

THE

March 2008

# PRINCETON TORY

## McCoshed:

A special investigation reveals  
incompetence and ethical lapses  
at Princeton's health center

**Also Inside:**

The untold story of the Nava response

Princeton's Preacher

Sex Jeopardy!

& Whit Stillman



# THE PRINCETON TORY

March 2007  
Volume XXIV - Issue IV

*Publisher*  
Matthew J. Schmitz '08

*Editor in Chief*  
Sherif Girgis '08

*Senior Managing Editor*  
Jordan Reimer '08

*Production Manager*  
Rick Morgan '09

*Financial Manager*  
Matt Martin '08

*Managing Editors*  
Emely Peña '09  
Leon Furchtgott '09

*Production Team*  
Brendan Lyons '09  
Julius Dimas '09

*Publisher Emeritus*  
Juliann Vikse '08

*Webmaster*  
Johnny Love '09

## Staff Writers

Stefan McDaniel '08  
David Colquitt '09  
Leon Furchtgott '09  
Andrew Malcolm '09  
Jose Alicea '10  
Greg Burnham '10  
Jonathan Extein '10

Brandon McGinley '10  
Wes Morgan '10  
Shivani  
Radhakrishnan '11  
Andrew Saraf '11  
Emma Yates '11  
Jakub Voboril '11

## Board of Trustees

Peter Heinecke '87  
David Daniels '89  
Anna Bray Duff '92  
Peter Hegseth '02

Brian Tvenstrup '95  
Wickham Schmidt '99  
Timothy Webster '99

*The Princeton Tory* is a journal of conservative and moderate political thought written, edited and produced by Princeton University students and delivered free of charge to all Princeton students and faculty. *The Princeton Tory* is a publication of The Princeton Tory, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editors, trustees, Princeton University, or the Princeton Tory, Inc.

*The Princeton Tory* accepts letters to the editor. Direct correspondence to: P.O. Box 1499, Princeton, NJ 08542; or by e-mail: [tory@princeton.edu](mailto:tory@princeton.edu). Advertisement rates for *The Princeton Tory* can be found on the magazine's website at [www.princeton.tory.com](http://www.princeton.tory.com). Donations to *The Princeton Tory* are fully tax-deductible. Please mail donations to: P.O. Box 1499, Princeton, NJ 08542.

*The Princeton Tory* is a member of the Collegiate Network. *The Princeton Tory* gives special thanks to the Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Princeton Alumni Viewpoints, and The Bachman Foundation.

The Princeton Tory, Inc. is a non-profit corporation registered in New Jersey. No part of this publication should be construed to promote any pending legislation or to support any candidate for office. No part of this publication may be reproduced without express written consent of the Publisher.

Copyright © 2008 The Princeton Tory

## From the Publisher

A special investigation in this issue of the Tory reveals that after a 116-year history of serving the campus community, McCosh Clinic has recently been plagued by ethics lapses and violations of state law. Since 2003, McCosh has broken the law by failing to send in important data used to protect students from outbreaks of STDs. During the same time, McCosh's director, Daniel Silverman, established a relationship with a consulting firm that violated university ethics rules and resulted in a lucrative job for Silverman.



Despite the fact that Silverman has left the University, Princeton has decided to continue to pay for his advice as an outside consultant. His job? Telling Princeton how to improve its health services. Students, parents and alumni should demand that Silverman and his firm be barred from receiving any more of Princeton's money.

McCosh's failure to support STDs is part of a broader failure to warn of the risks students face. Now that one in four Princeton students is thought to have an STD, it has become apparent that the Orange Bubble is not made of latex. But administrators are unwilling to speak out about the risks posed by random hookups, claiming that to do so would amount to taking a moral position on students' private lives. However, doctors already advise on the risks of smoking, over-eating and a host of other 'lifestyle choices'. Sex should not be immune to good advice.

It is due to the efforts of the Tory's writers, editors and staff, that these revelations, first cracked open by Kyle Smith '09, have come to light. Our present staff is the finest the magazine has ever had. Through a relentless focus on reporting campus events and challenging administration orthodoxies, they have built the magazine's reputation enormously. Arguments are never stronger than when they are based on the reporting of new facts. I would encourage young writers like Emma Yates, Shivani Radhakrishnan and Christine Bokman to continue with their excellent reporting. With the magazine in the hands of Joel Alicea and Leon Furchtgott, our new Publisher and Editor-in-Chief respectively, I hope that this next year it will be even stronger.

Administrators have a responsibility for protecting student health, and though Latin may be a dead language, in loco parentis is a concept much in need of reviving. McCosh will not be healthy until students can be confident that they are getting medical advice unfiltered by political correctness and that the clinic is complying with health laws. McCosh can begin its recovery by following the law, adhering to ethics codes, and giving students the information they need to make informed choices.

