

## The Hillary Backlash

Too bad Daniel Wattenberg's article on Hillary Rodham Clinton ("The Lady Macbeth of Little Rock," *TAS*, August 1992) was published after Faludi's *Backlash*: it constitutes a perfect example of the fear instilled in the hearts of some men confronted with an articulate, ambitious, and extremely intelligent woman. Wattenberg's strategy is to rely on the stereotypes used to denigrate women for hundreds of years: Hillary is wily, manipulative, shrewd, and cold. But even through Wattenberg's outrageous diatribe we see the real Hillary. She was elected by her peers to the presidency of student government at Wellesley, was an excellent student at Yale, seems to be a fine parent, and has devoted much of her life to worthy causes. I really enjoyed reading the excerpts from Hillary's writings provided with snide and derisive comments by Wattenberg. In fact, she is a much better writer than Wattenberg. She should make good use of her legal talents and sue him for slander.

—Catherine V. Scott  
Doraville, Georgia

The article on Hillary Clinton . . . was so beneath the usual quality of *The American Spectator*. Very much ado about not quite nothing, but close to it. Hillary comes out as a flaky left-winger. One among many who don't have much influence because they don't have a solid grip on reality. But really! Lady Macbeth? Her husband doesn't seem to be reflecting her views very convincingly.

I would suggest that Mr. Wattenberg is as flaky on the right as she is on the left.

—Carol Richman  
Seattle, Washington

Wattenberg strives valiantly to prove Hillary Clinton is no worse than Barbara Bush. Methinks the lad protests too much.

—Kenneth Maxwell  
Sacramento, California

*Daniel Wattenberg replies:*

To Ms. Scott: If Hillary is, in fact,

"wily, manipulative, shrewd, and cold," then I guess that would explain why she's such a great lawyer. Of course, I never said she was such a great lawyer. Maybe that's why I never said that she was "wily, manipulative, shrewd, and cold."

To Ms. Richman: You mean there are so many "flaky left-wingers" eddying around Bill Clinton that the fact that he is married to one hardly deserves notice? That despite their numbers they are virtually without influence? I may be flaky, but I'm not stupid.

To Mr. Maxwell: Come again? What's the frequency, Kenneth?

## Here Comes the Jury

Terry Eastland fine article ("King's Jury," *TAS*, August 1992) did something that—for reasons that baffle me—almost no one else has done up to now: argue that the Rodney King jury may have been right. It is deceptively easy to forget that the jury had to judge the defendants on *specific* counts, in accordance with the judge's legal charge to the jury, and, in order to find the defendants guilty, do so beyond a reasonable doubt. It is arrogant for anyone who didn't hear every minute of testimony and see all the evidence to condemn the trial's outcome, even as it is possible, viewing the tape, to believe that justice may not have been done.

—Thomas Letchfield  
Palo Alto, California

In "King's Jury," Terry Eastland catalogues evidence seen by the jury, but not by the public because it was not reported by the media. His point is that, in light of this information, the decision of the jury was neither unreasonable nor, as commonly asserted, evidence of racial bigotry.

Those old enough to remember the egregiously racial decisions that were common prior to national civil rights reforms also recall the brevity of such deliberations. Time for one chaw of tobacky, one squirt at the cuspidor, and an agreed "String 'im up" was the defining character of the system. By contrast, the Ventura County jury absorbed seven days with their deliberations. In spite of

which, with no serious reflection, their critics instantly convicted the jury of bigotry.

—Mark Taifer  
Long Beach, California

## UCSD Update

I thoroughly enjoyed Edward Norden's recent article on life at the University of California, San Diego ("A Month in Paradise," *TAS*, April 1992). Unfortunately, Mr. Norden left before the campus activists got really active. Allow me to update readers on three recent highlights.

During an unusually festive "Take Back the Night" celebration in March, many of the participants chose to remove their shirts to "demystify the female breast" and "empower" themselves. They struck further blows for feminism by defacing the chancellor's door and a fraternity sign.

That same month, student resentment over proposed UC fee hikes boiled over and a chancellor's conference room was occupied by protesters for a week. Among the occupiers' demands was \$15,000 to take them to the state capital to lobby for "free" education.

During the week after the Rodney King verdict, excitement was so fevered and inchoate that I frequently saw signs advertising "Protest by the gym today at noon!"; no purpose given or needed. The most successful party was a sit-in on the highway by the campus; for two hours, the highway was blocked as students basked in the sun and in media attention. Eventually the police shooed them away.

