

An open mind is not the same as a vacant mind.

-Norm Howe

California Review

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Professors



and the Demise
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Letters



Dear Editor:

I enjoyed your October issue, particularly the article by William Eggers on the fallacy of government controlling trade policy.

One area of the paper left me puzzled. On the back page there were a variety of quotes labeled "The Right Way of Thinking." As a right wing newspaper, most of the quotes matched conservative maxims. But one quote was an alarming exception.

You quoted Publius Syrus as saying that "To gain without another's loss is impossible." I'm not questioning the veracity of the source, only the inclusion of this quote in a list of right wing truisms.

This quote directly contradicts other quotes on the same page from Ayn Rand that wealth is not "made by the strong at the expense of the weak." Syrus' quote is ancient statist claptrap about human interaction being a zero sum game. Nonsense!

When two people agree to exchange goods, it is because each party will be happier with the other's item. That is basic to understanding the economics of voluntary exchange. Only when force or fraud enter into the process does one party gain at the expense of another.

If Syrus' pabulum was correct, aggregate wealth could never increase because all the increase of one person's wealth would have to result in a reduction in wealth for others. Thus by this reasoning the total wealth of the world would remain constant. Such is obviously not the case. More important, this collectivist dogma should never be countenanced by a conservative tabloid such as the California Review.

Sincerely,
Dick Rider, County Chair
Libertarian Party of San Diego

Dear Mr. Rider:

You are absolutely correct. However the problem does not lie in the nature of the quote because in each issue there will be quotes from both sides of the political aisle. Rather the mistake is in the title of the page, therefore we have selected a more appropriate title for the back page. Thank you for your concern.

-WDE



Dear Editor:

One of the favorite ploys of some so-called "gay rights" activists (actually "sad-wrongs" activists) is to call those who are opposed to homo- and bi-sexuals "homophobic." They are so blinded by their liberal preconceptions (i.e., prejudices) they cannot see or understand that perfectly rational people can rightly be against homo/bisexual deviation. Because many moral truths need to be repeated occasionally lest they be forgotten, the following.

Since it is unfair and wrong to favor one group of "alternative" people (as homo/bisexuals are) over other aberrant groups (as people who have sex with animals), intelligent people have known for centuries that homosexual acts are immoral and illegalizable precisely because they are bad legal precedents.

In addition, in the absence of the AIDS epidemic homo/bisexuals would probably go right back to their sexually exploitative ways. There is a marked tendency among these people to just use others, even perfect strangers, for sex. Too many of these people don't seem to be mature enough to handle real love relationships, especially love relationships which involve significant commitments. It is high time they grew up, out of this adolescent stage.

Moreover, they ought to take their own "be non-judgemental" advice and not hypo-critically judge normal people, not tell us we're wrong and homophobic. It's a lot more justifiable for us to accuse them of heterophobia than it is for them to accuse normal, sane people of homophobia. People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones, especially if their glass is already cracked.

This is the twentieth century. Let's not go back thousands of years to Sodom. Let's progress not regress. It is high time homo/bisexuals overcame their inhibitions and hang-ups and fears and became normal heterosexuals. If they are strong they can do so. And if they are weak, they ought to concentrate on making themselves strong instead of engaging in unnatural and aberrant acts.

Sincerely,
Wayne Lela

Dear Editor:

"Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and is therefore a strategy and not tactics" (Article 9 of the PLO Covenant). When I asked Said about the PLO Covenant he failed to answer my question.

On Jan 19th Edward Said, one of the most widely-known PLO spokesmen in the U.S., lectured on the Palestinian peace plan. Said, is a member of the Palestine National Council, the PLO's policy-making body, which he proudly describes as "parliament in-exile."

Said began with some background on today's situation on the West Bank and Gaza, and criticized in a combative manner every step Israel has taken since its independence in 1948. For some reason Said forgot to address the terrorist activities which the PLO supports, as well as the attacks which are launched by Palestinians inside Israel and as far as the Vienna International Airport.

Said portrayed the PLO and the Palestinian cause as a pure peace-searching organization. For the Israeli government, as well as for many like myself, it is very hard to believe that Arafat wants peace, especially when he has avidly supported terrorism, and then overnight has decided that "peace" is his motto.

Said was not capable of answering many of the questions addressed to him following his lecture. I asked Said, "Article 9 of the PLO Covenant clearly states that armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine and is therefore a strategy and not tactics. Why has the

covenant against Israel not been changed since the Algiers meeting if what the PLO wants is peace?"

At this point, Said was very upset since this was the sixth question which placed the PLO peace-seeking effort in doubt. He only answered "yes, it has not been changed and a lot of things need to be changed."

He asked the public why we were asking questions supporting Israel and not the PLO, attacking those who had posed such questions by saying "how about all the Palestinians the Israel army has killed? They killed four last night, have you counted them all?"

"No, I answered, only for him to come back with 'well I have.'"

He addressed his next question to me: "How about the Old Testament?" For a moment I doubted who was giving the lecture and who was supposed to answer the questions.

He then falsely accused me of using questions which had been prepared by some Jewish propaganda organization! I had written the question myself. Realizing he was not going to stop his personal attacks on me, I had no option but to tell him "Mr. Said, when I give a lecture, you are most welcome to come and I will answer all of your questions."

The next five questions were also concerned with Israel's security leading Said to cut the question/answer period short in order to stop the irony which was taking place. For some reason there was not a single question asked supporting the Palestinian cause during this lecture, whose aim was to raise support for the Palestinian Peace Talks. I wonder why.

Benny Singer.



Dear Editor:

Here we go again. Bowing to black pressure, the gutless San Diego City Council; approved the incredibly awkward and wholly inappropriate name "The San Diego Martin Luther King Convention Center." If the timid Port Commission also approves the name, a tragic scenario will surely unfold.

