

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

# Dunce Dershowitz



I should like to congratulate a Mr. Phil Boyce, the program director of New York's talk radio station, WABC. The other day he eliminated from his program-

ing the syndicated show of Alan Dershowitz, the Harvard Law School gasbag. Dershowitz's big mouth had gotten him into another rancorous row with that far more gifted WABC talk show host, Bob Grant. The Harvard prof called Grant a racist and a bigot, adding, "Bob Grant is a despicable talk show host." Mr. Boyce denied the charges and elegantly heaved Dershowitz from the air. Dershowitz "can say anything he wants," declares Boyce, "but it's just not going to be done on my radio station." Bravo, Boyce!

But does this mean that Dershowitz will have more time to inflict himself on his students back at Harvard Law School? What does he teach them? From my readings of the man, all he knows well is the art of self-promotion. He shows up at celebrity trials, on television shows, in syndicated columns, on radio, of course, and even in the correspondence page of the *New York Times Book Review*. There he whines about a properly critical review of another of his shabbily written, badly argued, third-rate books. His feud with Grant is apparently long-standing. Provoked by one of Grant's sallies, Dershowitz has been known to call in his protest to the talk show host while Grant was on the air. When does the prof find time to teach? I am almost certain that he has no time at all for scholarly work. I have read his writ-

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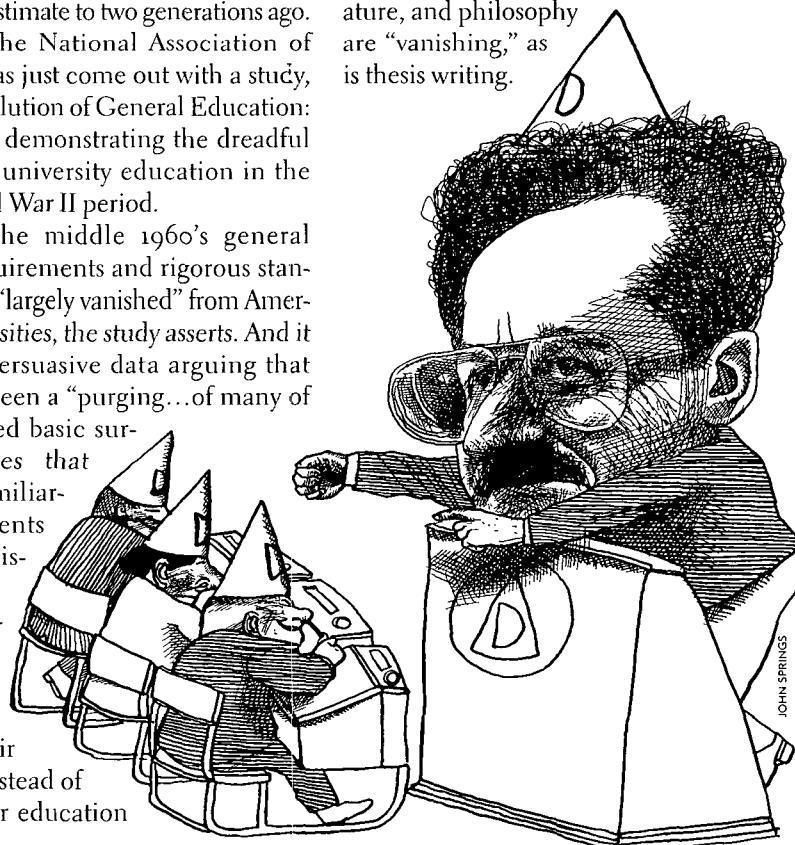
ing, and it betrays little learning and even less orderly thought. On the faculty where the likes of Felix Frankfurter once taught, Harvard Law now has a real hot dog, Alan Dershowitz—counsel to O.J. Simpson, tormentor of Bob Grant, self-promoter par excellence.

Alas, Dershowitz is not the only frenetic humbug using his faculty position to become a public nuisance. Most of the campuses in the country have their Dershowitzes. In fact, many have scores of Dershowitzes, though only Harvard has this world-record holder in the sport of faculty charlatan. What has happened to American universities? A Dershowitz would have been unthinkable a generation ago. Well, come to think of it, a generation ago we had Professor Timothy Leary at Harvard, and the appalling Professor Charles Reich at Yale. So let me adjust my estimate to two generations ago. Actually, the National Association of Scholars has just come out with a study, "The Dissolution of General Education: 1914-1993," demonstrating the dreadful decline of university education in the post-World War II period.

Since the middle 1960's general course requirements and rigorous standards have "largely vanished" from American universities, the study asserts. And it provides persuasive data arguing that there has been a "purging...of many of the required basic survey courses that used to familiarize students with the historical, cultural, political, and scientific foundations of their society." Instead of basing their education

on a core curriculum of history, literature, philosophy, and science, today's college students saunter past a buffet table of courses, some serious, some preposterous, others merely low-cal.