If I sound less than respectful, it is because this was all too obviously *fun*. The true radicals were shamefully happy at having their dark delusions confirmed (by the King verdict, by fee hikes, by negative reactions to bare-breasted gynoterrorism), and everybody else was happy to have something to do. Like a lot of what passes for socially responsible activity today, these events seemed more about making memories than about making a difference.

—Patrick Tweedy  
Instruction Librarian  
University of California, San Diego  
La Jolla, California

# No Money For Conservatives.

**H**eath Buzin was fed up. A junior at the University of Delaware, he was tired of the steady procession of liberal and left-wing guest speakers at his campus.

Heath decided to do something about it. He asked the various campus speakers committees for help in bringing conservative author and lecturer Dinesh D'Souza to the school. He was told there was no money available.

But Heath knew that in recent months the University had paid out big bucks in Delaware taxpayers' money for well-known leftist speakers. Over \$6,000 for Marxist Angela Davis. Additional thousands for Molly Yard, Cesar Chavez, Stokely Carmichael and other liberal lecturers.

But there was no money for conservatives. What's more, University administrators

tried to discourage the conservatives from inviting Mr. D'Souza because he was "too controversial."

Heath Buzin persisted. He contacted Young America's Foundation and we sponsored Mr. D'Souza's appearance at the University of Delaware. Said a Delaware professor, "The audience

of more than 350 was the largest at our campus since the early seventies."

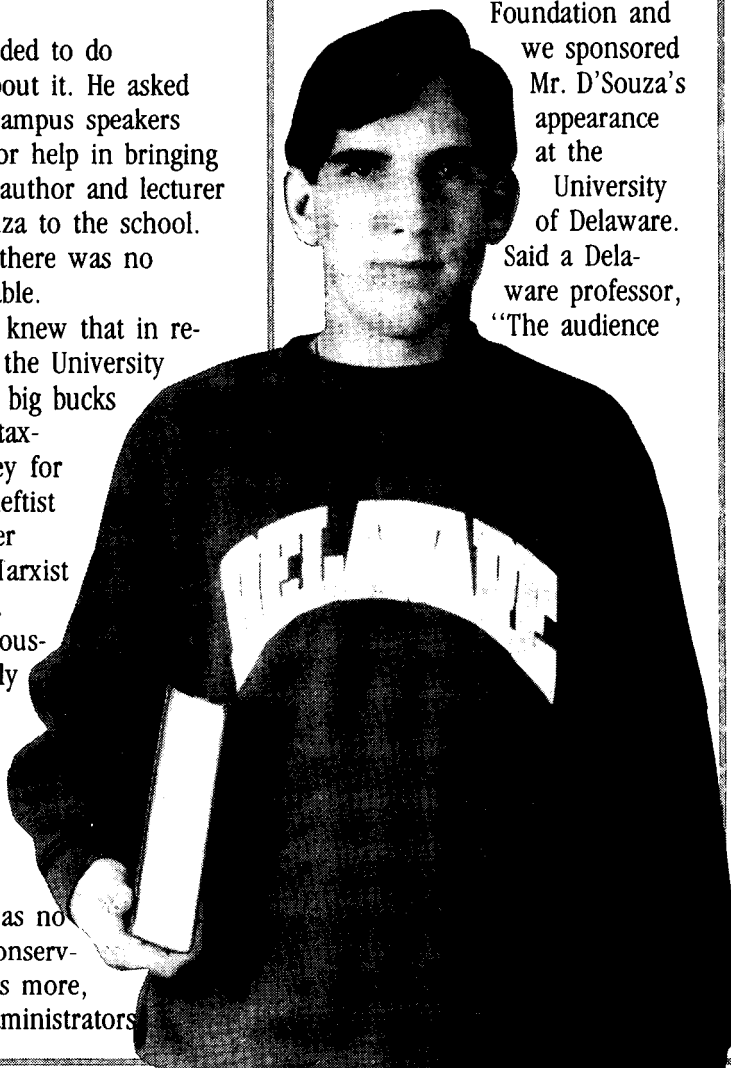
Don't take "no" for an answer. Heath Buzin fought back and is still fighting to bring balance to the speakers program at the tax-supported University of Delaware. Young America's Foundation is helping him with speakers, advice, and literature. In the past year we have sponsored hundreds of conservative speakers at campuses all over the United States; speakers such as Norman Schwarzkopf, Edwin Meese, Russell Kirk, Robert Novak and Phyllis Schlafly.

