

He's Ad It Again

When then-production editor Brian McBrearity walked into Boston College's student newspaper offices one day in December 1993, he had no idea of the trouble waiting.

That morning, *The Heights* had run a paid advertisement from the Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust. In the ad, the committee's director, Bradley R. Smith, questioned the facts of the Holocaust — specifically whether gas chambers were used in Hitler's plan to exterminate the Jews of Europe.

Outrage over the ad was overwhelming. *The Heights* later ran an editorial stating its neutrality and its regret for any hurt feelings, only to have thousands of copies of the paper stolen and stacked in the shape of a swastika.

By Smith's estimation, about 60 college newspapers have run his ads since 1991. Controversy and massive news coverage have followed nearly all of them. But this year, editors like McBrearity will be taken off the hot seat. In November, Smith sent free videos to 500 college newspapers that had not received any of his ads or articles. His mission? To get more press

through reviews of the video.

In the one-hour documentary, Smith's partner David Cole tours the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz. He interviews Franciszek Piper, the senior curator and head of archives at Auschwitz and its museums, and asks viewers to question the facts of World War II.

"As you can see," Cole narrates, "the Holocaust experts prove themselves hypocrites when they tell you there is no need to question the Holocaust story, that it has already been proven."

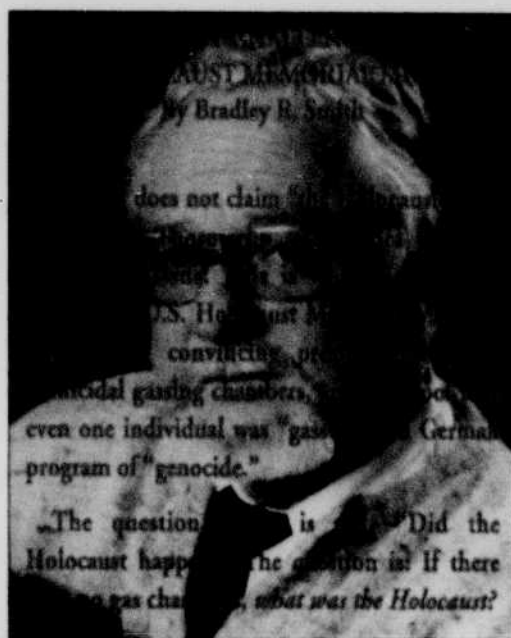
In fall 1994, Smith told *U. Magazine* he questions the use of gas chambers so that the "holes in the Holocaust story" will be eliminated. Smith says that will force Jews to find other arguments to combat neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic attacks on their beliefs.

Michael Berenbaum, director of exhibits at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, dismisses Smith's claims. "Gas chambers were used, and the evidence is absolutely overwhelming," he says. "So far, I haven't discovered

that anti-Semites and neo-Nazis need reason to attack the Jews."

Only time will tell how editors will react to Smith's video, which he recently made available for purchase — McBrearity says its message would have to be pretty convincing. "I would definitely have second thoughts about running an ad [like that] again."

■ Dan Stockman, *Western Herald*, Western Michigan U.



Bradley Smith: Holes in Holocaust theory?

Flier and Brimstone

It was a joke, not a mandate. At least that's what U. of Colorado, Denver, student Robert Betts says of the 20 fliers he posted last summer with the controversial message, "Kill a cop for Jesus."

Betts says he never intended to hurt anyone and that he just wanted to play a prank to promote his newspaper, *Monkey Wrench*.

"I thought, 'What could I do to piss off the most people?'" Betts, 23, says. "So, I used Jesus and killing cops."

Denver police weren't laughing. Betts was arrested and charged with violating a

municipal ordinance against threatening to injure a person or property. He was released on \$100 bail later that night and was placed on six months' probation in return for a guilty plea.

Betts says his First Amendment rights were violated but that he had pleaded guilty because he was scared.

"I've always had a bad taste for cops," he says. "I am sick of cops using their power, abusing the way they treat citizens. I had a lot of bad experiences with them in New York, where I lived. It was always something with me."

He says he couldn't afford a lawyer and that he didn't have time to wait for the ACLU to provide him one.

Denver criminal attorney Chris Miranda says he thinks a judge would have been required to dismiss the case. The statement doesn't constitute a threat, he says.

"You have to specifically identify the person who is threatened," Miranda says. "And in this case, you

only have a generic cop, if you even want to think of what he said as a threat. And obviously Jesus is not a real person."

Denver Police patrol division chief Thomas Sanchez says the fliers did not affect police officers on the street.

"It's true [Betts] was arrested and charged," Sanchez says. "Once it was investigated and found out to be more of a prank, the threat level was reduced to virtually nothing."

Ironically, Cool Hand Betts created *Monkey Wrench* because of an incident with the Denver Police Dept. in October 1992. Betts says police harassed him and threatened to take him to jail.

As Betts describes it, "*Monkey Wrench* is not an anti-cop paper. It's a civil rights paper — police just happen to be the biggest offenders of those rights."

Denver police officer James Cosgrove says he believes Betts' motive was contempt for police or possibly any kind of authority.

"Betts wanted to piss off the most people," Cosgrove says. "Well, Mr. Betts, this is the real world. When you piss people off, whoever it is, there is a price to pay. Take your lumps like a man, and stop your whining."

■ Christopher L. Anderson, *The Metropolitan*, Metropolitan State College of Denver

U. NEWS

THANKSH, OCCIFER

U. of Alabama, Tuscaloosa — It was all the alcohol they could drink, and the cops were buying. Twenty-

Short Takes

five U. of Alabama students did their part for university law enforcement by letting trainees practice spotting people who have had too much to

drink. Volunteers, who had to be over 21, picked one beverage and drank as much as they could handle, then stopped to be given a Breathalyzer and other sobriety tests.

One participant, Stuart, flipped — that is, he actually did a back flip for the walk-and-turn part of the Standardized Field Sobriety Test. "I'm drinking back my tuition," he says about participating. Um, Stuart, just how much were you intending to drink?

PHONE MUGGING, HORSE'S HEAD

U. of Arizona, Tucson — And now from that twisted campus the U. of Arizona:

In September, police arrested an 18-year-old freshman for beating up a phone booth. Kevin Steinkamp admitted to drinking that evening and mixing it up with the phone booth. He took a Breathalyzer test, then asked if he could ride in the front seat of the squad car. Police refused.

Later that same week, Tucson resident Charles D. Rogge was arrested for reportedly soliciting oral sex from a herd of horses at the campus agricultural center. A witness says he saw Rogge coaxing horses toward him with food. The witness further reports that Rogge then held the food near his crotch area and exposed himself.

Look, Arizona — calm these people down. Try toga parties or something.

WAITER, THERE'S A BUG...

Texas Tech U. — Remember those museum geeks in *Silence of the Lambs* who played chess with insects? They'd love the bash a Texas Tech U. associate professor threw for his students. The lunch included roasted crickets and mealworm pizza.

"The purpose was to show that insects are edible," says Harlan Thorvilson, who teaches an entomology course. Of the more than 65 students enrolled in the course, about 20 sampled the fare, which was topped by brownies baked with roasted crickets.

Good thing the party wasn't Raided.

Robert Stringer, *The Reflector*, Mississippi State U.