Once again petitions will circulate, this time to drop Dr. King's name from the convention center. Given that the polls say 80% oppose the council's vote, it seems there is a good chance that the referendum will pass. Black leaders will then call for boycotts and protests. None of these actions will help race relations in the least.

Even if the referendum fails, race baiters such as Wes Pratt and Rev. George Stevens will claim that the controversy is proof that "San Diego is one of the worst places for black people to live in the world, other than South Africa." The community will further polarize along racial lines.

The irony is that the wimp council members figured their convention vote would buy racial harmony, which has suffered since their abortive attempt to rename Market Street. after Dr. King. Any fool could have seen that their vote would only inflame passions.

But perhaps the city council members aren't the fools they appear to be. By providing the voters with this highly emotional but truly insignificant issue to debate, maybe they hope to avoid public concerns about the real problems faced by the city and mishandled by the the council. It is the modern day version of bread and circuses, minus the bread.

Yours truly,
H. Reardon

From The Editor

The politicizers of race are at it again. Several accusations of racism have been hurled at the Review in regard to the caricature of Vice Chancellor Joe Watson on the cover of the December issue of the Review. One of these allegations came from an administrator, who is also a friend. He also informed me that he was not alone in this regard. When I asked him to tell me exactly what was racist about the cartoon, he fell mute. No response was forthcoming because there simply is nothing racist about the cartoon.

Rather the charges of racism were simply knee-jerk reactions to the subject matter of an article which was critical of a number of University officials. The charges of racism seemed to stem primarily from the fact that the caricature was of a man who happened to be black. If Dr. Watson's black face is replaced by a white face in the cartoon then nary a word would be uttered.

The politicizing of race has become a much used tool of campus radicals, columnists, media types, and politicians like the Reverend Jackson. There are few people in politics or the media who have the guts or will to stand up and repudiate the often completely baseless charges for fear of being labeled insensitive to minority concerns or even racist. The way in which the press and politicians tiptoed around the Tawana Brawley scam was utterly ludicrous. To let two-bit hustlers like Al Sharpton make a mockery out of the legal process was inexcusable.

Affirmative racism has firmly taken root in the press. We have reached the point where anyone who criticizes an individual of color in the press risks being dubbed a racist. It has become a somewhat acceptable practice that because a man or woman is of a certain color or ethnicity he is deserving of special treatment from the media. Surely anyone who is truly supportive of civil rights must concede that we are taking a giant step backward as a free nation when we are not allowed to criticize or caricature an individual merely due to the color of the individual's skin.

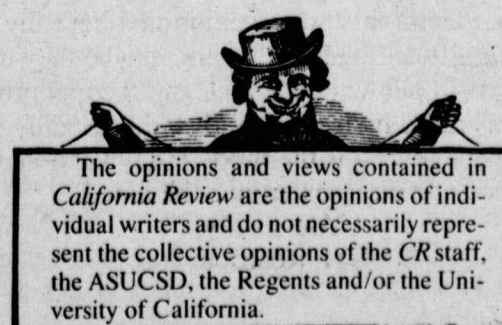
This kind of thinking grows from the same vein as the misguided affirmative action policies in business and Universities. Both are racist to whites and discrediting to people of color. I find it extremely upsetting that on the anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s death, many of the causes he worked for have been twisted so. In the job market and in entrance to higher education, you are not judged primarily by ability. Whether you are Black, Latino, or a Native American is often more important. This is precisely the form of reverse racial discrimination that some of the congressional proponents of the 1964 Civil Rights Act testified should and would never take place. Now, white, middle class male is far and away the most discriminated category in the job market. After all, the firms need to fill their quotas.

Other than being discriminatory to whites, affirmative action and the race politics which accompanies it, are unjust to blacks. A young black woman never knows whether she receives a job offer due to her ability or her race. If she did get the job due to merit, her accomplishment is nevertheless belittled because of the belief that race must have played a role. Affirmative action basically tells people of color that they aren't as good as white people, so we'll have to give you a handout. It takes away the young black women's dignity. Like most liberal answers to societal problems, affirmative action is merely a band-aid not a long-term solution. Equal footing, not special treatment, was all that the original leaders of the civil rights movement wanted. This can only take place by giving everyone equal access to a good education, by instituting a voucher system, which, naturally the politicizers of race like Jesse Jackson, are opposed to. It is political hucksters and opportunists like Jackson and Sharpton who are the true enemies of civil rights and a free press. It is time for all to stand up and denounce the racists from the left.

-WDE



California Review (Restitutor Orbis) was founded on the sunny afternoon of seven, January, nineteen-hundred and eighty-two, by discipuli cum civitas listening to Respighi and engaging in discourse on preserving the American Way.



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California Review

Imperium et Libertas.



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AS in-fighting

Anyone who has been following the A.S. this year, could not help but notice the public and private feud between A.S. President Maynard Dimmesdale and his Vice-President Administrative John Robison who seems to represent most of the council. Maynard has even resorted to pleas for public sympathy in the editorial pages of *The Guardian*. *The Review* has learned from sources within the AS that the majority of the council is fed up to here with ole Maynard. His lack of leadership or political savvy has paralyzed the Associated Students. It seems that Maynard's "stamp" on a bill means sure defeat of the legislation. One council member, who wishes to remain anonymous, describes Dimmesdale as "stubborn, bull-headed, and antisocial."

Golden Fleece

Senator William Proxmire awarded his Golden Fleece award to the Urban Mass Transit Administration for sending government officials to Disney World to learn how to motivate employees.

A Travesty

A.S. allocation to *California Review*: \$4,024.00
A.S. allocation to the leftist paper *The New Indicator*: \$15,110.50

*more on this next issue.

