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# A conservative voice targets the university

by Charles Stile
Staff Writer

Dinesh D'Souza doesn't mind being called a "hired gun."

"I don't mind that at all," said the 23-year-old editor of Prospect Magazine from his 20 Nassau St. office. "That implies that I shoot straight."

The candid 1983 Dartmouth graduate's main target is Princeton University and his ammunition is a hard-line conservative ideology that he feels has been neglected in the past 15 years.

"I've issued my challenge for Princeton to name one outspoken conservative on the faculty," said the native of India who has permanent citizen status. "They cannot do that. This is unbelievable. I can think of 10 off the top of my head at Harvard and I think Harvard is a left-wing institution."

"Prospect" is the monthly publication of the Concerned Alumni of Princeton (CAP), a conservative alumni organization of an estimated 4,000 members. It was formed in 1972 because a "great institution was being mindlessly transformed" by liberal administrative policies, according to Mr. D'Souza.

**CAP — A** non-profit organization funded entirely by alumni donations — keeps a conservative eye on changes that occur at the university and lets its subscribers know about it.

"Our goal is to influence the university in what we consider a sensible direction," he said.

They would like to see the faculty beefed up with more noted conservatives. They would like to do away with the Women's Studies and have them "mainstreamed" into the general curriculum. They are opposed to what they see as the university of special interest groups.

Mr. D'Souza added that CAP is "concerned" about the formation of a Third World Center, a campaign to eliminate the Army ROTC program, and what it perceives as the decline of Princeton athletics.

"It is just a constellation of student concerns," he said.

An example of how the group tries to exert its influence was in one of the group's recent conservative jobs that landed close to Nassau Hall.

**The Conservative Alumni of Princeton was formed in 1972 because a "great institution was being mindlessly transformed" by liberal administrative policies, according to Dinesh D'Souza, editor of the group's magazine.**

Its shock waves caught the attention of Princeton University President William Bowen. And the battle that followed became the subject of a Wall Street Journal editorial.

**IN A** fund-raising letter, CAP Chairman David P. Condit, said "it is no longer safe for alumni to make unrestricted gifts to Princeton. You may be supporting Third World junkets or the teaching of Marxism in the classroom..." the letter said.

The letter — about which more than 12 Princeton alumni wrote letters to the university asking for an explanation — also claimed that Louis Pyle, director of Princeton's Health Services, celebrated the fact that 31 out of 33 pregnant students had abortions after receiving counseling from Princeton's Sexuality, Education, Counseling and Health clinic. Parents were not informed, the letter said.

For the first time, President Bowen responded. In a four-page letter, he called the CAP remarks a "callous discussion," and "outrageous — to portray Dr. Pyle as viewing abortions or statistics on abortions as cause for celebration."

President Bowen also said the number of pregnant undergraduate women who consult the Health Services each year averages about 2 percent of Princeton female undergrads — significantly lower than the national norm for college women, he said.

But Mr. D'Souza said Dr. Pyle failed to note a 93 percent rate of students who chose to have abortions after receiving counseling.

"How can anybody be pleased with these statistics without taking note of the proportion of abortions?" he said. "It is like talking about South Africa and failing to talk about apartheid."

**DR. PYLE** did not dispute the figures but he said the letter left an inaccurate impression of how his department handles questions of pregnancy.

"They seemed to imply that we are counseling women to have abortions," he said. "But that is simply not the case. We try to encourage the person not to make any decisions right away. We encourage them to consider all the alternatives and to talk to their family, talk to their spiritual counselor. Eventually they make their own decisions."

The CAP letter also said that Frederick Borsch, dean of the university chapel, condones homosexuality as acceptable Christian behavior, and invited singer Holly Near, a lesbian, to sing in the university chapel. Princeton Gay Alliance receives university funding, it said.

After talking to Dean Borsch about the incident, President Bowen said the concert never took place. Also, the university recognizes 150 campus organizations but "recognition does not connote endorsement."

Another section of the CAP letter cited a comment from Princeton history Professor Lawrence Stone which said "Princeton admits less alumni children each year. Currently alumni children comprise 14 percent of each entering class, compared with an 11 percent quota for Blacks and Hispanics."

But Mr. Bowen said the percentage of alumni children admitted has remained fairly the same over the years. This year, alumni children comprise 16.7 percent of the freshman class.

The admissions process is one area CAP monitors closely. Mr. D'Souza said he does not oppose the admission of minority students as long as the university does not "abridge its standards."

"Black people and other minorities can become part of the very distinctive Princeton tradition," he said. "But if a group is admitted on lower standards,

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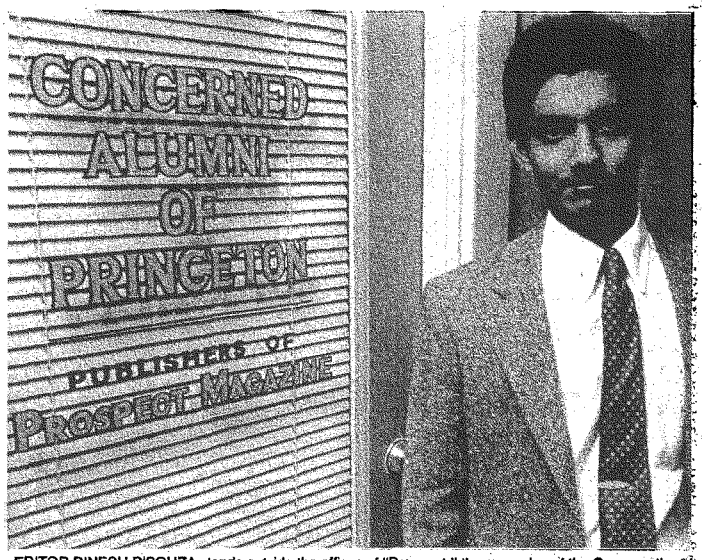


EDITOR DINESH D'SOUZA stands outside the offices of "Prospect," the magazine of the Conservative Alumni of Princeton. Recently, university President William Bowen criticized remarks made by the group's chairman in a fund-raising letter.

(Paul Savage photo)

they are going to suffer the perpetual stigma of everyone knowing that."

A UNIVERSITY official said the letter shows CAP's typical strategy.

The CAP letter reflects the organization's approach of "latching onto something to advance their cause," according to Robert Durkee, university vice president for public affairs.

"The organization is far less visible now than it has been," Mr. Durkee said. "We get far fewer inquiries about it than we used. In this particular case, we received 12 letters and the president responded to them like he always does. The only difference this time was that it was written on the editorial page of the Wall Street Journal."

The Jan. 17 editorial titled "Doing it Right," praised President Bowen "in his willingness to engage his critics."

But Mr. D'Souza said that "Bowen has finally gotten out the fly swatter alone."

He contended that Prospect subscribers represent one-third of Princeton's active alumni.

As a result, the university is now aware of that there is a larger conservative alumni population to be heard, Mr. D'Souza said.

"You would think that with that kind of clout, Bowen would want to sit down with these guys and see what they are upset about," Mr. D'Souza said. "Maybe they have a point. 'I can't agree with them on everything but maybe I can listen to them and maybe I can agree with them on at least three of the 10 things they are worried about.' But he has never done this. In a sense it seems like such a politically obtuse thing to do."

Mr. Durkee disagrees with his alumni figures.

"I assume he has his numerator correct, but I don't know where he gets his denominator," Mr. Durkee said. There are 40,000 Princeton undergraduate and 12,000 graduate alumni," he said.