

sion obligations, vitiate their contractual agreements, and slash their negotiated benefits, while not inconveniencing corporations and the wealthy one iota.

If common sense, wisdom, and practical thinking ruled the day, governors and state legislators would be requiring shared sacrifice in the face of our recession-caused budgeted shortfalls, and raise the taxes of this country's wealthiest people and most profitable corporations. After all, it was the high-rolling investors, now brimming with money, who sucked our economy dry by turning it into a big gambling casino in which they won a fortune at public expense. At the very least we should consider taxing a portion of that wealth, closing some of those loopholes, and ending a few of those wasteful, corporate subsidies.

But, the conservative champions of the elite and corporate interests, such as most Republican governors and Skeel, a professor of corporate law who contributes to the conservative magazine *The Weekly Standard*, prefer to starve the children and overcrowd their schools rather than ask for a dime from their wealthy patrons.

These extreme measures would never be taken seriously in a functional democracy. That they are even being considered is testament to the horrifyingly dysfunctional state of our national discourse and democratic system.

**RICARDO ASHBRIDGE HINKLE C'86 EAS'86** NEW YORK

### Kudos for New Wharton Curriculum

In the Mar|Apr *Gazette*, the changes in Wharton's curriculum—the first substantial revamping in 17 years—are discussed ["Gazetteer"]. The recognition of the increasing interrelatedness of global commerce and the emphasis on innovation is of much importance. With students coming to the program with an average of 1.5 years more of life/work experience than 20 years ago, and some 40 percent coming from abroad, the students have a clearer idea of their course needs and career choices—hence the first year flexibility in content areas, with emphasis on global developments in financial, ethical, and legal management. More instruction in statistics to understand mismanagement risks is doubly important, along with related communication skills requiring self-reflection. Despite the example

of Shakespeare's melancholy Dane and Prince Hamlet's excess of introspection, self-awareness breeds the development of honesty and truth. The new curriculum's emphasis on global economic and ethical considerations, the provision of cost-free continuing education at seven-year intervals, and the resulting enhanced partnership between alumni and the school are invaluable vision tools.

**WILLIAM BOYD KATZ W'60** PHILADELPHIA

### Animal Researchers Need Protection

As a biomedical researcher, I have to take exception to some of the comments attributed to Dara Lovitz ["Alumni Profiles," Mar|Apr]. Her claim that animal-terrorism statutes compromise freedom of speech is misleading. These statutes exist in large part to prosecute those who engage in dangerous and violent activity that targets scientists and others engaged in legitimate animal use.

In recent months, researchers have been subjected to attacks including detonation of pipe bombs and mailing of HIV-tainted razorblades to their personal residences. In several instances, family members have been present during these attacks, thus placing additional innocent lives in danger. These are hardly "attacks on the wallet" or mere expressions of protest, which are certainly within the realm of First Amendment protection.

I do not believe that Lovitz condones these types of violent activity. I would hope that she would fight just as vigorously for prosecuting criminal activity as she would for repealing these laws.

Sadly, until the animal-rights movement renounces such tactics, I suspect these laws will continue to be necessary.

**ALEX HOFFMAN C'92** COLUMBIA, MD

### Comedy Without Cursing?

Label an interview of Cynthia Kaplan C'85 with the catchy little title, "One Witty Woman, 12 'Fangry' Songs" ["Arts," Mar|Apr], followed by her musical question, "Who do I have to [four-letter word, which also begins with F] to get laid around here?" and, lo and behold, we have a "writer, comedian, and singer songwriter [who is] sharp, observant and really, really funny." How's that for an irresistible introduction?

Asked if her video, "Merry Christmas To You," on YouTube had generated any

criticism, since "Christmas has become a touchy subject lately" (glad you noticed), she replied that, "what we should all be ticked off about is the fact that our society has become so PC that our kids don't learn Christmas carols in school anymore. 'Hark the Herald Angels Sing' is a great song. A great song." Hear! Hear!

Kaplan takes a mild swipe at Judaism in a reference to her performing with the Jewmongous group. Have you noticed that no comedians make fun of Allah?

In the interests of enhancing civility and the prestige of the University, the *Gazette* might like to consider deep-sixing the four letter words that have a habit of creeping into its revered pages.

**CYRUS J. SHARER W'44** ST. DAVIDS, PA

### Skip "That Word"

I never thought I'd live to see the day when "that word" appeared (twice) in the *Gazette*.

Running the interview is one thing, but in the future, please understand that this sort of language has no place in our alumni magazine.

**JOHN R. ROCKWELL W'64 WG'66** OWINGS MILLS, MD ♦

## se·lec'tive· (adj.)

1. Empowered or tending to select;
2. Highly specific in activity or effect;
3. Who you are, who she is, how we search.

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