Hollywood Sam

The Review hears from an unreliable source that political science professor Sam Popkin has taken off this quarter in order to pursue a career in Hollywood. Popkin has hired an agent and is brushing up on his one-liners. For those of us familiar with the irrepressible Professor Popkin, he has been on TV quite a bit, and coached Jimmy Carter before his debate with President Ronald Reagan in 1980. This he will inform you daily in class. Talk around Hollywood is that Popkin and his long-time buddy, political pollster Patrick Caddell, sometimes referred to as "The Prince of Darkness," are working on a sitcom about Carter's unsuccessful 1980 reelection campaign, starring themselves of course.

HOW TO NEUTRALIZE VAMPIRES



Attention Minority Students

Are you tired of Lenin's useful idiots running away with your heritage as part of their personal ambition? Write for the *California Review*.

Surprise

The latest issue of the feminist newspaper "Alternative Visions" failed to wholly condemn the male sex or mention castration once in the entire issue. *The Review* wonders what other miracles will be next.

Make Love and War?

Prof. JD Douglas in the sociology dept. seems to be the modern renaissance man. Douglas, a self-proclaimed former communist, is teaching two courses this quarter. One is titled "American Military Strategy." Douglas is also teaching a course titled simply "love." This course sounds like one of those meaty, academic courses our sociology department is famous for.

California Review Mafia

Former editors of *The Review* are making an impact on the "real world." H.W. Crocker III is a free lance writer and publisher for the prestigious Regenry Gateway publishing firm in Washington D.C. E. Clasen Young is a brilliant young attorney defending developers against no-growth advocates. C.G. Alario is coordinating fundraisers for the contras and is reportedly one of Ollie North's finest proteges. C. Brandon Crocker is Assistant Vice-President of Nexus Corporation, a real estate development firm. Finally Kurt Schlichter and Peter Moons are serving their country as officers in the Army.

Read this book immediately

The Review strongly recommends the new book out by the Hoover Foundation, *Thinking About America*. Look for many of its policy recommendations to become law in the next four years.

Crime Does Pay!

Watergate burglar G. Gordon Liddy has been tapped by the Winkler McManus firm to help publicize the company's "Break-in" to the San Francisco market. "We couldn't get Nixon so we figured he'd do," said the firm's V.P. "We ran the idea by him—we didn't want him to be offended. He thought it was terrific."

Bush: No Wimp

Our new President is no wimp, and he never was, according to *CR*'s Kurt Schlichter. In 1986, as a summer intern in the office of Congressman Duncan Hunter, Schlichter was present when the Veep made a call to the Representative urging him to vote against a certain bill. Rep. Hunter had to refuse, and noted that he had to get off the phone and walk over to the Capitol to vote. "In that case," said the Vice-President, "I hope you break your leg."



From Harper's Index

Estimated number of jobs in the United States that were created by Japanese companies: 230,000

Estimated number of jobs in Japan that were created by American companies: 336,000

Portion of all U.S. imports that are produced by American companies abroad: 1/5.

Profits earned by Coca-Cola in Japan last year: \$350,000,000

In the United States: \$324,000,000

Price of a box of Cheerios in Japan: \$7.20

Number of people worldwide who have died of AIDS since 1981: 72,504

Number of people who have died of measles since then: 14,000,000

Percentage of children who say that Pee-wee Herman is "highly qualified" to be President: 8

Percentage who say that Michael Dukakis is: 8

Ratio of engineers to lawyers graduated each year in Japan: 10:1

In the United States: 1:10

Gold Card Funeral

Don't leave life without it! Delores Ranko, a fugitive wanted on charges of swindling over \$200,000 from credit card companies was honored at her funeral by a floral arrangement shaped like an American Express Gold Card. Her name was on the card, and the expiration date was appropriately enough, "Never."

CR knows a certain ex-Democratic presidential nominee who would be perfect for promoting weekend get-aways for some lucky travel agency. Just a thought.

A man who bore a strong resemblance to Elvis kidnapped a young woman at gunpoint and forced her to drive him to Alabama! He even sang along with the radio. "He may have looked like Elvis," reported the teenager, "but he sure didn't sing like him." The girl was released unharmed and the FBI is searching for the King of Rock and Roll's evil twin.



The AP has reported that a Chicago doctor has set up a 24-hour "Impotence Hotline" for men too embarrassed to take the "first step toward treatment. While the number was not included in the story, *CR* is sure that it can be obtained by calling the *New Indicator*.

Consumer Alert

The salt sold at Burger King contains: Salt, Sodium Silico Aluminate, Tricalcium Phosphate, Dextrose and 0.01% Potassium Iodide. By contrast all there is in their pepper is pepper.

Strange But True

In Memphis, a man entered a bank and handed a teller a hold-up note. Minutes later he made his getaway. He made one small error, however, -- he wrote his hold-up note on the back of one of his personal checks. He now resides in prison (perhaps sharing a cell with the guy who a few years ago wrote his hold-up note on the back of his parole card).

Der Beastie Boys

CR's new European Correspondent Kurt Andrew Schlichter reports this troubling story. The first time he switched on his radio in Europe he was greeted by a German disc jockey announcing the next hit by "Der Beastie Boys." No wonder anti-Americanism abounds.

Take Note VA Majors

EErie parallel to UCSD in Dusseldorf, Germany: A court rejected a claim by artist Johannes Stuetgen that his work, a 5 pound sculpture made of butter entitled *Corner of Fat*, was dropped by janitors and destroyed. The judge explained his reasoning by noting that "This object of rancid butter was, for laymen, not recognizable as art."

More Communism In Massachussetts

The City Council of Marlboro has just banned that all-American toy, Silly String. It seems that the kids were spraying everything in town, including moving vehicles and pedestrians. Users face a \$200 fine.

Mikhail Gorbachev is a man of peace, and he's got the fungus to prove it! The town of San Giovanni d'Asso has awarded him a white truffle, their annual prize for furthering the cause of peace. The 1.1 pound trophy is an edible, subterranean fungus that grows around tree roots. It is used to flavor foods and is worth about \$800.

