

Question Time

Re Robert Novak's review of James Fal-lows's *Breaking the News* (TAS, April 1996): Why is it that every time I'm reading the bio of some elitist liberal twit, he turns out to be a "Rhodes Scholar"?

— GENE HOPP
Bellevue, Washington

North by Southwest

I just can't take it any longer. As much as I love Ben Stein's *Diary*, I am growing weary of his monthly complaints about the poor service he gets on Alaska Airlines. I have a very simple solution for Mr. Stein: try another carrier!! As an airline pilot myself and frequent traveler, I can certainly sympathize with his premise that quality has taken a back seat lately.

My suggestion is he try the number one most efficient domestic carrier today, and it is not as he wrote in the May issue, American, it is Southwest. For four years running now we have been number one in on time performance, customer satisfaction, and baggage handling, the triple crown of airline awards. We also have the lowest unrestricted fares in the nation. I hate to sound like a commercial, but forget the chicken kiev lunch you might get on American or Alaska and try us already....

If the next time he and "little Mr. Perfect" want to fly to their own private Idaho with the least amount of hassle, with friendly wonderful people who still know what customer service is all about, they should fly Southwest. If Mr. Stein is at all unhappy with his flight I will personally reimburse him.

— MARK BELFORD
San Diego, California

Warm Turkey

I read with great interest M. D. Carnegie's recent article "Between East and West" (TAS, May 1996) and certainly noted his perceptive, balanced, and insightful observations.

I do not believe, however, that Mr. Carnegie's assessment of Turkey as a nation caught between East and West—with an "identity crisis," as it were—is quite accurate. The Republic of Turkey has been, is,

and will remain a Western country, not so much in terms of geography but rather in terms of mentality. Indeed, the Turkish Republic is Western because it freely chose those ideals and values long associated with the West and subsequently universalized them. Turkey's mindset is fundamentally predicated on the principles of democracy, secularism, the rule of law, human rights and economic liberalization.

Turkey in no way views its strong commitment to these ideals as a bargaining chip for certain concessions or rewards from the West. Rather, Turkey voluntarily and independently decided to pursue this path because it serves the best interests of each of its citizens, safeguarding and guaranteeing their liberties and freedoms as well as social welfare. Regardless and totally irrespective of how the West may view or treat Turkey, our dedication to the ideals of freedom and democratic liberty remains unswerving.

It is within this framework of respect and equal partnership, based on commonly held and mutually beneficial values and ideals, that Turkey and the U.S. have enjoyed a healthy and dynamic alliance for nearly half a century. As our predominantly defense-oriented relationship increasingly diversifies into economic, business, trade, cultural, and social dimensions, the bonds of cooperation between our two nations will naturally intensify.

— LEVENT GUMRUKCU
Third Secretary
Embassy Spokesperson
Turkish Embassy
Washington, D.C.

"Whither Turkey?" is a question asked with increasing frequency by Western observers concerned about the influence of forces tugging at Turkish society. M. D. Carnegie has captured the Turkish zeitgeist as very few others have, but the better question is "What direction will the West go?"

The events occurring in Turkey are the direct result of Turkey's commitment to Western principles. Whatever success that Refah, the fundamentalist party, enjoys has come by way of the ballot box in freely held democratic elections. (Ironically,

Refah is credited with using decidedly Western tactics in its campaign strategy.)

The West must remain equally committed to the 73-year-old Republic of Turkey. As Atatürk once told an American visitor, "America is an old democracy in a new land. Ours is a new democracy in an old land." It is also the only secular democracy in the Moslem world, and gateway to the vast economic potential of Central Asia.

Turkey's devotion to Western principles will ultimately see the nation through its current challenges, and it will do so even faster with the continued support and cooperation of its American and European allies.

— SELIM BINGOL
Vienna, Virginia

The Keyes to New York

For over a year now, I have waited patiently for *The American Spectator* to write a substantive article on the historic candidacy of Alan Keyes. Surely, I thought, these brainy, cutting-edge journalists would reject the media mantra of "He's unknown, he doesn't have any money, any organization, any endorsements..." and write a thoughtful piece on, if nothing else, his very intelligent platform on every single issue of the day.

Well, I was correct that you would not recycle the media myths, but I was indeed disappointed when all your readers got was a back-handed attempt to insult a godly man ("Bum of the Month," TAS, April 1996). Byron York picks from Michael Lewis's campaign account only the worst comments on Dr. Keyes, and leaves out Lewis's often complimentary assessment of Keyes, as in the following:

What he says, however, is overwhelmed by how he says it. Even after that first time... I was struck dumb by the force of his eloquence. After the first 20 minutes I looked up at Joel (Achenbach) and found that he was looking up at me with the same stunned expression. "I don't know about you," he said, "but I'm about to go to work for the guy."

And this from two liberal reporters! With "friends" like Mr. York at *The Amer-*

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ican *Spectator* taking vicarious swipes at Dr. Keyes, I guess I'll have to depend on those "bums" at the *New Republic* for any intelligent coverage of his campaign and hold my breath for the same in your magazine.