Conservatively,

Matthew J. Schmitz '08

# THE PRINCETON TORY

March 2008

[www.princeton.edu/~tory](http://www.princeton.edu/~tory)

## IN THIS ISSUE:

### McCOSHED: COVER STORY ON PAGE 14

TORY EXCLUSIVE ON NEW JERSEY'S INVESTIGATION OF McCOSH

### POINTS AND PUNTS PAGE 4

## CAMPUS

### 6 MISPLACED NEUTRALITY

The Office of Religious Life

### 8 THE STATE OF SEX ED

Princeton's approach to the birds & the bees

### 10 McCOSHED

A Tory exclusive

## NATION & WORLD

### 13 TROUBLE AHEAD?

Worries about young conservatism

### 15 DOOMED PRINCETON

The pleasures of Whit Stillman's Metropolitan

THE TORY BLOG:  
[WWW.PRINCETONTORY.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://WWW.PRINCETONTORY.BLOGSPOT.COM)



# POINTS & PUNTS

## THE TORY TACKLES THE NEWS

Nothing ever happens in Princeton. Even the year's biggest headline, the assault of Francisco Nava '09, turned out to be a hoax; the big shock of the story was precisely that nothing had happened. In the course of four days we went from Nava to nada. But even while the administration put forward a placid front, there was a good deal of anger within West College. An email sent by Mindy Andino, a staffer in Butler College, stated that, "Dean Herbold is upset that she was not notified nor [was] anyone in West College." Andino apologized to Nava for the slowness, saying in the email, "Chuck Duvall is looking into the Public Safety aspect of why a report was not sent to West College." Despite the fact that a student was thought to have received several threats, the relevant administrators didn't get so much as a note. After Nava filed an initial (and, of course, false) report on November 11th, he heard nothing from Public Safety until over

two weeks later. Even though the threats turned out to be fake, the danger was real. Nava's actions were beyond the pale, but wounds are no less severe just because they are self-inflicted. Had the University been responsive from the first, Nava could have been caught out in his lies before the situation exploded into public view.

Michelle Obama '85's grace and intelligence on the campaign trail have been a credit to her alma mater. It's distressing, though, that when reporters began to ask for her thesis, the University chose to seal it. This would be a justifiable move had Princeton not treated one of its other alumni so differently. When Samuel Alito was up for consideration before the Supreme Court, the University posted a PDF file of his thesis online. Either approach is reasonable, but doing both at once so as to manipulate the political process is brazen.

Rumors are circulating that Professor Paul Muldoon, head of the Center for the Creative and Performing Arts has given support and his stamp of approval to a group called 'Taft's Tub', an exclusionary society dedicated to the arts. His involvement raises questions of fairness, as students try to discern if this is a secret society or just the newest student group. The facts are fuzzy, but what is least clear is why this group's formation has occurred in the shadows. If it really is exclusionary, Muldoon should disassociate himself and apologize to the students he serves. We'll see if and how he extricates himself from this basin.

Lovers of nature and beauty have enjoyed the recent sightings of a quail on campus. It is a rare pleasure for Princeton's campus to be frequented by a bird as beautiful as she is delicious. The quail has appeared near Forbes College.

One of the sadder developments on Princeton's campus is the loss of the Healthy Eating Lab. Most students hated it, and they had their reasons. There was something especially fitting in its acronym (HEL). But for some, admittedly a very small minority, the Healthy Eating Lab provided a break from the tidiness and bustle of campus. At Princeton, where every space is utilized, it is hard to find a spot that not only feels like a bombed out parking garage, but is actually as empty as one. Even the employees stood outside its door to escape the place and get a glance at the nearby big screen. Though what the Healthy Eating Lab offered was never in demand, it was at least unlike anything else on campus.

It is time to consider candidates for Young Alumni Trustee. Among them is Grant Gittlin, who, despite serving as class president for three years, has paradoxically spent less time on campus than perhaps any of his classmates. As a member of the KA fraternity and an Ivy officer, Gittlin has had an undergraduate experience vastly different from that of most of today's Princetonians. It's easier to note Grant's problems when there are several other good candidates. Bennett Glassman has served capably as the chair of the Honor Committee and exudes competence. Rohan Joshi brought Ruckus to campus and gained interesting experience while studying abroad. Bill Foran, the former quarterback and track star, brings the valuable perspective of a varsity athlete, a group that deserves more of a voice but is heard from infrequently because of busy practice schedules.

The student with the most-needed perspective on campus life is Rob Biederman, who as an independent student and a member of Whitman College understands the University's social fault lines. His experiences will enable him to inform the Trustee Board about the problems faced by independent students and

about what improvements are needed in the four-year colleges. Trustees looking for news of what's new on campus are likely to find their most knowledgeable source in Rob Biederman.



Former USG president Rob Biederman

as raised by the Princeton Animal Welfare Society. Much to my surprise, in that same edition, the Tory printed an article by Leon Furchtgott analyzing PAWS' tactics and discussing the philosophy underlying that organization's protests. I thank them for their coverage and intellectual engagement.

Nonetheless, PAWS differs with the conclusion drawn by Furchtgott, particularly that we have not advanced any philosophical position. While PAWS is not an organization that seeks to shove ideology down the throats of students, we have held at least as many events in the past year dedicated to propounding the philosophy of animal liberation as we have had awareness raising demonstrations. It is also worth noting that the argument for animal "equality," as advanced by many PAWS members, is not based on the ridiculous proposition discussed by Furchtgott that animals are the same as humans in the external characteristics. Instead, we advocate the less-easily dismissed claim that animals are like us in that they can suffer and in that they, too, value their own lives.

This argument is ignored only at the risk of perpetuating systematic and unnecessary abuse of sentient beings worldwide. I therefore encourage the Tory to continue to follow its own advice to "welcome PAWS to the debate and pay close attention to what it has to say," a cue that progressive groups would be wise to follow as well. Most importantly, Tory readers should heed Furchtgott's admonition that food has "moral as well as physiological dimensions" and critically evaluate their own dietary choices. It is a great relief that the Tory has realized that this issue is too critical to ignore.