A Coincidence?

In case you were wondering, Tarrant County, Texas was given the most federal aid per capita of any large urban area in the country. (\$5.5 billion, or \$5,481 per person). Tarrant County just happens to be the home of House Speaker Jim Wright.



Tribalism in American Politics

By Peppin Runcible IV

Los Angeles is not only the largest Spanish-speaking city outside of Mexico City, it is also the largest Farsi-speaking city outside of Teheran. This is interesting not only in itself, but in that the Iranian vote does not seem to have entered into the calculations of Carmen Perez, deputy chairman of the California state Democratic Party, who was quoted in *The Washington Times* as arguing that a Dukakis-Jackson ticket would be a "knockout punch," because if one added "Mr. Jackson's Rainbow Coalition to the support for the Spanish-speaking, first generation Greek," the Democrats would have won the minority vote.



But what about the Iranians? Did they support Dukakis, with his dark and swarthy features, or were they put off by his Jewish wife? Were they entranced by Jackson's ties to the Arab world or did they consider him therefore beholden to Iraq? Did they prefer George Bush, who is both anti-Khomeini, but not necessarily anti-Iranian? And what about the Armenian vote? George Bush wooed Armenians by telling them that they were victims of a Turkish campaign of genocide. But what happened to the Turkish vote? Were the Turks offended by Bush to the point where they actually voted for a Greek who also believes the Armenians were victims of a genocide?

American politicians have always broken the electorate up into ethnic groups to which they could appeal, or, rather, perhaps ethnic groups have always remained definable blocks to which the candidates must address themselves. One hundred years ago, black Americans were staunch Republicans. When Theodore Roosevelt was running for Mayor of New York, he said: "I like to speak to an audience of colored people, for that is the only way of saying that I am speaking to an audience of Republicans. And today no one considers it the least remarkable that black Americans vote as a block, that nine out of ten blacks vote Democratic, and that they have left the party of Lincoln for the party of George Wallace.

But if pandering to ethnic voting blocks—or tribes—has a long tradition in American politics, it is nevertheless also true that it leaves a good many middle Americans feeling uneasy. The idea of hyphenated Americanism, with the prospect of dual loyalties, cannot appeal to anyone who cares about preserving a coherent American nation.

The political effects of balkanizing American politics are troublesome, and, in

some respects, blur ideological distinctions. Conservatives are divided because, on the one hand, they recognize the philosophical and economic arguments in favor of free immigration, and on the other hand, believing in the importance of the little platoon, they are ill-placed to criticize ethnic pride and loyalty. Liberals are also divided. As far as the Democratic Party is a party of organized labor and protectionism, it is a party of closed borders and xenophobia. As far as it is a party of interest groups, it has, it believes, an important stake in creating self-conscious minorities that it can politicize and add to the rainbow coalition.

It is the latter tendency of modern American liberalism that is the most worrisome, because it would seem to put the dissolving of American nationhood for the benefit of Democratic electoral chances above the nation interest—in sum, it strives to create or foster groups with a grievance against "the system," which more often than not is the nation-at-large, which is guilty of racism, sexism, and the long line of other -isms that liberals have coined for people with an axe to grind.

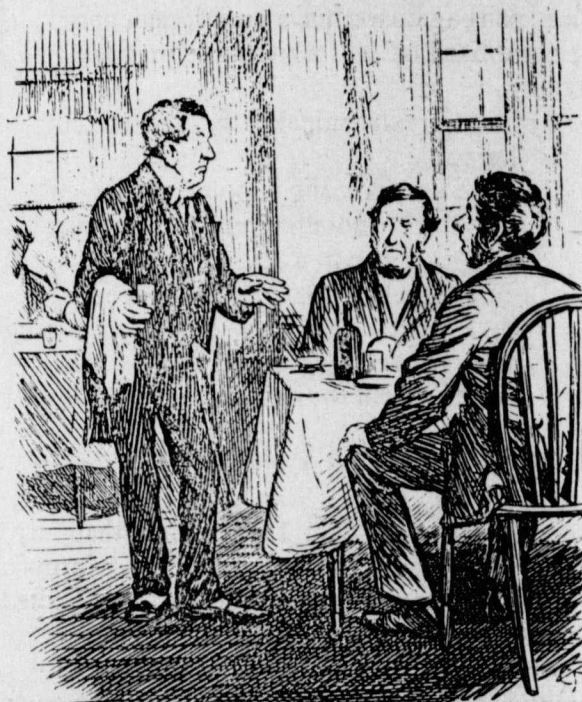
What should especially arouse concern is that the Democratic Party is already not a party of "color blindness," but a party of blatant, overt racial preference of Procrustean quotas, and not, as many conservatives utter with mesmerized, ideological regularity, of egalitarian homogenization, but of continual preference for the other, for that which is not us, for a "pluralism" that looks with favor on the non-Western and non-traditional—whether it manifests itself morally, culturally, or politically. In so far as the Democrats pursue ethnic groups in this manner, they are a party fundamentally at war with the idea of an American nation—a party so at odds with what is identifiably Western and "ethnographically" American as to want to throw out the melting pot; to snarl at the narrow, bigoted, chauvinistic idea of turning Hispanic and Iranian immigrants into English-speaking, Constitution-quoting, patriotic Americans; and to bring the tribal wars of Africa to the world's last best hope—this shining city on a hill that might soon be known as Babel.

The Roman Empire fell in large part because of Roman generals who put their own glory above that of Rome and who were willing to wage civil wars and foment internal strife to enhance their own power. In other words, the



ideal of the nation became subordinate to the ideal of the self. A failure to recognize the continual necessity of forging an American nation out of new and foreign-born citizens is a failure of unending cost, which we should have learned to avoid by reading history.