— SHARON GORDON
Midland Park, New Jersey

Just one slight correction to Byron York's excellent article on the misbegotten Clinton drug policy ("Bill's Four-Star General," *TAS*, May 1996). Houston is not the hometown of Lee Brown, just one of the many stops in his career.

Brown was hired by Houston's girl mayor to fill the position of police chief in the early eighties, having come from Atlanta and the botched investigation of the serial murder case that had brought that city into national prominence. We citizens of Houston came to know the new chief, not because of his highly touted ideas of community policing, but due to his frequent absence from office which soon earned him the appellation of "Outta Town Brown."

His trips continued and encompassed New York City, where he became the new Dinkins administration's police commissioner. I am unsure of his New York job history, but am willing to bet that his trips to lectures, seminars, and the like around the country continued at city expense. Thus it was no surprise to learn through *TAS* that his travels widened to global proportions when he got to D.C. His new job teaching at a Houston college is sure to pall before long, and we will find him in another police job where a city budget can support his peripatetic urges.

— A. TRACY BIRD
Tucson, Arizona

Turning Themselves In

I am writing to commend you for your editorial, "No to Drug Legalization" (Editorials, *TAS*, April 1996) in which you boldly challenge William Buckley's pro-legalization position. You are absolutely right when you say that to legalize drugs would be like signing death warrants for too many people. You are right when you refer to the drug legalization debate being dominated by intellectual sophisticates. While the topic of legalization may make for an

interesting debate among the so-called elite, if it were implemented, it would spell disaster for the rest of society, causing increased drug use and addiction, more crime, and higher health care costs.

Your comments about Rachel Ehrenfeld are most appropriate. Ms. Ehrenfeld is right on target when she points out there has been significant progress in the War on Drugs, with drug use having declined significantly over the last decade, and when she exposes the specious arguments of the pro-drug crowd.

The drug war is not a war of governments, as Mr. Buckley and his colleagues wrongly assume, but a war of the people: parents, teachers, youth, clergy, law enforcement and health officials, civic and business leaders working together against the harmful and illegal use of mind-altering drugs. There is still much to be done but the answer is not to surrender to drug legalization and the drug permissive policies and attitudes of the 1960's.

As you may be aware there is an active media campaign being waged by pro-drug advocates and a proliferation of misinformation about drugs making headlines these days. Many in the press seem to be sympathetic toward the pro-drug agenda. It is no wonder that our young people are getting the wrong impression about drugs and that drug use is once again on the rise.

You are right, society does have an obligation to move the citizenry in the right direction and to uphold standards of good health and responsible citizenship. Those of us on the "front lines" of the War on Drugs thank you for speaking up against drug legalization. It is encouraging to know that there are some responsible journalists who are willing to speak the truth about this insidious threat.

— STEPHANIE HAYNES
President, Drug Watch International
Alpine, Texas

So Mr. Tyrrell is a drinker of alcohol. As such he is able to ignore all the people who drink themselves into an early grave. He does not recognize that (if I may paraphrase Mr. Tyrrell) there are "compulsive people in our society with a low tolerance for alcohol. To legalize alcohol is to sign these people's death warrants. Those who traffic in alcohol are killers" etc.

But Mr. Tyrrell is a teetotaler of illegal drugs. Of course this means that he doesn't have the slightest idea of what he is talking about. Just as many people use alcohol in moderation without many ill effects, so do many people use illegal drugs without many ill effects.

Mr. Tyrrell claims that illegal drug use and not the war on drugs is the cause of poor conditions in the inner city. If this is so then why is not society in the Netherlands falling apart? They allow the open sale and consumption of marijuana.

You cannot underestimate the alienation from society produced in people who use illegal drugs by the war on drugs. Because the war on drugs is not really a war on drugs, but instead is a war on the people who use illegal drugs. If a society goes to war it must expect to suffer adverse consequences. The burned out cities, and the expense of apprehending and incarcerating drug users, are just some of the expenses of our war on drugs.

But perhaps the biggest cost of our drug war is the damage it does to our soul. We claim to be the country of individual liberty, but we do not allow the individual to grow or consume certain plants. We claim to be the land of the free, and the home of the brave, but we are neither free or brave, because we are afraid of a few plants.

— JAMES GRANT SPONSLER
Humeston, Iowa

Your editorial "No to Drug Legalization" is outstanding and carries the much needed message that legalization, in any degree, is not the answer to America's drug problems. The answer is, of course, to curtail use, and you don't achieve that by giving users free reign to spread this devastating social infection.

We have been working for two years on the construction of our new home, dealing daily with the ineptitude, deceit, carelessness, and capriciousness of those in the building industry. This industry is said to have the greatest percentage of substance users and from our experience there is no doubt that it is true. At least 50 percent of those who worked on this job had substance abuse problems which interfered with their work. And we are still not through. What a nightmare. Were
(Continued on page 77)

Why Are Catholics Walking In the Dark?