The **TORY** is online!  
[www.princeton.edu/~tory](http://www.princeton.edu/~tory)

**Bookmark the Tory Blog:**  
[www.princeton.tory.blogspot.com](http://www.princeton.tory.blogspot.com)

### Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

Sometimes, it is a pleasure to eat one's words. Earlier this year, I wrote a letter to the Tory admonishing the editors to treat seriously the issue of animal exploitation,

Sincerely,  
 Alex Barnard '09  
 Vice President  
 Princeton Animal Welfare Society

## HELP!

We cannot continue to spread the conservative message without your financial support. The magazine receives **no funding from the University**, so we rely on you.

Remember, a gift of \$25 or more gets you a year's subscription to *The Princeton Tory*, and a gift of \$500 or more gets you a lifetime subscription. *Thank you!*

Mail to:  
 The Princeton Tory  
 P.O. Box 1499  
 Princeton, NJ 08542

**YES!** I want to help *The Princeton Tory* keep conservatism strong at Princeton. I am enclosing my tax-deductible contribution for:

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| ___ \$25  | ___ \$250   |
| ___ \$50  | ___ \$500   |
| ___ \$75  | ___ \$1,000 |
| ___ \$100 | ___ \$      |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_



# MISPLACED NEUTRALITY

## THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS LIFE AND DEAN BODEN

*Christine Bokman '11 and  
Shivani Radhakrishnan '11*

The mission of the Office of Religious Life is to “support all religious traditions in the practice and expression of their faith.” Last spring, Rev Alison Boden was chosen as the new Dean of Religious Life and of the University Chapel. Boden is

***“The Office of Religious Life has no formal (or informal) positions on any theological or political question.”***

a minister in the United Church of Christ; prior to coming to Princeton, she spent twelve years as Dean of Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago. Boden’s vision for the Office of Religious Life is one of neutrality on a variety of issues. But in practice, the dean has not completely upheld this ideal.

In a recent interview, she consistently reiterated her desire for impartiality. Boden seemed willing to encourage interfaith dialogue and engage a variety of speakers, even if they presented a minority conservative view that would be contested among Princeton students. When asked, Boden confirmed that the ORL would even support speakers

from groups like Courage, an organization that helps same-sex attracted Catholics who wish to abstain from acting on their sexual desires. Asked further whether the ORL takes a stance on contested moral questions like the ethics of homosexual conduct, Dean Boden gave a resounding No: “The Office of Religious Life has no formal (or informal) positions on any

theological or political question.” This is commendable. Recent criticism of the ORL, including in these pages, has shown how a religious life office that doubles as the Democratic Party’s mouthpiece on campus cannot adequately serve the whole religious community at Princeton, which spans the political spectrum. Individual ministers will, of course, espouse the moral and theological views of the traditions which they represent, but the ORL itself ought to remain neutral among these if it is to serve them. Especially at a university,

tolerance, civility, and reciprocity are necessary for healthy debate about contested issues.

But will Dean Boden be able to uphold this ideal of neutrality? Does she exemplify the intellectual virtues she swears by? In her years at Rockefeller Chapel, Boden not only infused politics into her sermons but often took an explicit stance on key contested issues. In a 2002 sermon, for instance, Boden declared:

“Our President and his close advisors seem determined to

throw a war, no matter how many citizens are against it... we are currently in such a bizarre, surreal situation, blithely engaging in national musing about whether or not to kill thousands of people in Iraq, not to mention thousands or more from the US, neighboring countries in the Middle East, etc. Any self-righteousness we muster to support Bush’s appetite for war is flat-out dangerous—it is evil itself.” Certainly, these statements are far from an impartial reading of the facts; they clearly assert Boden’s convictions.



*Dean Boden*

Of course, as an individual and even a United Church minister, Boden—like other ORL leaders—is entitled to express her views on political questions. However,

wonders how Boden’s implicit sympathy for Mr. Ahmadinehad’s oppressive and aggressively anti-Semitic regime would be taken by, say, the ORL’s Jewish constituency,



when it comes to determining policies and otherwise discharging her duties as ORL dean under the semblance of neutrality, such pointed policy statements from the pulpit would be inappropriate.

However, Boden’s actions have spoken just as loudly as her words. While at the University of Chicago, she organized a trip to Tehran, and although she was unable to

If the ORL shows any partiality, it should be toward religion

***The ORL should be partial towards the practice of religion and neutral on political issues, not vice versa.***

over irreligion. Boden hopes “to make religious programming as relevant, substantive, and uplifting as possible, both for those who seek out religious or spiritual com-

those who forgo any form of religion or spirituality would be analogous to the Women’s Center holding an equal number of events geared towards males as females, or the LGBT Center spending half of its time focusing on heterosexual relationships.

Dean Boden’s words and actions thus suggest a misplaced neutrality. With regards to politics and foreign affairs, advocacy sermons and trips should not be associated with the campus office meant to serve all people of faith. Conversely, where the ORL is expected by definition to favor religion, Boden is hesitant to do so. The ORL should be partial towards the practice of religion and neutral on political issues, not vice versa. But if Dean Boden follows through on her commitment to neutrality among competing moral and political claims without allowing that concern to di-

***If Dean Boden follows through on her commitment to neutrality among competing moral and political claims... then her tenure bodes well for faith and reason alike on our campus.***

join the excursion, she expressed interest in hearing “from a variety of Iranians about ‘the axis of evil’ representation by the US.” But of course, the ‘axis of evil’ moniker attaches to the Iranian government, not to its people. One

community and those who do not.”