If liberalism continues to play the dangerous game of promoting fissiparous tendencies for electoral profit, and if the little platoons become so aggrieved as to take their politicization to non-Western and traditionally non-American extremes, our well-meaning politicians might find themselves sitting atop their own Mount



Lebanon, trying desperately to buy off and pacify all those handy little interest groups that were so useful at putting them in power, but who have become so difficult to control or appease now that they take their extremism seriously. Black groups already wield this sort of power on American university campuses; and, politically, homosexual activists have given us a glimpse of this response, in suitably introverted fashion, by killing themselves, in the manner of sexual lemmings, while making their self-immolation a passionate political issue. Let us hope that America's multi-farious ethnic groups do not externalize the political violence they are fed by the grievance mongers and consciousness raisers lest the Greek philosophers be proved right and democracy merely serve as a prelude to tyranny.

--Peppin Runcible IV is *California Review's* chief political correspondent.

The Merits of Capital Punishment

by Jeanne Hammons

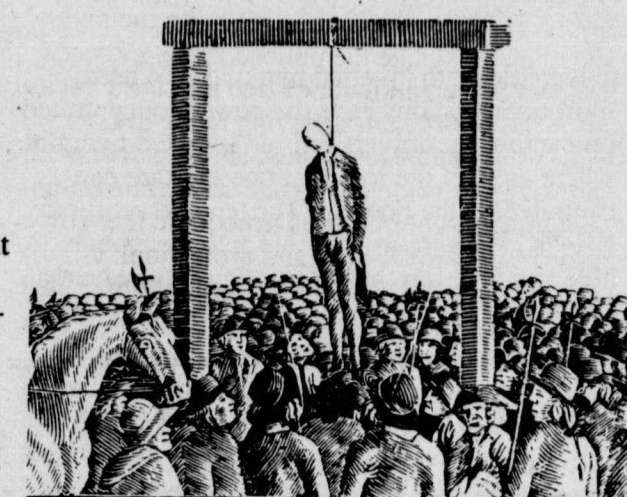
The death penalty: Cruel? Hardly. Unusual? I think not. New and "unusual" things tend to lose their novelty after a couple hundred of years, as has the United States' use of the death penalty as a measure of punishment for perpetrators of capital crimes.

Rarely failing to generate large-scale controversy, the death penalty has long remained a highly-debated item on the American political agenda at the national, state, and local levels. Coalitions against capital punishment appear to be comprised of the following segments of society:

- 1) Murderers/criminals, friends and family thereof.
- 2) Mike Dukakis and supporters (they advocate the "furlough rehabilitation" system as a response to tough crime).
- 3) Individuals who reject the concept of deterrence, settle for repeat offenses, and view prisons as providing an excellent environment for reform.

The reasons to support capital punishment are many and varied. Firstly, the death penalty operates as a deterrent. I will submit that impending death is among the stronger forms of dissuasion for potential murderers. The United States Supreme Court concurs. In *Gregg v. Georgia*, the Court ruled that capital punishment undoubtedly deters individuals who entertain the thoughts of murder. Furthermore, the death penalty does not provide offenders with opportunities to repeat their transgressions while out on furloughs or parole.

Right about now, the Liberals will intervene, register objections, and emit cries glamorizing



reform. I, however, subscribe to the theory that prisons are correctly labeled "institutions of crime." That is, incarceration often leads to the development of, rather than a departure from, criminal skills and tendencies. At the very least, prisons are undeniably not centers which foster gentleness and kindness in nature providing for the transformation of ghastly homicidal maniacs into devoted husbands and big bad Bills into sweet Williams.

Another convincing argument in favor of capital punishment lies in the fact that the American people want it. This becomes evident when one notes that it has been around since the colonial days. Since ineffective and unpopular institutions are inevitably discarded over the course of time, the fact that the death penalty is still around reflects continued support and approval from the American people. This is due to the fact that it remains a proficient method of combating capital crime, and we should also note that there will be no foreseeable discontinuation of its utilization. Furthermore, Californians overwhelmingly reaffirmed their

advocation of the death penalty when they emphatically ousted Rose Bird from the California Supreme Court a few years ago. Voter consensus indicated that the reason for her departure was that she voted to overturn every death sentence that came before the court during her tenure.

In conclusion, here is an overview of the fundamental reasons why the death penalty warrants our continued support:

- 1) It deters so-inclined individuals from fulfilling their murderous fantasies.
- 2) It does not allow for repeat offenses.
- 3) It does not allow criminals weekend vacat- I mean, furloughs (Sorry, Mike).
- 4) Prison cells fail as ideal surroundings for nurturing a hardened criminal's inner kindness and sensitivity.
- 5) The American people favor it - and this is a democracy in which we live, unfortunately for Rose ...
- 6) Mike Dukakis and Ted Kennedy oppose it.
- 7) If we increase its implementation, maybe the Liberals will stop bitching about the overcrowded state of the country's prisons while at the same time suggesting that we stuff all of the murderers and maniacs into them for life terms.

