.

The hookup culture excels at providing the physical type of "loving"—and it is equally proficient at separating that from real love. It has made the date obsolete. But that's not the way things should be.

Why do I say this? Basically because my idea of fun is more along the lines of dinner and a movie, as opposed to some cheap beer and a grope, and I don't think I'm alone in that notion. The point needs to be made that

while it may satisfy some people, the hookup culture doesn't work for everyone. It doesn't work for people like me, who find it morally depraved and totally gross. And it doesn't work for the substantial number of men and women who participate in it and yet are not

satisfied. Some people want relationships, and that's fine.

But our campus culture leads us to believe otherwise. The ideal BU weekend is purported to consist of some drunken dancing at a frat, and then a random hookup (or perhaps both at the same time), without any pesky emotional attachment or especially the dreaded commitment. And then the next morning, when you proudly tell your friends that you "hooked up" with someone the night before, the phrase is deliberately vague. It can imply many things: kissing, going all the way, or anything inbetween. (Of course, at Bucknell, it's usually more toward sex, according to the recent article in *Bucknell World*—we always have to go the extra mile here, don't we?)

And the conventional wisdom in our genitalia-glorifying (witness *The Vagina Monologues*) culture is that it's not a big deal that dating is rarer than Republican professors. We have ACE and frat parties and DVD players in our rooms—that's why we don't bother to date. The date is an archaic institution, just like capitalism and the Second Amendment. As Dean Conrad told

The most abhorrent thing about the hookup culture is that it's often portrayed as a good thing for women.

Bucknell World: "On any given weekend, students have so much [in terms of campus activities] to choose from." And we're too busy, as

Dean Conrad also pointed out. Besides, the hookup culture empowers women! It gives them the freedom to be just as immature and sex-seeking as all men allegedly are.

But all these ideas miss the boat.

Stressing the difference between watch-

ing a DVD from Walmart in the dorm and heading over to the Campus Theater is missing the forest for the trees. No matter where you watch the movie, it's still an activity with someone you like and whose name you know. The point isn't to go somewhere special and do something amazing (though that's nice)—it is to go somewhere other than a party and do something other than drinking and swapping bodily fluids.

I love ACE events as much as the next nerd, but the reason that the social scene at Bucknell is dominated by the random hookup isn't

bingo in the caf, or the one DVD player given out at each such event, or Uptown, or the one big concert each semester. It is a social culture, a fundamentally flawed social culture, that perpetuates it and passes it off as a good thing. I mean, who has time for dating, right? But then again, given that most hookups are preceded by drinking, is waking up at noon with a hangover really a good way to save time?

But the most abhorrent thing about the hookup culture is that it's often portrayed as a good thing for women. It gives women the freedom to do what all men in our patriarchal society do—go off in search of action. Or does it?

First of all, all guys are not the girl-seeking missiles of manhood that some feminists make them out to be. Maybe it's a conservative thing, but most of the guys I know have never participated in a random hookup.

Speaking of research, a recent nationwide study of college women by the Institute for American Values both proves the prevalence of the hookup culture and shows that it doesn't work as well as the herd mentality tell us it does. The study, entitled "Hooking Up, Hanging Out, and Hoping for Mr. Right," found that "College women say it is rare for college men to ask them on dates, or to acknowledge when they have become

See "HOOKUP" on page 15.



"Cupid Chained" - A Tim Lockwood Toon

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

Family Matters

By Allison Kasic '05
akasic@bucknell.edu

Solid family units are the base of any strong community. The statistics say it all: children of single parents are statistically more likely to drop out of school, to go to prison, to become addicted to drugs, to have emotional and behavioral problems, to be physically abused, and to have children out of wedlock. They are seven times more likely to live in poverty. Boys raised by single parents are four times more likely to engage in criminal activities. About 80 percent of child poverty occurs in divorced or never-formed families. Simply put, kids tend to do their best when they grow up having two parents who are married. Married

couples also live longer, healthier, and happier lives.