But the ORL’s primary focus should be people who are interested in religious and spiritual direction. The ORL serves precisely people of faith; for it to provide equal attention to

ute the

ORL’s focus on religious groups, then her tenure bodes well for reason and faith alike on our campus.



*Christine Bokman and Shivani Radhakrishnan are members of the Class of 2011.*



# THE STATE OF SEX ED

## AN INSIDE LOOK AT SEXUAL HEALTH ADVISORS AND SEX JEOPARDY

Emma Yates '11

I was not aware that a condom could be cut in half and put over a woman's vagina during oral sex or that dental dams come in flavors and cool colors like violet—before I attended the freshman Safer Sex Jeopardy Program. Safer Sex Jeopardy is a sexual education program put on by the Sexual Health Advisors (SHAs) that advises freshman “zee groups” about sexual decision-making according to the basic Jeopardy format. The SHAs are a group of students who operate under the guidance of UHS and help students make informed sexual decisions. In Safer Sex Jeopardy, students choose among the categories Contraception and Birth Control, Relationships, STIs, Grab Bag, and LGBT Sex, and they answer questions weighted between one hundred

and five hundred points. While this program, unlike Sex on a Saturday Night, is not required, it is strongly recommended that all freshmen attend.

In my three weeks of attempting to understand the Sexual Health Advisors program, I must say that my interactions with individual SHA's have been pleasant. I had a nice conversation with the SHAs who put on Safer Sex Jeopardy for my 'zee group, though I was later asked to not print any of the contents of that conversation. The president of the SHAs is apparently the only

person whose answers can be considered authoritative, and (according to her) those answers must come exclusively by email after being reviewed by the Communications Office of the University.

The answers that former SHA president Anna Bialek '09 provided to me describe a program that I would unequivocally support if it actually

functioned according to her descriptions. In fact, I might even seek to become a SHA. The goal of Safer Sex Jeopardy, according to Bialek, is merely to “provide students with accurate information to help them make whatever sexual decision they choose to make in the healthiest way possible.” The content of the program is continually evolving in response to student evaluations and questions that the SHAs receive. In preparation for their duties, the SHAs participate in a multi-day training program at the beginning of the year and receive continuing education from UHS and the remainder of the campus health

community. Additionally, statistics are reviewed by “other experts in the campus community” such as staff member Debbie Bazarsky of the LGBT Center.

In reality, though, Safer Sex Jeopardy is not as sex-neutral as it purports to be—or even as informative.

The SHAs certainly provide students with a wealth of information, including such reassuring statistics as the fact that 91.2% of students believe that sex is better when sober. However, all of the statistics referenced by the SHAs relate to

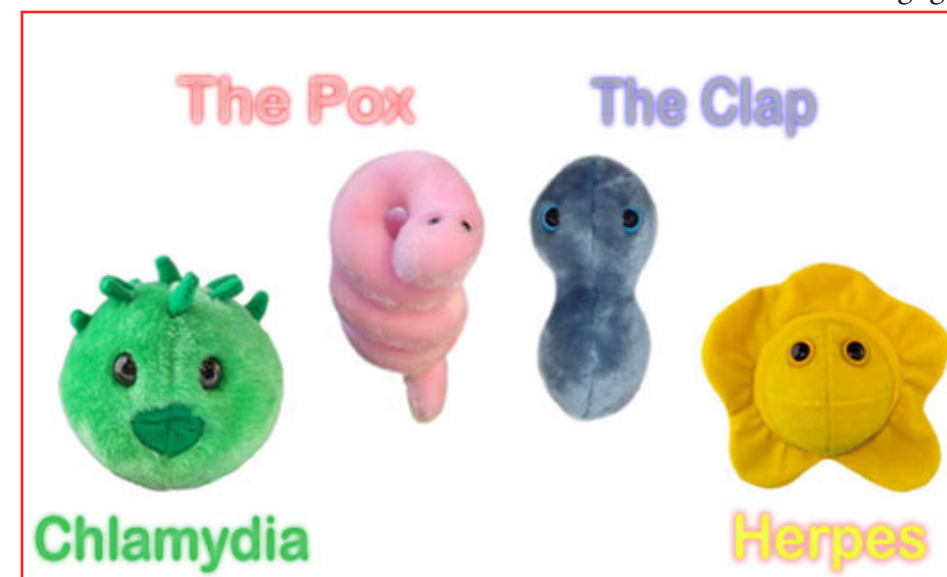


Sex Jeopardy

college students in general rather than to Princeton students. According to Janet Finnie, the Interim Director of University Health Services (UHS), “Because some students seek health care elsewhere or do not visit UHS for treatment, figures for the prevalence on Princeton's campus are not available.” It would seem that whatever statistics we do have would be very important for sexual decision-making, however, especially since a student's risk of contracting an STI increases dramatically after having sex with four partners. Since Princeton students are most likely to have sex with other Princeton students, statistics de-

for choosing abstinence, which led students to provide such answers as “self-confidence issues.” I later learned that abstinence is actually one of two final Jeopardy questions, the other involving a race to put a condom on a banana. But the remainder of the Safer Sex Jeopardy questions within my presentation did not deal in any substantive or memorable way with abstinence. Despite good intentions and mission-statement-like generalizations, the SHA's programming is no beacon of neutrality on moral issues. Instead it seems to operate as an instruction manual on how to engage in the hook-up culture with minimized but crucially unstated risk.