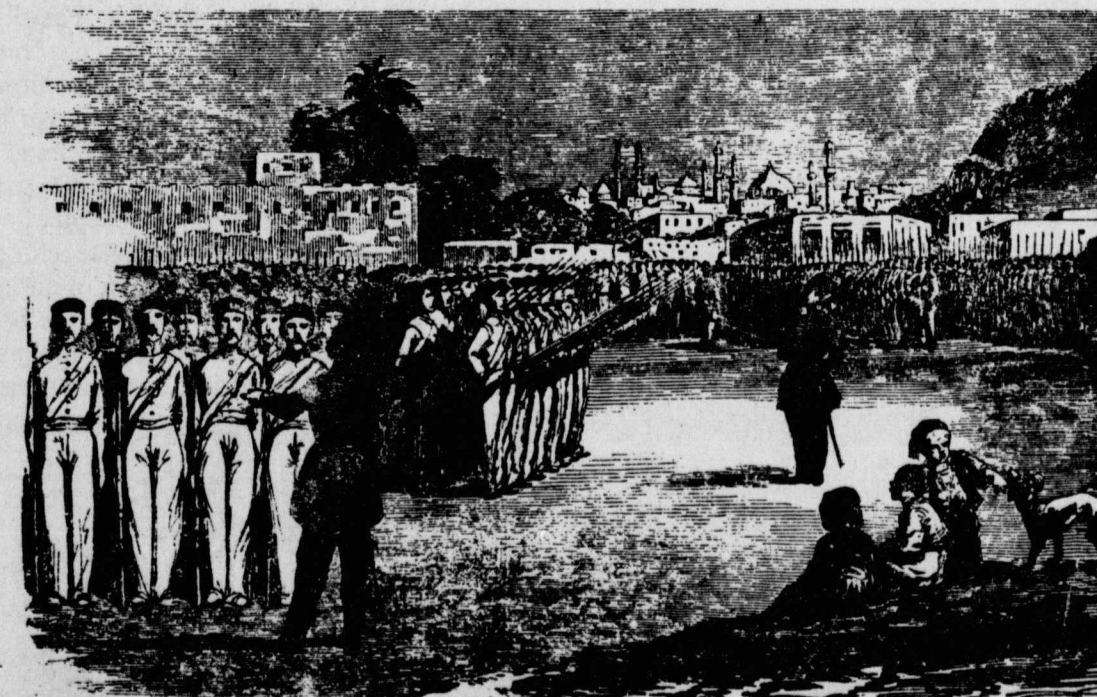
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Books In Brief

by Horatio Galba

Letters from America, by Rupert Brooke, Preface by Henry James (Beaufort Books, 222 pp., \$16.95)

Rupert Brooke's *Letters From America* doesn't tell us much about America, or Canada, which he also visits (though his letter from Samoa is rather better), and the letters themselves written as dispatches to the *Westminster Gazette*, are not remarkably well-written. *Letters from America* bears a sharp resemblance to Brooke's poetry (and his entire gilded life for that matter)—good in spots, but on the whole really rather disappointing. There are a few interesting passages, one of which is evocative of *The Great Gatsby*. In Brooke's description of a chewing gum advertisement lighting up the New York skyline—"Suddenly, when she has surveyed mankind, she closes her left eye. Three times she winks, and then vanishes. No ordinary winks these, but portentous, terrifyingly steady, obliterating a great tract of sky. Hour by hour she does this, night by night, year by year. That enigmatic obscuration of light, that answer that is no answer, is, perhaps, the first thing in this world that a child born near here will see, and the last that a dying man will have to take for a message to the curious dead."—puts one in mind of the eyes of Doctor T.J.



Eckleburg. Scott Fitzgerald was well-familiar with Brooke's work—the title for *This Side of Paradise* comes from Brooke's poem "Tiare Tahiti"—and, indeed, the whole tone of *Letters to America* is reminiscent of the note struck by Fitzgerald in *This Side of Paradise* when he ends an argument between a socialist young man and a capitalist old man in this good-natured fashion: "Good-by!" shouted Mr. Ferrenby, as the car turned the corner and started up the drive.

"Good luck to you and bad luck to your theories."

"Same to you, sir," cried Amory, smiling and waving his hand.

Letters from America is a slight work, better than the portentous build up given it by Henry James, but also unworthy of it, however much James was moved by Brooke's death in the Great War. Aficionados of Brooke will want to read it—they have so little else to cherish. Others will find it quick, but un nourishing.

Profscam: CR Interviews

Higher education has been ruined by professors. Professors have manufactured an academic culture which shuns teaching in favor of research--research that is often worthless--which has resulted in huge class sizes, graduate students (instead of professors) teaching undergraduates, a decay in core curriculums as professors instead teach their narrow "specialties," and other ills. This is the thesis of a controversial new book by Charles Sykes, *Profscam: Professors and the Demise of Higher Education*. Mr. Sykes is himself the son of a university professor, and was formerly editor of *Milwaukee Magazine*. He recently took time to discuss his findings, and his suggestions for academic reform, with CR's *Imperator Emeritus*, C. Brandon Crocker.

CR: In *Profscam* you blame the decline in American higher education on the rise of the power that professors have been able to exert on university policies. How did professors attain this power?

SYKES: Well, I think partially by the fact that trustees and boards and state legislatures in effect abdicated their responsibility to protect the rights of students, and the educational integrity of higher education. The system is in a sense skewed towards the professors because of the tradition of tenure which in effect makes

universities into inverted pyramids. Where most organizations have the power concentrated on the top, the university is an inverted pyramid where most of the important powers are concentrated on the bottom. The tenured professoriate is in a sense immovable and unaccountable and therefore has tremendous leverage that one would not find in most organizations. So I

"We have a vast engine of academic publishing where the goal is not to inform, or explain, or communicate any knowledge but rather to fill out the resumes of professors."

think that is clearly one of the contributory factors in what has happened in higher education over the last twenty years.

CR: Could you explain your concept of "academic villages?"

SYKES: Yes. The power of the academic villages is crucial in explaining the power of the professors over the universities. Basically, I

think there are two ways of looking at academia. One way is looking at the focus or structure of powers vertically. That is with the president on top and professors on the bottom, theoretically. In reality, the real power of academia is in what I call the "villages," which are essentially the disciplines themselves, and these are horizontal in structure. What I mean by that is that an economist at University A has more in common with an economist at University B than he has with his own dean or chancellor. In effect, the real power of academia lies in the academic villages because they control the path to prestige; they determine who gets published in the academic journals, who gets invited to the academic conferences. That is where the prestige mechanisms that determine the reward mechanisms of the universities take place. When people tend to look at who controls the universities they tend to miss the fact that a lot of the power is invisible because it is not based on a single campus.