But what is the big deal? A lot of Bucknellians were raised by a single parent and have turned out to be fine young adults. There are many good single parents who make tremendous sacrifices and do a remarkable job in raising their kids. They are to be commended and aided whenever possible. The problem is that illegitimacy, like most of society's troubles, hurts the poor most of all, especially welfare recipients.



Get it?

The goal of welfare programs, dating back to Lyndon Johnson's Great Society program, is noble: the elimination of poverty, especially among children. David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values, claims that there is evidence of a strong link between the weakening of marriage and the growing number of children in poverty. Yet despite this evidence the welfare system continues to discriminate against marriage. The design of all means-tested welfare programs ensures this prejudice. Under the system, a mother is better off single than married to a working husband because benefits are reduced as non-welfare income rises. A low-income couple would therefore experience a significant drop in combined income if they marry. The

See "WELFARE" on page 14.

How Are You Going to Vote, PA Dems?

By Matt Donnelley '02
donnelle@bucknell.edu

In Pennsylvania, two Democratic candidates are running neck and neck for the right to oppose Republican state Attorney General Mike Fisher in the November gubernatorial election. The two hopefuls are Auditor General Robert Casey Jr. (son of former Governor Bob Casey Sr.) and Edward G. Rendell, former mayor of Philadelphia. Both candidates are focusing their platforms on slightly different issues, but a common thread runs through both campaigns.



Casey

Bob Casey has been focusing his efforts on the elderly, the current minimum wage, and health issues. Casey is in favor of expanding prescription drug coverage for PA's elderly population by expanding the state Lottery system and making key changes to better utilize the revenues. This, combined with a federal Medicaid waiver, will help a larger number of seniors gain access to prescription drugs. He supports an immediate raising of the minimum wage by \$1.00 to \$6.15, and to \$6.65 by 2004. Casey has proposed using state tobacco revenues to bolster the number of individuals currently enrolled in some sort of medical

insurance program at "minimal costs." On other topics, Casey has proposed no new gun control laws, but feels that current laws need to be enforced more strictly. He is also pro-life with regard to the abortion issue.

Ed Rendell has chosen to focus on issues of public security, issuing proposals dealing not only with community safety, but also with the state's volunteer firefighters. Rendell wants to empower local governments to make decisions regarding so-called homeland security, and he would



Rendell

provide funding to assist police forces in obtaining the most current technology needed for law enforcement. Rendell also supports federal as well as state funding for volunteer fire departments around the state. He wants to promote the better management of local departments and knowledge of firefighting in schools. Rendell is pro-choice regarding abortion and is in favor of new, stricter gun regulations, including the use of litigation by cities against gun manufacturers.

While the two candidates are running on different platforms, there are some common

elements. Both men express concern for the economic future of Pennsylvania and the ability of the state to compete with the rest of the country. Emigration is currently outpacing immigration, and growth in the job sector has dropped to half that of the national rate. Both want to see the state embrace the "jobs of the future" and want to focus on preparing the current workforce for this challenge through better educational programs. Rendell has proposed a plan to revitalize some of the smaller boroughs and cities to make them more competitive, and Casey would like to use state funding to help more citizens gain

access to high-speed Internet connections. Currently, Rendell seems to have strong support in the Southeast, while Casey has followers in the Western part of the state. Who will ultimately grab more voters remains to be seen, as neither candidate has been able to take control of the race.

The primary is currently scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, but it may be postponed due to controversy over the state reappointment plan.

If you would like to register to vote in Pennsylvania, email cmitchel@bucknell.edu for a form.

JUNK SCIENCE

The Global Warming Farce

By Tom Elliott '03
telliott@bucknell.edu

By now, there is absolutely no way you could have avoided the onslaught of doom-saying propaganda pronouncing the end of the world through human-produced carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions; usually referred to as the “greenhouse gases” that are producing the ‘global warming’ phenomenon. You have probably never heard the other side of the story, so you are more than likely to have adopted these claims as scientific truths, something I now intend to combat.