I firmly believe that the SHAs have the best of intentions, and that they do see the Safer Sex Jeopardy program as “an effective and memorable way of getting students basic sexual health information early in their college years,” as Bialek stated. It seems to me, though, that if students remember Safer Sex Jeopardy at all when making sexual decisions, they will remember the fact that sexually transmitted diseases have recently been reinvented as sexually transmitted infections to downplay their significance.



Plush STDs were some of the Safer Sex Jeopardy prizes at Frist FluFest.

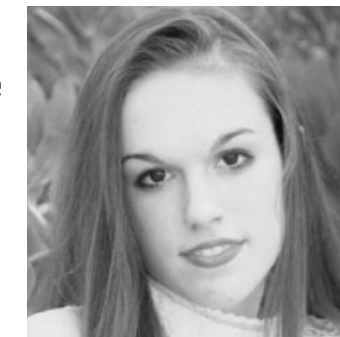
scribing the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases on campus should be a crucial part of Safer Sex Jeopardy and the SHAs' other programs.

Moreover, though Bialek claims that abstinence, “the only 100% effective way to prevent

***Our final jeopardy question directed students to write down five reasons for choosing abstinence, which led students to provide such answers as “self-confidence issues.”***

the spread of STIs and, for heterosexual couples, pregnancy” is “fundamental” to sexual health education and is adequately covered in SHA programming, this was not my experience with Safer Sex Jeopardy. True, our final Jeopardy question directed students to write down five reasons

They will remember student-created team names like “Masturbation 3.14” and be reminded that, if University programming is any indication of its position, conservative sexual decisions and thought are a clear variation from what is normal and expected. They will remember that heterosexism, the presumption that someone is heterosexual, is categorically unacceptable. Most of all, they will realize, as I did, that if they choose to make conservative sexual decisions, they will be going against the grain and struggling against an entrenched culture unequivocally accepted—perhaps even perpetuated—by the University.



Emma Yates is a freshman from Coconut Creek, FL.



# McCOSHED:

## A CLINIC PLAGUED BY ETHICS LAPSES, INCOMPETENCE LEAVES STUDENTS AT RISK FROM STDs.

Matthew J. Schmitz '08

Shortly before the unexpected departure of Princeton's top chief medical officer this summer, an investigation by the State of New Jersey revealed that since 2003, Princeton's McCosh Health Center has failed to comply with state laws for reporting STDs. The state investigation, which involved a visit from a surveillance team and an official warning, was concealed from students and administrators. Vice President Janet Dickerson, who directly supervises the head of McCosh, did not learn of the state investigation until three months after it occurred. When a Tory reporter asked her to comment on the case she was caught unawares. "I'm looking surprised here," Dickerson said, "and it's not often that I look surprised."

McCosh's motive for concealing the event was not clear, but details gathered over several months provide context for what was a major breach in protecting public health at a health center harried by ethical difficulties. The investigation comes at a time of instability. A month after the investigation, Daniel Silverman, head of University Health Services and McCosh Health Center, left Princeton to work for a consulting firm that he had assisted in winning no-bid contracts from the University.

On June 25, the State of New Jersey sent a surveillance team from its STD program to meet with officials at McCosh. Sexually-transmitted diseases, or STDs, is the official term used by the state of New Jersey for what McCosh calls sexually transmitted

infections. The surveillance team instituted a plan of "corrective action" and "remedial measures" to ensure that all past cases were reported. They also instituted a plan requiring McCosh to submit to quarterly reviews in order to ensure continued compliance. The warning Princeton received is the first step in a process that can lead to fines and even

revocation of the license for Princeton's University Health Services and its clinic, the McCosh Health Center. Such steps will be pursued if University Health Services (UHS) fails to remedy its reporting failures. New Jersey law requires that STDs be reported within 24 hours of diagnosis. While most communicable diseases can be reported to local officials, STDs like gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis are grouped with tuberculosis and hepatitis C in a more serious class that must be reported directly to the state. For



McCosh Health Center

the eighteen months before last June, the state had received no STD reports from McCosh. Local health officials were also not notified.

Janet Finnie, interim director for UHS, downplayed the importance of the state's investigation, saying in an email, "We make every effort to be in compliance with state health policies." According to her statement, reporting STDs was the responsibility of Quest Diagnostics, the lab that the University hires to conduct STD testing

every effort to be in compliance with state health policies." According to her statement, reporting STDs was the responsibility of Quest Diagnostics, the lab that the University hires to conduct STD testing

**One in four Princeton students is believed to be infected with an STD.**

## A Conflict of Interest

Around the time of the investigation, Silverman left the University for a job at Keeling & Associates, a higher-education consulting firm that Silverman helped gain several no-bid contracts in violation of University ethics rules. As a consultant for Keeling, Silverman will be advising Princeton on how to improve its health services.

Keeling & Associates provides consulting services to universities seeking advice on how to improve their operations. It has provided Princeton with a range of services, going from reports on how to improve McCosh to organizing retreats and conferences.

Janet Finnie, Silverman's former employee and temporary replacement, said that she expects Silverman to be working with Princeton in his capacity as a Keeling employee.

Silverman's relationship with the firm violated University ethics rules designed to prevent unfairness and conflicts of interest. They state

that any contract exceeding \$2,500 be awarded through a bidding process. This ensures that contracts are awarded to the person with the lowest price, not with the most influence.

