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 
lore 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, com- 
poused 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 care- 
giving” 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, threat- 
ening 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 ex- 
change of ideas that is the essen- 
tial 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 univer-
sities, 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 aca-
demic authorities on the Hann case. 
Grant M. Ingle, director of “human 
relations” at U. Mass, Amherst sees 
only confusion and situational eth-
ics. “There’s not a sharpline,” opined 
Ingle, separating speech from “of-
fensive 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 untrammeled, 
even if—especially if—“offensive”; 
actions, such as punching some-
one in the nose, should not. Robert 
W. Ethridge, assistant vice presi-
dent for “equal opportunity pro-
grams” 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 deter-
rants.” 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 de-
served. “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 in-
quiry, 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 declared 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 solightly. 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 sup-press bigoted remarks but not bigoted thoughts. "We have to realize," intoned Ingle, that students...
"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, Skeezez, 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

March 1991 • 21