

history, record numbers of obese children becoming obese adolescents, who, in turn, become obese adults. This paper examines this recent phenomenon in all of its stages on the backdrop of America's history of childhood obesity. It is also the purpose of this paper to determine to what role the large-scale removal of physical education programs from our public schools' curriculum has played in this most unfortunate, and most ironic, of situations.

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### **Hard Body Panic: Reactions to the Six Pack Imperative in -Fight Club-and Your Local Gym**

The feminist critique of objectification fails to take the recent commodification of the male body in consumer culture into consideration. That commodification has led to what researchers call an "Adonis complex" in large numbers of men, a body image distortion and sense of inadequacy that is corollary to the body image problems faced by women. The problem is reflected in cultural productions such as the 1999 movie "Fight Club," which developed a cult following for its rejection of consumer culture and glorification and naturalization of male violence. In the spectacularly developed body of Brad Pitt, an idealized body produced by the very kind of weight training and supplementation so characteristic of the male body in consumer culture, the movie reaffirms the very kind of commodified body it claims to critique, pointing to the inescapability of commodification and its attendant disturbances for both sexes.

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### **"Brylcreem Boy": Denis Compton, Sport and Nature**

Because he played two popular sports exceptionally well, and also fixed an enigmatic gaze on the viewers of countless advertisements for Brylcreem, Denis Compton became a household name in Britain in the 1940s and 1950s. His name was still recognized by millions when he died half a century later. His career provides a fascinating case of how sporting heroes are represented to their public. Through an ensemble of ideas and

images mediated through a variety of channels of communication Compton became a “text” in which a series of “meanings” were inscribed: notions of social class, gender, region, and nation were all present in the text. But what the paper will bring out is both a particular idea of masculinity that Compton was made to represent, and the contradictions present in this idea. Rather than hard work, self-discipline and success through dedication – the virtues conventionally associated with sporting heroism – Compton stood for intuition and the visceral thrill of uncertainty that accompanied the courting of danger. His was a text of “jouissance.” A dominant motif was the contest that occurred in sport between nature and the body. This made sport something to be enjoyed and marveled at by its participants and its spectators, rather than a process to be studied and explained. It provided an arena for the display of the sensuous and artless aspects of human endeavor. There was therefore a mystery about Compton’s skill, which the Brylcreem image of carefully coiffured and reified artifice severely contradicted.

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## **A Strong Mind in a Strong Body: The Role of Libraries in the American Turner Organizations**

A major focus of the American Turners has always been physical education. This paper deals with another primary focus of the American Turners as is reflected in their motto: A Strong Mind in a Strong Body. Most of the early Turner organizations in North America were formed or led by liberal Germans who fled Germany after the failed Revolution of 1848. It was critical to them that the Turner members were rational-thinking, informed citizens as well as physically fit to defend their homeland. They saw the lands of North America as a place where Turners could practice these democratic principles. The early American Turner groups were very politically active; members strongly and vocally supported liberal causes such as anti-slavery platforms.

There has not been a great deal of information written in English about the political side of the American Turners, and definitely little was known about the role of the libraries within the organizations. Most of the primary documents are less accessible