The Vatican thunders against abortion, tyrants, illicit sex, consumerism, dissenting theologians, disobedient priests and nuns, and more. But walk into your average parish. Where's the beef? We get crumbs — and platitudes. We don't hear much, if anything, about the Church's teachings on abortion, euthanasia, homosexuality, pre-marital sex, pornography, the indissolubility of marriage — "too controversial." Birth control and Hell are taboo subjects. Pop psychology and feel-good theology are "in." Sin is "out," prompting one to wonder why Christ bothered to get crucified.

Cowardly clerics, fearful of being politically incorrect or challenging the flock or offending some stray soul, keep the full Catholic message from us. In effect we're blindfolded — left to stumble in the dark, prey to false prophets and the sirens of the world, not even knowing why we're Catholic.

How long is American Catholicism going to censor itself, bow down before an alien culture?

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If you're a Catholic with the guts to really be Catholic, or a Catholic who's ready to have his spine stiffened, or if you're just a curious non-Catholic, subscribe today!

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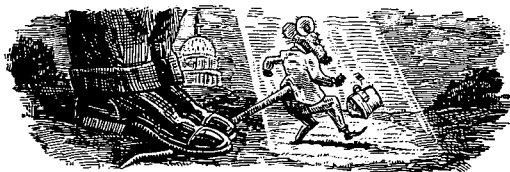
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Tough Love

Hours before **Bob Dole** announced his surprise resignation from the Senate, his campaign was in full spin.



That evening's news reports did their part: "Dole had been pondering this decision for months," "Mr. Dole carried the speech in his coat pocket for several weeks, rehearsing during quiet times at home and while traveling," "The decision to leave the Senate was one made a month ago while on vacation."

While the lofty speech, written by novelist **Mark Helprin**, had been in the can for at least two weeks, Dole hadn't seriously thought of resigning until several days before the May 12 announcement. Dole staffers had been suggesting a July 2 date, but their boss bailed out early after two disturbing events.

The first was a meeting with congressional leaders, ostensibly called to discuss welfare and the minimum wage. Discussion quickly centered on growing worries that the GOP will lose seats in both the House and Senate this fall. After the meet-

ing Dole had staffers sound out friends in other Senate and House offices to see if polling data in California, Oregon, New Jersey, Georgia, Florida, and Illinois was as bad as he had heard from congressional leaders.

Then came his meeting with key governors—including vice presidential hopefuls **Tommy Thompson** of Wisconsin, **John Engler** of Michigan, **George Allen** of Virginia, and **George Voinovich** of Ohio. Dole floated this trial balloon: he would step aside as majority leader and hand over day-to-day control—not to majority whip **Trent Lott**, as everyone expected, but to Alaska's **Ted Stevens**, a longtime friend. (Stevens could use a boost of his own—he's facing a serious primary challenge from the Buchanan-endorsed, pro-life millionaire **Dave Cuddy**.) Having Stevens serve as "acting" majority leader, Dole argued, would free him to expand his campaign yet leave the impression he was still pulling strings on the Senate floor.

The governors were aghast. Speaking for the group, Thompson told Dole that undercutting Lott was a terrible mistake, and could harm the

Dole campaign even more than the debate over a pro-

life plank in the GOP platform. Thompson went on to chastise the senator for "constantly running away" from the people who would do "all the heavy lifting" during the campaign. Allen and Voinovich were a little gentler, telling Dole that his campaign needed a spark—even a successful San Diego convention, they maintained, would be too little too late.

"I think for the first time, he felt a degree of desperation from people he hadn't expected to be desperate," says one Senate staffer, who indicated that Dole was taken aback by their bluntness. "It was as if they were saying, 'Look, we got you this far, don't make us look like a bunch of losers this early in the campaign.'" Dole made his resignation announcement two days later, but not before he was overheard grousing about Thompson: "I thought he wanted to be Vice President."

A Flat-out No

In late May, **Bob Dole** met at least twice with primary foe **Steve Forbes** to discuss tax issues. Nixing the Forbes flat-tax proposal out of hand, Dole made it clear he prefers **Dick Gephardt's** two-tiered, higher rate flat-tax or the moderate middle-class cuts already on the table in both

the House and Senate. He also ruled out steep Reagan-style cuts in marginal tax rates. Though the two men made plans for several more meetings, Forbes advisers have concluded that Dole will never support genuine tax reform and is likely to fight any attempt to inject supply-side wording into the GOP platform.

The Don Nickles Show

While **Trent Lott** was holding off **Thad Cochran's** challenge to succeed Bob Dole as Senate majority leader, the big winner turned out to be Oklahoma's **Don Nickles**, who defied expecta-



tions and didn't run for the leadership post.

Friends, including Dole himself, advised Nickles, currently chairman of the influential Senate Policy Committee, to stay put. "Nothing is going to get done in the Senate for the rest of the term," a Nickles aide said. "The Democrats will have Trent treading water for the next six months. Don was told to wait for the new term when there might be some new faces and a better shot of winning the post outright."