As the story goes, humans create energy by burning things like oil, gas, and coal, and this combustion produces carbon dioxide. CO₂ enters the atmosphere where this “greenhouse gas” absorbs solar radiation, which “unnaturally” warms the environment. This, they say, will further melt polar icecaps, thereby raising ocean levels and sinking coastal cities. This supposed increase in planetary temperature will have various consequences, such as an increased pervasiveness of disease and large amounts of ecological damage.

But don't swear off your fuel-thirsty Suburban and hide out in your basement awaiting The End just quite yet, as there may really be nothing to worry about.

The pessimists propagating this politically-driven hysteria somehow manage to do so with somewhat less-than-sound science. It has not been definitively proven that there is any linkage between human-produced carbon emissions and a warming of the atmosphere. You would probably be surprised to hear that over 15,000 scientists are united in their disagreement with the theory of global warming. On the other hand, a scientific petition claiming that global warming does exist and does pose a significant danger collected a mere 2,000 signatures.

In *Discover* magazine, Professor Steven Schneider of Stanford University offers no remorse when declaring his lack of reluctance to be bound by observable science: “...[L]ike most people we'd like to see the world a better place, which in this context

translates into our working to reduce the risk of potentially disastrous climatic change. To do that we need to get broadbased support, to capture the public's imagination... So we have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little mention of any doubts we might have... Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest.”

So let's deal with what we actually know. CO₂ is a fundamental building block for life on earth—plants, the base of the food chain, rely on it for survival. Global warming activists tend to worry about their predicted doubling of CO₂ within the earth's atmosphere from 360 parts per million (ppm) to 750 ppm within the next hundred years.



“How to Fool a Liberal” - A Tim Lockwood Toon

However, life would not be threatened by such circumstances; as shown on the climate section of the CO₂ and Climate organization's website, greenhouses routinely circulate 1000 ppm of CO₂. Furthermore, it should be known that human influence on this atmospheric CO₂ level is less than 5%.

CO₂ and Climate is a website [www.co2andclimate.com] that provides various databases on climate readings, which is a service of the Greening Earth Society. They claim that higher atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ increase plant productivity, water use efficiency, and their resistance to a variety of environmental stresses.

All agree that the temperature of the earth

rose from 1880 until 1940 by about .6 degrees Celsius. Both sides agree that the period from 1940 through the mid 1970's saw reduced temperatures, and some say that temperatures began rising once again in the mid 1970's and are continuing to rise today. The reason for the debate between the 70's and today is that global warming proponents rely heavily upon questionable surface measurements, while similarly letting all other measurements go unnoticed. Either way, if this data is accepted and its frailties ignored, the majority of the temperature increase would have still occurred before 1940, which was a far less industrialized time than today.

Most evidence, however, shows no appreciable warming in the last 60 years. This data is provided by weather satellites (and verified using temperature reading balloon monitors), which provide the only truly global readings. The National Research Council has backed this data, as has the National Academy of Sciences (NAS). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) have similarly seen no warming since 1940.

Surface data from U.S. weather stations show the warmest years of the 20th century to be around 1940. Data that suggests otherwise has mostly come from surface stations located in either urban areas (which are therefore more prone to increased readings from enlarging population densities) or distant tropical sea surface readings (which are far from where global warming should be occurring). This summer, the NAS produced a study in which only one of the four data sets used showed any signs of post-1940 warming—and that one happened to be gauged mostly from temperature readings at airports, which will naturally rise alongside a rise in air traffic.

Further, all climate models predict a faster warming of the atmosphere than of the earth's surface. Therefore, mathematically calculated models predicting global warming (the basis of the activist's evidence) should be viewed with skepticism. If these

See “WARMING” on page 14.

