EDITORIAL

CENSORSHIP

Tuesday was clear, with a forecast of temps in the sixties. Delilah was outside the school when I got there, wearing a red Seniors Against Devil Worship in the Schools T-Shirt and shorts. She was carrying a picket sign that said, "Shakespeare is Satan's Spokesman." Shakespeare and Satan were both misspelled.

I went inside, got Shakespeare out of the vault in the library and went into the office. Ms Harrow already had the Shakespeare file and her box of Kleenex out. "Do you have to do this?" she said, blowing her nose.

"As long as Edwin Sumner's in my class, I do. His mother's head of the President's Task Force on Lack of Familiarity with the Classics." I added Delilah's list of protests to the stack and sat down at the computer.

"Well, it may be easier than we think," she said. "There's been a lot of suits since last year, which takes care of *Macbeth, The Tempest, Midsummer Night's Dream, The Winter's Tale,* and *Richard III.*"

"Delilah's been a busy girl," I said. I fed in the unexpurgated disk and the excise and reformat programs. "I don't remember there being any witchcraft in *Richard III.*

She sneezed and grabbed for another Kleenex. "There's not. That was a slander suit. Filed by his great-great-grand-something. he claims there's no conclusive proof that Richard III killed the little princes. It doesn't matter anyway. Th Royal Society for the Restoration of Divine Rights of Kings has an injunction against all the history plays. What's the weather supposed to be like?"

"Terrible," I said. "Warm and sunny." I called up the catalog and deleted *Henry IV, Parts I and II,* and the rest of her list. "*Taming of the Shrew?*"

"Angry Women's Alliance. Also *Merry Wives of Windsor, Romeo and Juliet,* and *Love's Labour's Lost.*"

"*Othello*? Never mind. I know that one. *Merchant of Venice*? The Anti-Defamation League?"

"No. American Bar Association. And Morticians International. They object to the use of the word 'casket' in Act III." She blew her nose.

It took us first and second period to deal with the plays and most of the third to finish the sonnets. "I've got a class fourth period and then lunch duty," I said. "We'll have to finish up the rest of them this afternoon."

"Is there anything left for this afternoon?" Ms. Harrows asked.

"*As You Like It* and *Hamlet,*" I said. "Good heavens, how did they miss *Hamlet*?"

"Are you sure about *As You Like It*?" Ms. Harrows said, leafing through her stack. "I thought somebody'd filed a restraining order against it."

"Probably the Mothers Against Transvestites," I said. "Rosalind dresses up like a man in Act II."

"No, here it is. The Sierra Club. 'Destructive attitudes toward the environment.' " She looked up. "What destructive attitudes?"

"Orlando carves Rosalind's name on a tree." I leaned back in my chair so I could see out the window. The sun was still shining maliciously down. "I guess we go with *Hamlet.* This should make Edwin and his mother happy."

I sat down at the computer and fed in *Hamlet.* "Look at the bright side. At least we've got the E and R programs. We don't have to do it by hand the way we used to."

She sat down behind the stack. "How shall we do this? By group or by line?"

"We might as well take it from the top."

"Line one. 'Who's there?' the National Coalition Against Contractions."

"Let's do it by group," I said.

"All right. We'll get the big ones out of the way first. The Commission on Poison Prevention feels the 'graphic depiction of poisoning in the murder of Hamlet's father may lead to copycat crimes.' They cite a case in New Jersey where a sixteen-year old poured Drano in his father's ear after reading the play. Just a minute. Let me get a Kleenex. The Literature Liberation Front objects to the phrases, 'Frailty, thy name is woman,' and 'O, most pernicious woman,' the 'What a piece of work is man' speech, and the queen."

"The whole queen?"

She checked her notes. "Yes. All lines, references and allusions.

"We lost the queen," I said. "Next?"

"The National Cutlery Council objects to the depiction of swords as deadly weapons. 'Swords don't kill people. People kil people.' The Copenhagen Chamer of Commerce objects to the line, 'Something is rotten in the state of Denmark.' Students against Suicide, The Federation of Florists and the Red Cross object to Ophelia's drowning."

Greg was setting out the bottles of cough syrup and cold tablets on the desk. he handed me a bottle of valium. "The International Federation of Florists?" he said.

"She fell in picking flowers," I said.

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Mugwump Journal

By Bill Traer

10[35] Snowflakes have fallen on the earth during its existance. How do they know that none are duplicates.

I see that Arnold Schwartzenagger is starring in the move "Sgt. Rock". Imagine Rock saying to Easy Co. "Come on boys, let's go take us this hill and kill us some Kraunts." Remember Arnolds accent.

I'm being forced to order a pizza while I'm writing this- sacrifices. A friend of mine bought a new set of snow tires for his car the other day. I hope they don't melt.

The break starts today and no doubt many people are going South. I hope it's monsoon season down there.

Have you ever wondered about the Student Union? There's only one party,.and you have to join - Understand Comrade?

The past week has been hectic what with the Olympics. It was darn nice of ABC TV to not even include Canada in the running for a Hockey Medal.

The US team is 1-2 right now and is in danger of not even making the medal round. By the way, nice toupee Jim.

My hats off to Eddie Edwards, the ski jumper from Britian. Eddies goal was to land safely, not to win. He has no coach, trainer or money, just the desire to compete. That's what the Olympics means to me. During the past few years, countries have used the Olympics as a political football. The African Nations in 76, Canada and the US in 80, the Soviets in 84. This defeats the purpose of the Olympics which is to find the best athlete. Nationalism be damned.

Speaking of political football. Who is the Valedictorian? Even the SU doesn't know, or do they. Last night they were supposed to settle the whole thing. This could easily have been solved 3 months ago, but in their infinite wisdom, the SU screwed up. Nice timing guys, one day before the break.

Thanks to our new coffee machine, we at the Bruns have discovered a new life form. We're not exactly sure what to call it yet. You too can try this at home - just don't wash your cup for 3 days.

How about them Blue Jays, eh, Haven't lost a game lately.

Maggie Jean Chestnut House would like to let the ARMS know that they are a Residence and they want a night to party.

News Flash: Jane Arnold, SU President plays with pigeons. Watch Jane do her statue imitation.

Word of the Week: Automation - a human being who acts mechanically and without intelligence. See Chief returning officer.

