

(HURRAH cont. from P.17)
massacred, and the Constitution that will be destroyed if this country goes to war in the Middle East.”

After Bush launched his war, Gonzales wrote to me that this war will “result not only in countless deaths,” but further destabilize “a region that has known nothing but instability for thousands of years. How soon forgotten the last wars: the basket cases, the armless, the legless, the sightless. The Minotaur once again is turned loose by cynical old men to consume our young.” ●

Combatting “Hate Speech”

by The Old
Curmudgeon

Well, they got Doug Hann. Late the night of last October 18, Douglas Hann, a junior at the distinguished Brown University, was celebrating his 21st birthday, along with a few Delta Phi fraternity brothers. In the age-old college and fraternity tradition, the guys were a few sheets to the wind as they walked down dormitory row. Doug Hann yelled into the air a few obscene racist shouts. When a dorm student opened a window and yelled at Doug to “keep it down,” Doug shot back, escalating the racist epithets and adding a crude expression of “homophobia.” A brief, non-violent confrontation ensued, after which the dorm student filed a complaint with the all-powerful, university “disciplinary council.”

The august council, composed of five students and five faculty and administrators, decided Doug’s case. They saw with horror that he was a Second Offender; at the bar of a fraternity party a year

and a half earlier, Doug, possibly a bit tanked there too, had called another student by a racist epithet. As punishment, he was forced to attend a “race relations workshop” and counselling for “possible alcohol abuse,” but for some reason the “professional caregiving” therapy didn’t seem to stick.

And so the disciplinary council, backed by President Vartan Gregorian, expelled Doug Hann this January, under the provisions of one of more than a hundred “hate speech” codes in force in colleges throughout the country. It was a landmark decision, because this is the first time that a college has gone beyond compulsory “therapy,” forced letters of apology, or temporary “dismissal” to outright and final expulsion. Brown’s code bans the subjection of “another person, group or class of persons, to inappropriate, abusive, threatening or demeaning actions based on race, religion, gender, handicap, ethnicity, national origin, or sexual orientation.”

Doug Hann’s freedom of speech was clearly trampled; in its usual “on the one hand, on the other hand,” way, the good grey *New York Times* reported that while some people have “praised the action as a strong message against racism,” others, wonder of wonders! “fear that such extreme actions, when combined with new campus codes against hate speech, will inhibit the free exchange of ideas that is the essential commerce of a university.” These critics don’t seem to realize that, in the last few years, the ideal of free exchange of ideas has been swept aside in most universities, to be replaced by the im-

portance of toeing the monolithic Politically Correct left-liberal line.

It is fascinating to read some of the comments of various academic authorities on the Hann case. Grant M. Ingle, director of “human relations” at U. Mass, Amherst sees only confusion and situational ethics. “There’s not a sharp line,” opined Ingle, separating speech from “offensive conduct or behavior.” Yes, there is, Grant. Remember the First Amendment. Speech, or “speech behavior” if you want to call it that, should be free and untrammelled, even if—*especially* if—“offensive”; actions, such as punching someone in the nose, should not. Robert W. Ethridge, assistant vice president for “equal opportunity programs” at Emory University, said hate speech codes would not be needed “in a perfect world,” but in our world people “do things” so the “policies are important as deterrents.” Very profound, Bob. In a “perfect world” we wouldn’t need constitutions or the Bill of Rights either.

One Brown student sees no need for apology. Su Ming Yeh claims that Hann got what he deserved. “Yes, there is freedom of speech,” she said, “but we’ve also taken into consideration the rights of others to live in a comfortable and safe environment.” Notice that she is not applying such terms to *physical* safety, the standard task of the police. She is taking about the “right” to *psychic* comfort, that is the “right” not to have your feelings ruffled, or your thoughts challenged. But *that*, of course, is what free inquiry, truth-seeking, and academia are *supposed* to be about.