One of the consequences of this gutting of the curriculum is that many American universities are merely youth ghettos. There on campus, amid expensive facilities, thousands of students mill about with little to do of a scholarly nature. The lazy profs are perfectly pleased with this condition, teaching being demanding work, far less amusing than being a dilettante prof or a gadabout à la Dershowitz. According to the National Association of Scholars study, since the 1960's most universities have been requiring less course work in English composition, math, science, and foreign language. The study shows that requirements in history, literature, and philosophy are "vanishing," as is thesis writing.



The authors of this depressing study argue that students are losing their common base of knowledge. Again the intellectual foundation that makes us a community and, on a larger scale, a nation, is eroding. Of course, improving education is one of the most popular sham pieties in the Republic. President Bill Clinton, the

Alan Dershowitz of national politics, vows ceaselessly to secure ever more funding for student loans and for other so-called improvements in higher education. But the money is mostly wasted at universities where less and less serious study is demanded. Once again empty rhetoric replaces substance. ❁

"the United States props up North Korea's failing economy." He called for support of Taiwan. But he spoke most ominously of China and that other Asian state, Russia.



The direction of his talk was clear. It was a warning to China to live by its agreements and to give up its designs on Taiwan. He called on Russia "to overcome the legacy of military competition in the East" and "build cooperative relations with its Asian neighbors." But, most pointedly of all, Helms called on the administration to end technology transfers to China that strengthen its military and to insist that China desist from illegally exporting nuclear technology.

Yet Helms was not optimistic about the direction of Clinton's foreign policy. Particularly with regard to U.S.-Asia relations, it reminds him "of Alice in Wonderland—if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." Another alarmed witness to Clinton's shapeless foreign policy was sitting in the audience, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick. She explains why the Clinton policy is so weak. She attributes it to the boy president's stupendous arrogance. In his arrogance, "he believes he is invulnerable." Recent threats and maneuvers from Peking may soon put his invulnerability to the test. ❁

# Foreign Policy Flop

If you share my view that our big lovable lug of a president is a total flop as a policy-maker, you might share my amusement that he now claims his real achievements are in foreign policy. In other words, avert your gaze from his failure to make good on those campaign promises of a middle-class tax cut, a balanced budget, health-care reform, and the end of "welfare as we know it"—or whatever his weirdly repeated line was. Instead, look to Clinton's Kissingerian mastery of the globe.

Yes, I suppose he can with some justification claim that, compared to the above-mentioned domestic initiatives, where he has gotten absolutely nothing done, he can point to Ireland, Bosnia, and Haiti—three tiny plots of land where he has gotten something broken daily, and in Ireland and Bosnia at a considerable cost in lives and property. But there you have it: the most prodigious liar ever to be president passing himself off as a foreign policy president and adducing as evidence three obvious failures. We live in amazing times.

Foreign policy is the one area where an American president's hot air and ineptitude can be very dangerous. Two voices have been heard this month warning of the dangerous turf onto which the Clinton administration is sleepwalking. Unfortunately, neither speech has gotten much attention in Washington, where the only draft dodger ever to be elected president is still capable of evoking wonder and admiration before his every pratfall.

On March 9, in Fulton, Missouri, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Winston Churchill's Iron Curtain speech, former

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher attempted to sober things up. Pointing to the spread of nuclear and particularly chemical weapons of mass destruction into the hands of such gangster states as Iraq and Iran, she urged the renewal and expansion of NATO. Equally important, she urged development of defensive weaponry to ward off hostile attacks from such bellicose powers. The speech was big news in Europe.


In Washington a bigger story was Hillary and Chelsea's peregrination to cheer up our troops. Presumably Mrs. Clinton will not bring along her White House aide who, in the early days of the administration, informed General Barry McCaffrey that uniforms were now out of favor; or the White House aide who had Marine guards serving drinks. Now the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Jesse Helms, has issued a warning to the President about his foreign policy of "flailing around in the world, rushing from disaster to disaster... because the Clinton administration has failed to set priorities. Everything, from Burundi to Bosnia, is equally important—and therefore equally unimportant."

Delivering the B.C. Lee Lecture to the guests of the Heritage Foundation on March 26, Helms attempted to direct Washington's gaze to strategic realities as America—a Pacific nation—enters "the Pacific Century." Helms warned of the hostile relations between India and Pakistan that are leading to the spread of nuclear weaponry and repeated illegal arms shipments from China. He warned of the vast North Korean army, its truculence, and the idiocy as

## 25 YEARS AGO IN The American Spectator

When one views Flip, the first thing seen, apart from the boyish grin, is his "hustler" haircut of the early fifties, which apparently means a lot to him. If it did not mean a lot surely he would have succumbed to the pressure of the fads, which is so enormous on public figures. Consider the new look of "peace" cheerleader Sammy Davis, Jr., who abandoned his lacquered-looking process for the "fro." Dresswise, Flip did not go the route of the Nehru suit and the Mao jacket like so many others.... Flip means a lot to all Americans—young or old; black, white, or plaid. Those of us who remember say that Flip Wilson is the greatest since Amos and Andy.