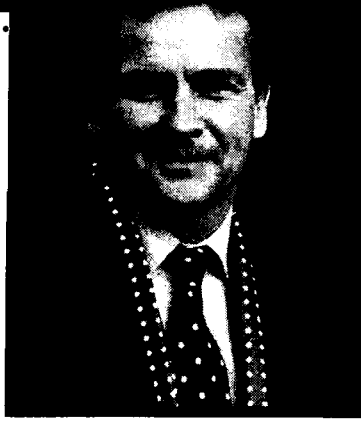
If you need our help we want to hear from you. Or if you would like to help Young America's Foundation to assist students like Heath Buzin, please contact us.

Write or call:



*F.M. Kirby Freedom Center*  
110 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 22070  
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# Double Trouble

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

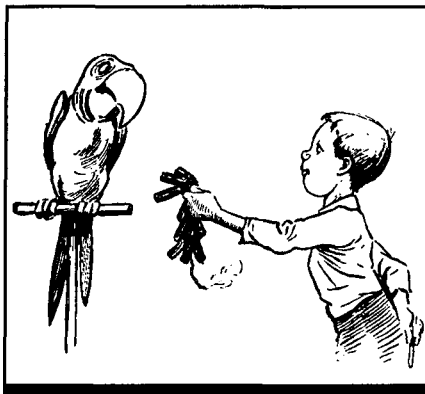
The other day in Knoxville, Tennessee, Vice President Dan Quayle said, "Let's look at the record. . . . Bill Clinton said that he is for capital punishment. Yet he said that one of his first Supreme Court appointments could be Mario Cuomo, who is an outright opponent of capital punishment. You can't have it both ways."

Where has the Vice President been these last few months? Ever since the first grunt of campaign '92, the leading presidential candidates have all been having it both ways, and with the utmost abandon. The very day of Vice President Quayle's declaration, President Bush was in Union, New Jersey, saying that he had developed a \$10-billion job-training program that would not cost the taxpayer a nickel. In fact, the President seemed to be saying that this mysterious program would not cost anyone anything. Then after announcing the new \$10-billion job-training program that would not cost anyone \$10 billion, the President trundled up to Connecticut to promise "less federal government spending."

But Bill Clinton and George Bush are not the only candidates guilty of doubletalk—almost ceaseless doubletalk. Ross Perot, too, has been a doubletalker of genius. He told us that he was against soundbites and engaged solely in soundbites throughout his campaign. He told us he opposed homosexuals in his cabinet and, amid the rancorous aftermath created by the career homosexuals of the

republic, brought in a homosexual aide as a liaison to "the homosexual community." He boasted of how tough he was and then, as the heat turned up in the kitchen, hightailed it, protesting he was in a race that he could not win.

American presidential politics is increasingly a vast display of meaninglessness. The speeches employed by the solemn would-be Lincolns do not matter. They are like love songs sung by eunuchs. The words have no meaning. The party platforms have no meaning. Even the



insults hurled are meaningless. The Democrats who opposed the Gulf War chide George Bush for getting out of the Gulf War too soon. The Republicans chide Bill Clinton for his wife's political extremism and then disavow such chiding.

And is there a voter in the land who actually takes seriously any of the convoluted policies devised by the candidates to bring us all closer to heaven on earth? The federal government grows at an alarming pace. Both Bill Clinton and George Bush promise elaborate policies to cut the growth. And both promise

more government programs. George Bush promises to cut taxes for everyone; Boy Clinton promises to raise taxes on those making more than \$200,000 annually. Bill is for economic growth, and George is too—but if you earn more than \$200,000 that is too much economic growth, and Bill can better spend your money than you. George is for a strong America with a powerful army and so is Bill, who compares his years of stewardship over the Arkansas National Guard very favorably with George's stewardship over the armed forces of the only superpower left on earth.

When Boy Clinton raised his leadership of the Arkansas National Guard as somehow comparable with being commander in chief of the American armed forces, was he aware of the hilarious stupidity of this comparison? I do not think so. When Ross Perot appears on television hinting slyly that he both is and is not still a candidate, does he recognize the absurdity of his position? And when George Bush bobs and weaves, is he aware of how he appears? No, I believe all the presidential aspirants are totally unaware that there is meaning to words and to gestures.

I do, however, have one enduring question about the candidates' meaningless twaddle and vacuous posturing. Why do our political commentators let them get away with it. Oh sure, the ten percent of the commentators who are conservative and Republicans jump on Boy Clinton for his shiftiness, his draft dodging, his dubious private life, and his schizophrenic policy suggestions. And, of course, the ninety percent of the com-

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*Adapted from RET's weekly Washington Times column syndicated by Creators Syndicate.*