

**March 13, 2004**

## **Letters to the Editor**

### **Donations aren't fungible**

The claim in Wednesday's column by Frank Gaffney Jr. of the Center for Security Policy ("Active measures," Commentary) that an organization called September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows has received funding from foundations directed by Teresa Heinz Kerry is simply wrong.

The charge rests on the false assertion that the Heinz Endowments' funding of the Tides Center for projects in western Pennsylvania is "fungible." In fact, by contract, every penny of our support to Tides has been explicitly directed to specific projects in our region. It cannot legally be redirected and is the exact opposite of "fungible."

The Tides Center provides management and administrative services for short-term and start-up nonprofit activities. Foundations from all across the country - many, such as Heinz, with strong centrist agendas - use this service to support a wide array of projects. It is no more accurate to suggest that Heinz supports every one of these projects than it is to suggest that a person who contributes to a specific organization through the United Way supports the agenda of every other United Way beneficiary.

Through Tides, we have supported programs to test the career readiness of area high school students, protect Pittsburgh's environment and retain young people in our region - hardly an extremist agenda. Any reading of the grant material connected to these groups, easily accessible on our Web site, in our public filings and in our annual reports, shows that they are all nonprofit entities barred from partisan political activity.

MAXWELL KING  
President  
The Heinz Endowments  
Pittsburgh