Perhaps most interesting are the remarks and actions of President Gregorian, who, in his

previous post as head of the New York Public Library, was incredibly beloved by the New York Establishment. Gregorian was reportedly "upset" by news that Hann had been expelled for violations of regulations governing speech. Gregorian wants to have his cake and eat it too: be a fierce fighter against hate speech while posing as a champion of freedom. Gregorian declaimed that the "academic enterprise" must "remain partisans of heterodoxy, of a rich and full range of opinions, ideas and expression." Moreover, "imposed orthodoxies of all sorts, including what is called 'political correct' speech, are anathema to our enterprise."

So how square this proud stance with the expulsion of Doug Hann? Because, you see, the problem was not *speech* at all, but "behavior" or actions, which includes "behavior" (speech) that "shows flagrant disrespect for the well-being of others," including the various forms of "demeaning actions (speech)" against the race, religion, gender blah blah blah in the Brown code noted above. Clearly this "demeaning" (Politically Incorrect) speech-behavior does not seem to fall under the "rich and full range of opinions, ideas and expression" trumpeted by Vartan Gregorian.

More specifically, Gregorian reiterates that his rules "do not proscribe words, epithets or slanders; they proscribe behavior." So when does "speech" become demeaning "behavior" showing disrespect, etc? Ah, *that*, adds Gregorian, is determined by "a hearing" before said "disciplinary council" to decide "the circumstances of each case." Moreover, this wonderful due process includes the right to an appeal before a "senior

officer" and ultimately by Gregorian himself. Well, does that clear everything up, and are all libertarians satisfied?

How did Vartan Gregorian get involved in his crusade against hate speech at Brown? It seems that, shortly after he assumed his high post in the spring of 1989, students, as he rabidly puts it, "were subjected to a cowardly attack of racial and homophobic graffiti." (My God! Tasteless graffiti...*on a college campus*??!) These words, he goes on, "scrawled anonymously" on doors of a

college dormitory, were "vicious attacks threatening the well-being and security of Brown students." Bravely, like a Winston Churchill or George Bush, Vartan Gregorian put on his armor in a crusade to stamp out hate speech. "I issue a solemn warning," the President thundered, "that it is the policy of my administration to take action against those who incite hatred. It is my intention to prosecute vigorously, and to expel immediately, such individual or individuals for any attempt to inject and promote racism and thus insult the dignity of our students as citizens of Brown." Apparently, such "dignity" is so fragile that it can only be maintained by heroic measures.

It seems that, considering Gregorian's militant stance, young Douglas Hann was lucky to get off so lightly. Surely a more appropriate punishment would be castration, performed publicly in the quad so as to set an example to all other possible epithet-shouters or graffiti-artists. Or maybe drawing-and-

quartering. The day seems to be approaching fast when the opposition by left-liberals to capital punishment for murder or rape is going to come up against a thirst for

maximum punishment for such newfound "criminals" as those who commit hate-speech or who indulge in inside stock trading or deal in high-yield bonds.

And yet, after all this, Gregorian has the brass to orate that "the day that Brown denies any student freedom of speech is the day that I give up my

presidency of the university." Vartan Gregorian, call your office, and dictate your resignation statement.

Clearly, with his moxie and his capacity for double-think, Gregorian is destined to go far in politics.

There is, by the way, a curious lacuna in the endless list of groups who may no longer be demeaned. Among all the race, gender, etc. there is not a single mention of the person's or group's economic or social class. In other words, it is still perfectly legitimate under Brown's or other collegiate codes for Marxoids or deconstructionists to shout "you filthy capitalist" without coming up for charges on hate speech. Does anyone think this omission an accident?