GUEST COLUMNIST

Alienation, Utopianism, and the Radical Intellectuals

By Alexander Tristan Riley
atriley@bucknell.edu

In the wake of the terrorist attack of 9/11, the reaction of many radical intellectuals was very unlike that of the overwhelming majority of the rest of the population. Where the average citizen was simply outraged at this evil act, they blamed the US. This odd reaction led even some prominent folks on the political left (e.g., Todd Gitlin, Christopher Hitchens, and Michael Walzer) to criticize the problematic character of the radicals' response and to argue that the problem in fact extends beyond the reaction to 9/11 to a more fundamental alienation.

Alienation has been an important concept in philosophical circles for at least a few centuries now. Marx argued that the workers were alienated from their labor by capitalism, and Alexis de Tocqueville saw in democracy itself a potential force for alienation. But the concept perhaps most clearly applies to those radical members of the intellectual class who are almost constantly at odds with the beliefs and sensibilities of the other members of their own society. The contempt some of these intellectuals registered at 'flag-waving' post-9/11 is but one manifestation of this estrangement from the values of most Americans. They tend to be anti-religious, often violently so, while polls indicate that Americans remain one of the most religious peoples in the world. They view capitalism as an oppressive economic system that should be replaced with 'democratic socialism,' while most Americans believe fervently in free enterprise. They see all instances of inequality as evidence of the structural mechanisms of oppression at the root of our society, while most Americans see inequalities of at least some varieties as inevitable in a nation founded on meritocratic ideals and the notion of equality of opportunity rather than outcomes. They frequently attack the traditional notions of community and family as agents for the perpetuation of bigotry and unjustified inequality, while these notions are at the center of most Americans' vision of the good life. They are, in short, outsiders in their own society, profoundly estranged from

many of the ideas and practices that are normative here.

What causes this alienation? A large part of the explanation lies in the fervent utopianism adhered to by many of these radical intellectuals. Noam Chomsky, a professor of linguistics at MIT, provides a particularly good example of this perspective. Both his legitimate scholarly work in linguistic theory and his more problematic political writing illustrate his radically Cartesian foundation, i.e., the hyper-rationalist assumptions he makes about human action and political society. Chomsky, in short, thinks that all problems have utopian solutions if we can just be reasonable enough. All particularities and nuances of history, place, culture, and creed are distortions. There is no sense of comparative history or sociology in Chomsky's perspective. Only perfection can be praised, and all else is worthy only of contempt. The United States is particularly guilty in Chomsky's political universe. Why? Precisely because it is not founded upon social utopianism, the belief that abstract reason alone is enough to perfect society provided only that we destroy all historical forms of morality so as to make more room for reason to work. The US instead is founded upon a more realist, pessimistic, and conservative view of what can be expected from human beings and political institutions. Chomsky is perpetually unhappy and alienated because the messy real world constantly frustrates his ideals. Yet, he sees this not as his problem, but as the world's.

The radical Enlightenment thinkers who are Chomsky's ancestors counted among their opponents some who recognized the limits of abstract reason and appreciated the pre-rational bonds that they saw at the root of society. These conservative intellectuals

were in fact more critical than their radical counterparts, as they formulated a critique even of reason itself. Edmund Burke, François René de Chateaubriand, and others recognized that, valuable as abstract reason is for human life, it cannot serve as an ultimate foundation for human meaning, for moral first principles cannot be reliably rooted only in reason. They inevitably require a pre-rational leap of faith. This idea is at the root of Ludwig Wittgenstein's argument that, in the endeavor to explain even our most seemingly logical and scientific forms of knowledge, we are forced to recognize that we ultimately believe those

things simply because we are the kinds of creatures we are, as there is no explanation for them that transcends the limits of the discourse in which they exist. Emile Durkheim argued something similar when he pointed to something deeper than reason, something ultimately moral and religious, at the root of the bond that holds us together in society.

