

Instead of finding negativity in Columbia winning a few games, our students and alums should be proud that when they watch a game, they are watching bona fide representatives of the student body, not the semi-illiterates and quasi-convicts of the football factories. I always wonder how their fans truly feel inside, knowing that mercenaries are wearing their colors.

The problem percentage connected to Columbia football is not the six percent of male students who go out for football. It is the average of 63 percent of the seats at little Wien Stadium that are empty for most home games.

Charles K. Sergis '55  
CALABASSAS, CALIF.

### The next generation

The letter from David Kaiser '91 gratified me greatly. How many years has it been since I wrote a virtually identical letter to the editor (almost 10, I believe) and elicited unanimous condemnation in reply? How nice it is to see a younger generation picking up the torch.

Lloyd Seidman '32  
NEW YORK, N.Y.

### Free speech and hate speech

As an alumnus and former *Spectator* reporter, I am outraged at the virulently anti-Semitic column that was published in the *Spectator* last October by a student follower of the Nation of Islam, as reported in your last issue. We would never have allowed such a hateful message to be published when I worked on *Spectator*, and I cannot understand how the current editors could have allowed this under the rubric of free speech. Would they have allowed a blatantly racist letter or column to be published by a member of the Aryan Nation or another similar extremist group? Doesn't the obligation to treat others civilly outweigh the blanket right to free speech? It certainly does, to my way of thinking.

Colleges such as Columbia should set an example by treating all of their students and faculty by the same standard of moral decency and by expecting that adhering to this standard be a condition of the privilege of remaining a part of Columbia.

Les Schwartz '67, M.D.  
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### This Bud's for you

James Katz's recent kissy-kissy interview with George Stephanopoulos '82

[Fall 1995] provides further evidence about two points:

1) The Columbia College education isn't what it's all cracked up to be. Evidence: Operative George somehow graduated *summa cum laude*.

2) The Clinton Administration isn't what it's all cracked up to be. Evidence: Operative George is part of its inner sanctum.

Mr. Katz asks Mr. Stephanopoulos: "Are you troubled, on a philosophical level, that so many Americans are openly hostile to the Federal Government—not just in the militia movement, for example, but in Congress itself." I didn't know the dichotomy was militia or Congress, but let me try (on a philosophical level of course) to answer this liberal bonding question. First let me say that I am not, nor have ever been, part of a militia, nor have I ever served time in Congress.

Here's the answer to the hostility, George, and please take it back to Mr. and Mrs. Clinton (by the way, maybe Bill might be interested in some of that theology and ethics stuff you learned at Oxford): Federal government "investments" (as you call them) in education, health care and training are actually diversions of funds from a place where competition increases the quality and quantity of products (this is called the "private" sector, George—see Friedrich Hayek, Milton Friedman et al.) to a place where bureaucrats make half-baked decisions on how to allocate resources (this is where you live, George, the so-called "public" sector).

Federal government "investments" leave less money for more productive and efficient organizations (the family, the private sector, even local governments) to spend on things like helping those most in need.

By the way, Mr. Stephanopoulos should heed his own advice and simply deal with this criticism from a former Columbia grad by "pretending that—no matter whatever is being said about you publicly, good or bad—it's happening to a fictional character." Unfortunately for the rest of us private-sector, tax-paying, non "re-engaging with public service" *summa cum budweiser* slobs like myself, old George ain't fictional enough.

Tom Doyle '83  
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