—Jay Parker,  
"Flip Wilson the Traditionalist"  
MAY 1971



# Sex, Lies, and Kinsey

## Exposing the father of child abuse.

**M**y survey (sample size: three) shows that the younger generation has not heard of the Kinsey report. For college students everywhere, then, I offer an update—Kinsey has been in the news. Alfred Kinsey (1894-1956) was born in Hoboken, New Jersey, and became a zoologist, contrary to his father's wishes. For a number of years he studied nothing but gall wasps. He joined the zoology department of Indiana University in 1920 and, tired of wasps, started to research the sexual behavior of a different animal—humans. It never crossed his mind that humans were other than animals. When he added a photographer to his Institute for Sex Research in Bloomington, and the university wanted to know why, Kinsey said he wanted to film animal sex. He did not tell them humans would be included, and no doubt didn't think the omission dishonest. Kinsey's sex research was funded by the Rockefeller Foundation, which paid \$40,000 a year (real money in those days) until 1954. Kinsey was a workaholic, went to the office seven days a week, and died of heart failure aged 62. He had three children.

Early on, Kinsey's institute began collecting pornography. His assistant Wardell Pomeroy called it "the largest collection of erotica in the world, larger than the British Museum's and presumed to be more extensive than the legendary Vatican collection." Kinsey often referred to the Vatican collection in his public lectures. In *Degenerate Moderns: Modernity as Rationalized Sexual Misbehavior* (1993), E.

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Michael Jones brilliantly dissected this smear, showing the Vatican rumor to be without any foundation. A researcher told Jones that the Institute's collection, unlike others, was not "for prurient interest." Jones commented: "If the Vatican were to collect pornography, their interest would be clearly prurient. When sex researchers do the same thing they accuse others of, they do so only from the highest scientific motive. The double standard bespeaks anti-Catholic bigotry more than anything else."

Kinsey's first volume, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male*, was published in 1948. The Female volume followed in 1953. By Kinsey's report, sexual behavior was more varied than believed. Eighty-five percent of males had intercourse before marriage. Ten percent were "more or less exclusively homosexual," 13 percent "predominantly" so; 37 percent had had at least one homosexual experience to orgasm. These claims were grossly exaggerated. Only 2.4 percent of those surveyed in exit polls in the 1992 presidential election, with a sample three times larger than Kinsey's, claimed to be homosexual or bisexual. "Volunteer error" and a sample including 25 percent or more prison inmates (many of them sex-offenders) badly skewed Kinsey's figures. The male volume was based on 5,300 subjects. "Several hundred" male prostitutes and 1,400 sex offenders were interviewed, but Kinsey's constant evasions about the precise composition of his sample—one of the most suspicious aspects of his research—have made it difficult for statisticians to nail down the error precisely.

The volunteer problem was pointed out by the prominent psychologist Abraham Maslow even before Kinsey's report was

published. In 1942, he warned in print that volunteers always include many "high dominance people and therefore will show a falsely high percentage of non-virginity, masturbation, promiscuity, homosexuality, etc., in the population." Maslow then demonstrated that it had arisen with the Brooklyn College students whom Kinsey himself had interviewed for his survey. The "error was proven, and the whole basis for Kinsey's statistics was proven to be shaky," Maslow wrote in a letter to a colleague a few weeks before his death in 1970. But Kinsey "refused to publish it and refused even to mention it in his books, or to mention anything else that I had written. All my work was excluded from his bibliography."

**H**ow did Kinsey et al. know their subjects were telling the truth? Dr. Pomeroy explains it for us: The Kinsey system of "asking questions rapidly" made exaggeration "almost impossible." (People wouldn't remember what lie they had told half an hour later. Sure they wouldn't.) Kinsey assumed that subjects covered up more than they exaggerated and "inclined to an ethic of abundance," Paul Robinson wrote in *The Modernization of Sex*. Kinsey assumed that everyone had engaged in every type of activity. "Consequently," he wrote, "we always begin by asking *when* they first engaged in such activity"—not *if*.

Kinsey undermined the norm by imputing omnifarious activity to normal people. "Continuous variation," he wrote, "is the rule among men as well as among insects.... Our conceptions of right and wrong, normal and abnormal, are seriously challenged by [these] studies." He subverted moral standards by demonstrating "scientifically" that they weren't observed in practice. He legitimized deviance by exaggerating its frequency. A writer in the *Amer-*