Unlike some contemporary leftist intellectuals who have picked up

on this criticism of abstract reason and attempted with thoroughly incoherent results to combine it with their utopianism, the conservative intellectuals argue that revealing the constructedness of these foundational moral things does not mean we reject them, especially if we have nothing to put in their place. Instead, they proceed from the same kind of pragmatic, historical perspective that most Americans implicitly take up when they view some social problem; they ask "Is it desperately broken? Have we an alternative that seems clearly superior?" If the answer to either question is 'no,' then we must avoid radical 'solutions' that may fail to deal with the perceived problem and may even



The only professor's door that has one of those orange signs on it belongs to Riley.

See "GUEST" on page 15.

WARMING – from pg. 12

mathematical models were correct, than warming should have already begun in earnest.

That being said, Oregon Institute of Science and Medicine chemists Arthur and Zachary Robinson have concluded that the theory of global warming is no longer tenable, as carbon emissions into the atmosphere have clearly risen during the past 50 years with no corresponding rise in the atmosphere's temperature.

The sea is in fact rising, though this has nothing to do with human beings. Atmospheric physicist and professor emeritus at the University of Virginia, Fred Singer states that the "sea level has risen since the end of the Ice Age... the temperature suddenly increased and we are now in a warm period, about 15 to 20 degrees warmer than fifteen thousand years ago." He goes on to explain that the current melting is still a product of the end of the Ice Age. The sea level rises about 18 centimeters every century and is completely unrelated to human activity. Singer predicts this will continue for another

5,000 years, raising it another six meters; and there is nothing humans can do about it.

Other theories believe that collections of soot as well as methane in the atmosphere pose more of an influence on the temperature of the globe than CO₂.

The leading global warming activist body, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—using the data from the aforementioned scientifically-questionable stations—predicts the next century to be marked by an increase of 2.5 to 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Stanford University professor Mark Jacobson, who believes soot to play a larger role than CO₂, predicts an increase of only 2.5 degrees Fahrenheit. Fred Singer believes it to be only 1 degree. Still others believe the planet to be cooling.

The only certainty is that there is a large degree of uncertainty. This is why it's asinine to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, mandating a decrease in energy consumption of 30-40% within a decade—therefore forever tying down the global economy. Electricity prices would rise 86.4%; the gross national product would decrease by \$397 billion.

Worst of all, by 2050 the temperature would have dropped by just .05 degrees Celsius from what it would have been had such regulations not been implemented.

As Jonah Goldberg has noted: basing policy upon such nonsense would completely undercut economic advancement, while correspondingly placing zero faith in the ingenuity of mankind. He makes the point that if, during the 1800's, we had worried about using the number of trees that we used, and had therefore restricted foresting, we would have shackled our economic progression in such a way as to never allow us to enjoy a very small demand for wood, as we currently do. It would be foolish to handcuff our economy if—as will most certainly be the case—oil will be a thing of the past in the next hundred years. Economic progression is a barometer for human technological progress.

Considering the rise in carbon emissions over the last 60 years, yet lack of global temperature increase, I'm confident that this global warming hysteria will be naturally chilled by a cooler-headed future.

WELFARE – from pg. 11

system thus encourages dependency and women become "married" to the government. But as Larry Elder points out in *The Ten Things You Can't Say in America*, welfare programs cannot "replace quality parents" because "caring, loving parents remain the greatest factor in creating a self-reliant, upwardly mobile, confident adult." In a study by the Public Agenda Foundation welfare recipients were read the statement "welfare encourages teenagers to have kids out of wedlock," and asked to respond and 64 percent responded that the problem was "very serious." So in an attempt to end child poverty, the welfare system actually encourages the principal cause of the problem, the collapse of marriage. Seems illogical, doesn't it?

This inherent bias against working, low-income married couples with children can be reduced through welfare reform. President Bush has laid the groundwork for a new plan that would allocate \$300 million in federal funds, \$100 million of which is currently being used in failing welfare programs, for programs that would promote healthy marriages. New programs would include pre-marital education designed to educate low-

income parents about the benefits of two-parent households as well as ongoing counseling to help keep families together. In addition, substantial research and technical assistance would be conducted to find out which programs are actually working, so welfare funds could be used as efficiently as possible.