CR: You link the increased stress on faculty research with the debasement of the university curricula. Could you explain this?

SYKES: Part of it has to do with the values the academic villages have. The reason I used the term villages is because they have wise men, they have rituals, they have their own intimidating and obscure jargon for each academic village. Clearly, one of the ways to rise in the academic village--the key way--is through

research. So, hand in hand with that goes the pressure on professors to specialize; not only to specialize but to hyper-specialize and even micro-specialize. The result of this is a professor playing to his colleagues. What that has led to, indirectly, is the devaluing of teaching on the university campus. The fact is that today the priorities of the universities are so skewed that a professor who emphasizes teaching, who really cares about his or her students, who really devotes himself to his classroom work is in

"At the state universities, legislatures ought to take the rather radical step of requiring teachers to teach."

effect almost committing academic suicide. The flip side of that is the curriculum. The curriculum is no longer in the remotest sense centered around the student and is not at all concerned with imparting knowledge or a set of values on the student. The curriculum is based

Charles Sykes

on the priorities of the individual professors as dictated by their own specialization or the academic villages. So, the professors want to teach their own specialization, they want to teach the courses that advance them within their profession, within their academic villages. Then that leaves the question; who looks after the student?

Who looks after higher education from the point of view of what students ought to learn? The answer is, essentially, no one. Not only has the professoriate left undergraduates as the orphans of higher education by deserting the classroom, but it has abdicated its responsibility to insure that there be some sort of intellectual coherence in the curriculum.

CR: How do the student protests at Stanford, which ended in the trashing of the University's required Western Civilization course, fit into your thesis?

SYKES: Clearly what you have there is the continuing movement to debase intellectual currency in higher education. The limitations caused by a coherent curriculum based on classical western culture is that it opposes those certain abilities of professors to pursue their specialization, to teach the current theory of the moment, and turn their classrooms into political pulpits. The traditional curriculum, in a sense, has always been a limitation on the ability of the professoriate to do their own thing. The irony is that some of the time the attention gets

focused on the student. The illusion is that the students are ridding themselves of an outdated curriculum. What they are really doing is freeing the faculty of the obligations to teach a certain body of knowledge.

CR: You devote a chapter of *Profscam* to how the academic culture born out of the stress on research has affected the humanities. What are some of the disturbing trends you see as being caused by this culture?

SYKES: Well, the humanities are unlike the sciences in that you could possibly argue that research is at the heart of the sciences. But if research is at the heart of the sciences then teaching is at the heart of the humanities. There is so much going on in the humanities. One is the destruction of the canon of literature--like what you were talking about at Stanford. The idea that there are certain enduring works that should be at the core of the curriculum is certainly under fire. Running through-out it all is what I can only call a bizarre and radical shift in academia away from teaching literature and books to teaching the theory of the moment--dominated by various imported continental theories ranging from structuralism to post-structuralism to its most bizarre incarnation--deconstructionism (which is very popular at UC Irvine). This last theory essentially denies that language has any inherent

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Storming the Ivory Tower

by C. Brandon Crocker

Cardinal Newman thought that colleges and universities should be institutions which passed on knowledge from one generation to another. And this is how higher education functioned in the United States until the late 19th century when two things happened: the idea of the university as a knowledge generator spread from Germany, and schools quickly began to make a PhD (and hence, intense specialization) a requirement for becoming a professor. The

results on American higher education from these profound, but innocent sounding changes, are the subject of Charles Sykes' *Profscam: Professors and the Demise of Higher Education*.

A journalist by training, (he served as a reporter for *The Milwaukee Journal*, and as editor of *Milwaukee Magazine*), Sykes demonstrates both his skill as an investigative reporter and as an essayist. His thesis--that the professoriate is responsible for inflicting terrible damage to our system of higher education--is well documented and delineated in a clear engaging, and often humorous style. The indictment Sykes levels against the professoriate, however, is anything but funny. Sykes lays at the feet of the professoriate the responsibility for a myriad of problems facing higher education including poor teaching, huge lecture sizes, and watered down courses. All these ills are a result of the professoriate's ability to influence university policies in order to promote the importance of academic research rather than teaching.

As the Supreme Court recently concluded, the professoriate is the dominant power at American universities. In the culture which the professoriate has created in academe, there is only one road to success: research. Faculty review of junior professors in the classroom is extremely rare. Research is the way to prestige, money, and tenure. Good teaching is worth nothing, and, in fact, is seen as a challenge to the academic establishment. One professor at Brown University, for instance, recently ridiculed his colleagues who stress teaching as "the homebodies, without ambition of an intellectual, let alone scholarly character, the book-reading camp counselors." Three of the last four recipients of Harvard's Levenson Award for Outstanding Teaching have been denied tenure.



Given the academic culture, it is not surprising that good teaching is hard to find. Instead, many professors merely regurgitate the textbook, use old lecture notes, bore students by dwelling on their particular speciality, turn classes into "rap sessions" or just ramble. As soon as they are able, they teach only classes in

Profscam: Professors and the Demise of Higher Education
By Charles J. Sykes
Regnery Gateway, 292 p.p., \$18.95

their own special interest, and this is why coherent core curriculums are now so hard to find. More and more, university curriculums are shaped not around the students, but around the particular interests of the professors.

Sykes has also uncovered a scam concerning who is actually teaching undergraduates. Many professors spend less than nine hours a week in the classroom (over an eight or nine month year), ostensibly to give them time for their all important research. The results are huge class sizes, computerized testing (no essays), and teaching assistants (graduate students)--not the faculty--doing much of the teaching. In some departments at U.C. Berkeley more than half of the lower division courses are taught by TAs.

