

Follow the money

Every time this newspaper runs a commentary exploring a possible uncomfortable nexus between Heinz Endowments disbursements and the presidential campaign of John Kerry (or some wild-eyed liberal, socialist or Marxist cause *du jour*), a nasty-gram from the Pittsburgh-based endowments can't be far behind.

Endowments spokesman Doug Root, who spent some time defending indefensible Pittsburgh Mayor Tom Murphy, usually weighs in with a snide remark questioning our "journalistic ethics." That's followed by a rebuttal commentary from endowments chief Maxwell King, a former editor of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. It, too, usually casts equally snide aspersions about those questioning the nexuses.

That said, we can't wait to see the response Messrs. Root and King send to the editor of the *New York Post*. In a Tuesday editorial, the *Post* looks at "a tiny group that's motivated by a far-left agenda and a festering hatred of the president" that "has some quite dubious financial ties."

The group is the few-dozen member "September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows." And as the *Post* reports, "Peaceful Tomorrows' parent group, the San Francisco-based Tides Foundation, has received millions from foundations controlled by Kerry's heiress wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry."

The *Post* says a spokesman for Mrs. Kerry "insists that her donations to Tides were earmarked specifically for environmental charities based in Pennsylvania." But as the *Post* editorial also notes, "money is fungible — and the Tides Foundation has a lot more than greening the Earth on its plate."

The *Post* calls it "charitable money-laundering," a most serious charge. Root and King previously have scoffed at the notion. Perhaps the Justice Department and the Federal Election Commission need to review the matter to confirm or debunk the suggestion of this nexus once and for all.

In the interim, though, editors at the *New York Post* can expect a Root-King missive any day now, if they haven't received it already.

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