Critics of the plan have argued that it is nothing more than government-arranged marriages. Dr. Wade Horn of the Department of Health and Human Services disputes that claim and says that the programs will help "couples who choose marriage for themselves develop the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain a healthy marriage." Some conservatives disagree with Bush's plan as well, stating that the government should have no role in promoting marriage.

These programs will not solve welfare's problems overnight, but they are a step in the right direction to fix a system that is in desperate need of reform. Bush is also planning reform to help people find work and plans to give states more flexibility to coordinate benefits like childcare and food stamps. Combined with the 1996 Welfare Reform act, which among other things imposed "family caps" on welfare recipients,

Bush's proposals have great potential to end some of the great problems of the welfare system.

Whether you agree with the proposal or not, at least it brings to light two serious issues: the welfare system discriminates against married couples and the collapse of marriage is a serious problem. As a society we need to start dealing with these problems.

Most people on this campus are not at risk of going on welfare anytime soon and therefore don't have too much at stake personally with this reform. However, we all pay taxes to fund these programs. I for one would like to see my money going to efficient programs that actually help people escape the depths of poverty.

BCEJ – from pg. 1

tax) and that there are probably better ways to spend \$4 to \$5 million. Does this mean that we think Bucknell should've paid the \$300,000 for President Rogers to have a special climate-controlled garage for his racecar? No. But we don't want people to just blindly accept the "living wage" scheme without realizing the costs. And if you saw one of those orange signs and it made you think, then our campaign has been successful.

LETTERS – from pg. 3

cratic liberal who even enjoys reading the *Marx-Engels Reader* on occasion. I am a Political Science major, and have heard many sides of many stories. If any of you have ever taken a Political Science class that uses paperback books (not textbooks) to teach about an issue, you will notice that when it comes to politics, biases always exist. More importantly, whole books can be very narrow-minded and not let any other side's interpretation in. This is why I don't believe that *The Counterweight* is too narrow-minded. You afforded two whole pages in your most recent issue to what people

thought about your other issues, and in your mission statement you declare that you want to "promote the free exchange of ideas." So the students from your campus who don't agree with your views should not complain about them. Rather, they should maybe put the time and effort into researching these arguments and policy issues as well as writers for *The Counterweight* do, to maybe have a better thesis than "I thought it [*The Counterweight*] sucked." The young men and women who author the articles in *The Counterweight* should be commended for their dedication to such a fine publication, and more importantly for their dedication to upholding the United States' idea of the free

flow of information and the marketplace of ideas. Bravo!

As Voltaire once said, "I disagree with everything you say, but I will fight to the death for your right to say it." My advice to the kids reading this who enjoy writing comments like "I thought it sucked": if you don't think that members of Bucknell's student body should be reading *The Counterweight*, give them something else to read that they may enjoy more. Until then, keep the *Counterweights* coming!

Christopher DeSante
Allegheny College Class of 2004

GAY RIGHTS – from pg. 6

priety of homosexuality is a debate that can be had. In fact, many of us want to have it. But your perceptions of hatred are vastly overblown. We don't hate anyone, and you need to stop talking like we do if refuse to apply the laudable concept of political "tol-

erance" to the moral sphere, where "tolerance" as we perceive it becomes relativism and has no place.

Be discriminating. Sincerely held, non-threatening religiously grounded moral beliefs don't need to be "fixed" by University-sponsored education and programming, and

it's insulting and intolerant to insist that they do.

See where I'm coming from, and think about the voices *you* have not been hearing. Your office, your staff, your budget... you've got the megaphone around here. So what can *you* do?

HOOKUP – from pg. 10

a couple." When do men acknowledge coupledness, then? Only after an extensive period of "hooking up and hanging out" and then only at the request of the woman, apparently.