If for some reason the contract cannot be awarded by bid, a form must be filed explaining why. In one case in 2004, Silverman endorsed Keeling for a no-bid contract worth \$15,000 for which no exemption form was filed. None of the people involved in the contract could offer a reason for why no bid was asked for. Though others also favored the contract, only Silverman was the only one who later sought to benefit financially from his dealings with the firm. In the end Keeling received the contract for \$15,000, and did so without facing any competition.

University administrators flatly denied that Silverman's dealings with Keeling involved a conflict of interest. Vice Presidents Janet Dickerson and Bob Durkee both pointed to Keeling's "sterling reputation." The contract for the Health and Well Being Task Force was awarded at the urging of Sil-

on samples collected from students. However, since 2003, state regulations have required reporting directly from the health provider. New Jersey law, which is similar to most states, requires doctors to file confidential reports that include the name, age, race and home address of any person diagnosed with an STD. The reports are the state's primary means of tracking infection rates and preventing outbreaks. Thomas Slater, press secretary for the state Department of Health and Senior Services, stressed the importance of the STD reports: "It gives us an overall picture to see what disease we need to address, to see whether or not there are public health emergencies." Due to McCosh's reporting failures, there has been no such protection for most of the time current students have been on campus.

The reports are the state's primary means of tracking infection rates and preventing outbreaks. Thomas Slater, press secretary for the state Department of Health and Senior Services, stressed the importance of the STD reports: "It gives us an overall picture to see what disease we need to address, to see whether or not there are public health emergencies." Due to McCosh's reporting failures, there has been no such protection for most of the time current students have been on campus.



Daniel Silverman

### McCosh Clinic: Broken law, bad ethics

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 2003 | McCosh begins to break STD reporting law.   |
| 2004 | Task force cites problems with regulatory compliance. Consulting firm Keeling & Associates gets \$15,000 contract in violation of ethics rules.   |
| 2005 | All STD reporting stops. Consulting relationship continues.   |
| 2006 | June 11 Investigation begins. June 20 McCosh begins to advertise for Silverman replacement. June 25 Surveillance team visits. Aug 15 Silverman leaves for Keeling. Sept 30 Dickerson first hears of STD failures. |
| 2007 |   |
| 2008 | Meeting to select new director.   |



verman and Dickerson. Dickerson had dealt with Keeling & Associates at Duke, where she worked before coming to Princeton. Vice President Bob Durkee, whose office handled the contract, declined to produce it, citing a change in secretaries.

Silverman's dealings with Keeling continued as late as this August, when he hired Keeling to organize a retreat for staff at the health center. Silverman is also continuing to work on an intercollegiate health panel that he joined as a representative of Princeton. Silverman did not respond to phone calls and emails requesting comment.



Janet Finnie

## A Student Inquires

The events that led to New Jersey's censure of McCosh began on a Saturday night last April. Then-Princeton sophomore Kyle Smith was studying with a group of friends. When conversation turned to Princeton's 'hookup culture,' someone remarked that the one in four students on campus is believed to be infected with an STD. The one-in-four figure reflects campus health administrators' belief, affirmed in multiple conversations with McCosh officials, that Princeton's rate of infection reflects the national average. Concerned by such high figures, Smith decided to learn more.

At the campus health center, triage nurse Miriam Torres told Smith that state regulations require the reporting of new STD cases. Months later, Finnie and Silverman, who ran the clinic, claimed ignorance on changes in the state reporting law. State law requires that administrators take responsibility for STDs on campus. In addition to physicians and certain types of nurses, people overseeing institutions of higher education are required to report cases of STDs.

When Smith called the state to learn how many

STDs McCosh had reported, state officials—who later cited Smith's inquiry as the impetus for their investigation—discovered that McCosh had broken the law.

## Danger from STDs

The problems that would lead to the state investigation were noted over three years ago in a University report. The report, written by the Health and Well Being Task Force cited failings in regulatory compliance and data collection. According to the report, there was "simply no way for UHS to operate" without hiring additional staff. The University heeded this warning by giving \$195,291 to health services. Just a year after the warning and funding increase, the state stopped receiving any STD reports for Princeton students.

Princeton's failure comes at the same time other colleges face problems with STDs. Miriam Grossman, a psychologist with UCLA's Student Psychological Services, argues in her book *Unprotected* that during her tenure at UCLA, administrators did not do enough to make students aware of the physical and psychological consequences of casual sex. Last year, nearly 10% of students at ten southeastern colleges tested positive for chlamydia. Grossman faults campuses nationwide for the lack of medically accurate health education: "Too many young people, especially young women, are paying a very high price."

Months after Silverman's departure, the University is well into a search for his replacement. In January it convened an informal dinner meeting that included administrators and applicants for Silverman's post. Notably absent, according to one participant, was any mention of the state investigation of McCosh or of Silverman's history with Keeling & Associates.



Matthew J. Schmitz is a senior from O'Neill, NE. He is the Publisher of the Princeton Tory.

# TROUBLE AHEAD?

## A PERSONAL TAKE ON THE YOUNG CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT

Andrew Saraf '11

The 2006 midterm disaster and the impending presidential election have prompted a great deal of soul-searching on the Right. This soul-searching, ideally a meditative affair, has become something of an inquisitorial one; but the opportunity to ponder conservatism's current state is welcome nonetheless. As

I reflect on our uncertain situation and try to get a sense of what the future will bring, I find myself looking at my own milieu—the college campus—for signs of

the times. Campuses have been an integral part of the conservative movement since the 1980s; from such books as *The Closing of the American Mind* and *Illiberal Education* to such organizations as Students for Academic Freedom and the Young America's Foundation, opposition to leftist administrators and academics has been instrumental in defining the movement, cementing its intergenerational appeal and, most importantly, recruiting its leaders. The strength of the college conservative movement is, then, a sign of conservatism's intellectual health and a leading indicator of its political potency.