Let the last word belong to the aforementioned Grant Ingle, the human relations director at U.Mass. Trying to be moderate, Ingle pointed out that the universities can suppress bigoted remarks but not bigoted thoughts. "We have to realize," intoned Ingle, that students

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"come to the university" deprived of "multicultural education," and so they are not fully "prepared" for multicultural life at college. I see. I guess that in the future the secondary schools will "prepare" and brainwash the students, employing countless multi-cultural "counselors" and therapists to do so. In the meanwhile, as Ingle intimates, people like Doug Hann should count themselves lucky that the authorities don't attach electrodes to their skulls to try to root out hate thought directly.

In memory of Doug Hann I have composed this little ditty, to be sung to the tune of the "Ballad of Joe Hill:"

The Ballad of Doug Hann

I dreamed I saw Doug Hann last night

Alive as you and me.

"But Doug," I said, "you're ten years dead."

"I never died," said he.

"I never died," said he.

From San Diego up to Maine

In every home and van,

Wherever men commit hate-thought,

It's there you'll find Doug Hann.

It's there you'll find Doug Hann.

Repeat first stanza

- M.N.R.

Hip Hopping at Howard

by L.H.R., Jr.

Washington, D.C.'s Howard University, American's premier black institution of higher learning, recently held a three-day conference on rap called "Hip Hop at Its Crossroads: Seizing the Cultural Agenda," reports David Mills of the *Washington Post*.

In the music business, explained speaker Chuck D. of the

group *Public Enemy*, there are "posses and troops of white people looking to smear a brother in the wink of an eye."

We'll "kill a cracker in a minute," replied King Zulu of the group *Defiant Giants*, wielding the "latest cool symbol of Afrocentricity," a carved black walking stick. "It's no stick," however. "It's a staff. It's my heritage."

With *New Kids on the Block* and others, whites are taking over rap, said "hip hop activist" Harry Allen. He held up a poster, to curses and catcalls from the audience, of white rapper Vanilla Ice, whom he called "an extension of white supremacy" and a white "seedling, a plant to germinate" in black soil.

Flinging the poster to the floor, Allen warned the monocultural attendees that they must stamp out such performers. Otherwise, "40 years from now you'll have black guys in dreadlocks saying, 'Did you know that rap was once black?'"

Not that it's enough to be black. "Yo, you got to go for it," the rapper Daddy-O told the audience. "And when you go for it, you can't go for it because your mom said it was dope, or because your homeboy said it was dope. You got to work it."

The conference was such a success, said director A. Haqq Islam, that Howard University will make it an annual affair. The only glitch occurred when the female groups *Hoes Wit Attitudes* and *Bytches With Problems* failed to show up for their panel on "Bitches, Skeezers, and Hoes."

During the closing session of the conference—an evening of rap at a roller rink—emcee Arthur 4X rebuked the crowd. If these were whites, "you'd all be clapping your black butts off." For this next guest,

he urged the audience, "give it up for your black brother."

"He's white, he's white," yelled the crowd, as Mr. 4X looked on in horror. Tony D., producer of the group *Poor Righteous Teachers* tried to explain that he was only there "to kick raw s___, not weak s___, just raw s___." But his plea left "the people unmoved," says Mr. Mills. •

Up, Up, and Away

by L.H.R., Jr.

The next casualty of the environmentalist movement may be the helium balloon. Activists are teaching children that the brightly colored toys are evil because after they fly away, animals eat them and die. (And animals, as we all know, are not supposed to die.)

Politically correct kids "don't want anyone to buy balloons anymore," says Phillip Levin, president of Balloon City wholesalers.

Ecologists are not satisfied with moral suasion, of course. They are organizing kids to lobby state legislatures. "Crying children say we are killing millions of animals," says Mr. Levin.

Although there is *no evidence* that balloons kill animals, Mark Brown of the National Association of Balloon Artists told the *New York Times*, that "children say, 'Oh, no, I can't take that balloon, it might kill a whale.'"

In fact, most helium balloons climb about five miles high and burst into tiny pieces of what ought to be lovable latex, since it is a "natural, biodegradable substance."

Florida, Connecticut, and