But isn't this what Eve Ensler (author of *The Vagina Monologues*) and her crowd want? Doesn't the woman have more control now? Maybe. But it isn't what real women want, according to the study. Two-thirds of the women said they hoped to find a future spouse at college. Ninety-one per-

cent of the women in the IAV study reported a "rampant" hookup culture. Yet only 40 percent of the women had participated in this ostensibly fabulous activity that pervades campus social mores. And the study also found (as did anecdotes in *Bucknell World*) that women are often left wanting something more after hookup encounters—for example, a phone call, or some sign of commitment or affection.

Which would seem to defeat the whole purpose of this asinine institution.

In *Bucknell World*, editor Gigi Marino wondered, "Is the ability to hook up really

power? Or have men subversively managed to hijack feminist gains once again?" Actually, it's neither. The current domination of campus culture by the all-powerful hookup isn't a gain for either sex—it's a setback for both. There is nothing wrong with dating or abstinence, and the hookup culture and its accompanying mentality makes it seem otherwise.

And besides—where is the good in separating love from the activities that are supposed to follow, not replace, it?

CLIMATE – from pg. 9

action which needs to be taken. Should we let the experiences of 8 students override the experiences of 3,342 when designing a curriculum, admitting students, hiring professors, or allocating funds?

If there's one thing we should take away from a reading of the campus climate survey, it's the understanding that, unlike what they would have you believe, discrimination against LGBT people is not widespread on this campus. We must put a stop to this "false advertising" and deal with facts. Until that happens, there can not be, and never will be, equality.

GUEST – from pg. 14

cause others or endanger the entire social edifice. Wittgenstein has his sophisticated philosophical language for this preference for the concrete over the abstract, for life over reason and for practice over norms. But we can translate this into more colloquial language: "If it ain't broke, and broke real bad, don't fix it because chances are good you'll only screw things up royally, especially if you don't really know how the thing works to begin with."

The conservative intellectuals are tragic realists. They understand that, while utopianism perhaps has its place (and even sometimes charm) in youth, the lessons of

history teach us that it is an exceedingly poor recipe for the design and administration of a society.

Alexander Tristan Riley is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University.

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THE LAST WORD

Activists Demand Withdrawal of Divine Commencement Speaker

Courtesy of *The Stanford Review* – www.stanfordreview.org

Stanford University's Senior Class and President have chosen Condoleezza Rice (President Bush's National Security Advisor) as this year's commencement speaker, but some liberal students are protesting. Apparently, these Hillary Clinton-supporters don't like the fact that Rice is an African American woman who uses her own intellect instead of adhering to the leftist positions they have prescribed to her race. To stem this controversy, University officials considered asking God to speak at the graduation instead. Alas, they were immediately flooded by even more hate emails by the verdant portion of the socially aware student body.

"Considering His track record as creator of oil and coal, two of our largest problems, I don't particularly care what He has to say."

"This world was perfect before humans. If

God had not been arrogant enough to create people, nature would be beautiful, instead of being destroyed all around us."

"God is a sexist pig, and is guilty of several civil rights violations. His 'teachings' are the antithesis of modern liberal feminism. If Scalia hadn't appointed Bush president, I bet Janet Reno would bring Him to justice, as soon as He stepped on US soil. The bigot."

"God makes some people smarter than others, and gives some people more advantages than others. This ruins the equality in our society, and causes so many of us to spend our whole lives trying to right these wrongs of inequality that He stupidly created."

"The choice reveals a lack of consideration of what God represents to several segments of the class of 2002 and how His divine pres-

ence will affect the graduation experience of these students...on the day we are to set off into the "real world", we will be face to face with the Creator of all the things we find most abhorrent in it.

"God created a world in which guns can exist. That is inherently evil."

"Other wonderful cultures worship multiple gods, each with their own unique and valid traditions. God clearly does not respect this powerful form of cultural diversity."

"When God speaks of doing good, He forgets to mention government organizations. Just like the Constitution, His Bible is clearly out of date."

"...He's probably sympathetic to the Christian right. That just disgusts me. Utterly."



BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY
CONSERVATIVES CLUB
 P.O. Box 141
 Lewisburg, PA 17837