So how are we doing? The situation is not easy to assess. A freshman's experiences are admittedly not the strongest basis for judgment; life as a college conservative has so far consisted of showing up at a handful of meetings and writing an article about South Park for this magazine. My relationship with the young conservative movement, however, began well before September 2007. As a high school junior increasingly skeptical of my community's liberal worldview, and increasingly drawn to alternative ideas, I got my first

taste of the ideological isolation felt by many campus conservatives. I got my first taste, too, of conservative activism: I, along with fellow student Avishek Panth (Duke '11), challenged our school's "Peace Studies" course, pointing to its rather blatant political bias. We catalogued the course's many absurdities on the high school listserv—a pacifist "guest lecturer" who always seemed to overstay his

***I had long thought of modern liberalism as an intellectually ascendant persuasion, whatever its flaws; the intellectual dishonesty of the class's apologists thus came to me as a shock.***

welcome, a class textbook edited by said guest lecturer, guest speakers invited by said guest lecturer, weekly antiwar protests (on school time) whose organizer need not be mentioned—and called for more speakers, representing alternative views, to be brought in.

As we took heat for our stance, I found myself becoming increasingly sympathetic to conservative grievances. I had long thought of modern liberalism as an intellectually ascendant persuasion, whatever its flaws; the intellectual dishonesty of the class's apologists thus came to me as a shock. Parents, residents of the seventh most educated city in America, accused us of impudence, slander and (gasp) neoconservatism. A debate about the meaning of education fast became an argument about Bush, with our own position dismissed as pro-war, Republican propaganda. The lecturer's fundamental presumption—that his personal vision represented the world's last, best hope—was never questioned; as one student wrote in a local newspaper, "we all just need to understand that the class teaches peace." The Left, I realized, this Left, had no place for me; our notions of plural-

ism, of what was within the pale of academic discourse, were no longer compatible. My self-identification as a liberal, which had remained even as I abandoned "progressive" orthodoxy, no longer seemed reasonable.

As one can probably surmise, it was a rather nasty, disillusioning ordeal. But it had its redeeming qualities. Individuals and institutions that we had previously viewed with

suspicion—Students for Academic Freedom (SAF), Young America's Foundation (YAF), the Wall Street Journal, blogger and FOX News contributor Michelle Malkin—praised our efforts.

It was my first real, honest encounter with the American Right. What I saw, beyond a source of support, was a movement characterized by its ardor and solidarity, qualities displayed even when addressing supposedly local, minor issues. More importantly, I was exposed to ideas that I had embraced but been unable to properly express. I had, in clichéd terms, found something to care about and be committed to, a group of people who saw the world as I did and knew what to do about it. I, along with my fellow critic, promptly became "involved"—reviving our school's defunct Young Republicans club, working on a local Republican's quixotic congressional campaign, and accepting YAF's invitation to speak at its high school leadership conference.

My enthusiasm, driven partly by bitterness, partly by flattery, and partly by ideological commitment, did not last long. Though I would remain a conservative in ideas, my feelings about the conservative movement, about conservatism in action, grew decidedly ambivalent. Seemingly minor excesses—mere blemishes—began to look more and more like symptoms of a deeper problem. At the



YAF conference, which featured a series of speakers, the most passionate audience plaudits went to Kevin McCullough, who called liberals the “Diabolical Dagger Society” and accused them of social ills ranging from pedophilia to forced abortion. The fact that such a demagogue had been invited by a mainstream organization, a cosponsor of the Conservative Political Action Conference and employer of such public figures as George Allen and Edwin Meese, came as a shock. And, upon learning that Ann “Liberals Just Want to Kill Humans” Coulter was YAF’s most popular campus speaker, I began to suspect that McCullough and a group of immature high schoolers were only part of the problem.

The activities of Students for Academic Freedom – an organization more actively involved in shaping university policy – raised similar concerns. I saw in its agenda troubling signs of cynicism, of a willingness to distort conservative values in the name of narrow ideological goals. Its chief objective, I discovered, was the implementation of an “Academic Bill of Rights” on college campuses. This particular document, it turned out, bore little resemblance to its inspiration. Rather than primarily listing a set of liberties – what students would be free from – it listed a series of entitlements, entitlements that imposed positive requirements on professors and curricula and, presumably, empowered university institutions to enforce those requirements. To justify these “rights,” the increasingly meaningless concept of “diversity” was trotted out. The organization that had taken my side on Peace Studies, I realized, had a vision very different from my own: while I had recommended the modification of an unambiguously biased course offered to high schoolers, SAF seemed to call for a systematic redefinition of the relationship among university administrations, professors and their adult students. The paternalism of this new order, and the Machiavellian use of language to justify it, reeked of the very social theories that conservatives claimed to oppose. In order to promote the ideas of the Right, SAF had em-

braced the very worst tendencies of the Left.

Since those initial disillusionments, my ambivalence has only grown. In September, YAF gloatingly posted a video of Jason Mattera, its youth spokesman, on its website; Mattera’s particular accomplishment was to corner Congressman John Murtha and demand an apology for “besmirching our troops” in the Haditha, Iraq, war crimes case. On October 16, as many Princeton students are aware, SAF’s founder, David Horowitz, dropped by McCosh Hall to give a bombastic, simplistic, and rather embarrassing lecture on “The Global Threat of Islamofascism [and Mike Nifong, Women’s Studies Departments and black urban leaders].” As such “incidents” multiplied, a deeply troubling question formed in my mind: haven’t I seen this somewhere before? Wasn’t this the problem with Peace Studies? Wasn’t it the intellectual dishonesty, the self-righteousness, the sheer shrillness of the Left that led me here in the first place?

My discussions with two of Princeton’s conservative leaders – Jon Fernandez ’08 and Evan Baehr ’05 – gave me an interesting perspective on this problem. Reflecting on their tenures as College Republicans presidents, both emphasized the importance of embracing, rather than denying, intellectual pluralism. Baehr, who also served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Tory*, recounted his efforts to reach out to “feminists, liberals and gay-rights activists” – the very groups conservative commentators vilify on a daily basis – through “joint initiatives such as Princeton Votes.” Though he founded the Princeton chapter of SAF, his agenda displayed none of Horowitz’s anti-intellectualism, placing a premium on speaking with individual professors and students (Prince, Christian Bursat, “Baehr ’05 seeks freedom of academic ideas with new club,” March 29, 2004). Fernandez, recognizing George Will’s dictum that “conservatism comes in many flavors,” discussed the need to respect the “broad array of conservative ideas and values” and give them “a place in the Republican Party.” In talking to these leaders, I noticed a striking contrast to the attitude

of the national organizations that claimed to represent their interest. Having experienced the realities of college politics, they described the campus not as an arena for ideological combat but as a forum for rational debate.

Here, I think, lies the crux of the issue. There is a dangerous disconnect between national conservative leaders and individual conservative students. People like Baehr and Fernandez understand the value, pragmatic and intrinsic, of recognizing pluralism; indeed, such a conclusion follows naturally from life on a modern college campus. The adults running such groups as SAF and YAF, however, tend to view things in much harsher terms. Surveying American universities from a distance, they see a clearly defined battleground, in which college faculties and liberal organizations play the role of irreconcilable enemies. Speaking as a former liberal, I can say with certainty that such an attitude can only alienate the uncommitted, independent-minded students that conservatives should be appealing to; images of David Horowitz pulling a Mike Gravel and Jason Mattera pulling a Michael Moore hardly present an attractive alternative to the foibles of the Left. Such cheap polemicism, more importantly, erodes the firm intellectual foundations on which modern conservatism is built – in Baehr’s words, “thoroughly sapping political debate of any meaning.” Until YAF, SAF and other organizations begin to acknowledge the experiences of young conservatives, a process that young conservatives must initiate, the campus Right will remain in a divided, and troubled, state.



Andrew Saraf is a freshman from Chevy Chase, MD.

# DOOMED PRINCETON

WHIT STILLMAN’S *METROPOLITAN*

*Tory Staff*

Those seniors who are looking beyond the brink of graduation at the strong possibility of failure would do well to view Whit Stillman’s *Metropolitan*. The film skewers a group of Princeton freshmen who return to their homes on the Upper East Side for winter break. Privileged and over-read, they balk before the possibilities of adulthood.

One of the film’s teens is the stuttering Charlie Black, who insists that it is impossible for the vitiated “urban haute bourgeoisie” to succeed because they have been raised in an environment so insulated from failure that any real possibility of success has also vanished. Charlie is sent reeling when a washed-up banker sporting a Princeton tie tells him that some preppies do indeed succeed. Failure, if certain, is easier to countenance.

The one ‘West-Sider’ in the group, Tom Townsend, introduces himself as a follower of Fourier, but is disabused of his ideas when Nick delivers a scathing speech against condescension that also, of course, drips with it: “It’s a tiny bit arrogant of people to go around worrying about those ‘less fortunate’ ...has it occurred to you that you are the less fortunate?” One wonders if the busybody USG of 2005-2006 could have been

avoided if someone had only delivered the same speech to the freshman Leslie-Bernard Joseph.

Stillman’s rejection of activism paves the way for a good-humored embrace of action. When the villain threatens the beautiful Audrey Rouget, the young men set aside their rivalries and go to save the girl.

Stillman carefully chooses his sets to create a singular picture of New York. Scenes were filmed in historic buildings slated for demolition, which the characters travel between in old-style checkered cabs. Nick Smith, the movie’s guiding spirit, expounds on the virtues of detachable collars; it is the details that matter, he insists. Stillman’s meticulously staged sequences do not make one doubt the claim.

In receiving the Criterion treatment for his freshman effort, Stillman shows that success just may be attainable for us all. Unless, like us, you owe thirty dollars in fines to the public library, you would do well to take a trip down Wither- spoon and check out *Metropolitan*. It’s better than writing your thesis.

THE CRITERION COLLECTION

Metropolitan



A film by Whit Stillman



A still from ‘Metropolitan’





Photo and quotation from Whit Stillman's "The Last Days of Disco"

“VD’s not all bad. I think you’ll find it will actually improve your reputation with these guys enormously. You’ll be more popular than ever—watch.”

**THE**  
**PRINCETON**  
**TORY**

The Princeton Tory  
P.O. Box 1499  
Princeton, NJ 08542

First Class  
Mail