The research that causes all this sacrifice in teaching, moreover, is in large part worthless. As Sykes writes,

Indeed, all parents forced to take out a second mortgage on their homes to pay for college tuition can take heart, knowing that their efforts have made it possible for America to maintain its edge by supporting one professor's research into the "Evolution of the Potholder: From Technology to Popular Art," complete with a chart tracing the "Distribution of Potholder, and Hot Mat Design Motifs by Decade," (including the frequency of "fruits and nuts, animals, birds, insects, fish," and mottoes).



Sykes writes of several other stellar examples of inane research, complete with translations of "profspeak"--the convoluted language professors often use to disguise the fact they have nothing to say, or make trivial findings sound important. Sykes found professors candid about the fact that most research is not intended to be read just published. Only a tiny percentage of all published research makes even marginal contributions to the understanding of its field.

The chapter devoted to the academic publishing industry is a devastating expose. Journal editors often do not recognize resubmissions of articles they printed only months before. Recent fraud cases have shown that listed "co-authors" often may never even have read the articles they supposedly co-authored. The professors who produce such critical studies have been ostracized, and have had problems getting published ever since--as those who decide who gets published are members of the professorial establishment whom they have embarrassed.

Sykes realizes that reform of the academic system will not be easy, but he is hopeful. He points to the many interested parties who can and should get involved, from students, parents, state legislatures (in the case of state universities), and those many professors who do care about teaching and coherent curriculums. Until the power wielded by the professoriate is reduced, however, the horror stories of abominable teaching, distorted curriculums, and worthless research will grow even larger.

Profscam is a stunning and disturbing piece of work. One can only hope that it will be an influential one as well.

C. Brandon Crocker is CR's *Imperator Emeritus*.

CHARLES J. SYKES
PROFSCAM

PROFESSORS
AND THE
DEMISE OF
HIGHER
EDUCATION

PROFSCAM

REGNERY
GATEWAY

CHARLES J. SYKES

Profscam: CR Interviews Charles J. Sykes

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meaning. It is the ultimate nihilism. It seeks to say that language is nothing in and of itself--that words are merely "signifiers."

I think fifty years from now, we will look back on this as a form of new barbarism rather than anything else. But tragically what you are seeing is that sort of junk scholarship is being looked at as the cutting edge of scholarship in the humanities. It is the practitioners of these theories who are receiving the largest salaries at the universities. Schools that want to take prestige by storm are hiring up the most bizarre theoreticians. Like Duke University where they piled on many of the most bizarre theoreticians they could find in one department--from one professor who teaches that "King Lear" is really a seventeenth century critique of British economics to a woman who is now making her academic specialty the cowboy novels of Louis L'Amour. These are people who may be making six figures. I think someone was telling me last week that J. Hillis Miller was making something on the order of \$100,000. Frankly, the chapter is called "The Abolition of Man" because in effect what they are doing is throttling the life out of the humanities.

CR: Why do you believe that the academic culture is actually hostile to good teaching?

SYKES: Frankly, the fact was one of the most surprising and appalling things I came across in the course of my research. I think when I began working on the book I suspected that the academic culture was indifferent to teaching because of its emphasis on research. But what I found was case after case, from Harvard on down, of professors who were outstanding teachers and who had won teaching awards but were denied tenure. In effect, forced out. It told me that being regarded as a teacher was virtually the kiss of death on the university campus. The values and the priorities have been so distorted by the academic culture that the professoriate has come to regard people who emphasize teaching as a threat to the prestige or the integrity of the structure they have set up. I don't know of any rational way to describe a system that seems to systematically devalue and penalize the value and work of people who are actually teaching. Partly, you have to look at the reward structure. The teaching is done by the "coolies" of the academic work force--what I call the academic underclass. So the people in the classroom are the teaching assistants or the part timers or the gypsy professors. These are people so low that they do not even show up on the normal schedules of prestige within academia. The fact is that the first thing you do as a professor if you are rising in your field is to get the heck out of the classroom. So anyone who wants to stay back, who wants to teach in the classroom, is really bucking the entire prestige mechanism. He is really challenging the value of the academic culture created by professors. I can't think of any other explanation for the fact that these people are subjected to such violent, vicious, and such thorough retaliations against what would seem to the ordinary person as what a professor is for in the first place.

CR: What have you found to be the response of the "academic villages" to criticism concerning the quality and meaningfulness of academic research?

SYKES: Something between hysteria and apoplexy. Because you are striking at the very heart of the system. If academia were to acknowledge the fact that much of what it does

is makework and junk scholarship, then the entire edifice of the academic culture would have to be dismantled and maybe we would have professors go back to teaching and communicating with undergraduates and the real world, and addressing real, significant problems. One of the allegations is that anyone who raises the slightest question about academic research is anti-intellectual, whereas in fact the system of academic publishing that claims that this kind of ridiculous, inane junk scholarship is legitimate scholarship, is perhaps the most anti-intellectual phenomenon in our society. The academics hide behind that. In fact, the response you get is the response critics have always gotten, which is "you peasants cannot possibly understand what we wizards up here in the tower are doing so go away." That is why I spent so much time in researching the book--going through academic research and taking examples of "profspeak" and translating them into English--because I think that when you do that the average person can see that there is a heck of a lot less there than meets the eye. If the vast majority of academic research stood exposed for what it really is, the absurdity would be immediately apparent.

"Today the priorities of the universities are so skewed that a professor who emphasizes teaching is almost committing academic suicide."

CR: What exactly is "profspeak"?

SYKES: "Profspeak" is the peculiar language, the jargon, the intimidating convolutions of the language that the professoriate uses to conceal the fact that much of the research that it produces really has nothing to say. I call it the "triple imperative of obscurantism" which results in three things. One, that "profspeak" can make even the most trivial subject, the most commonplace observation, sound profound even if the subject is utterly inane and insignificant. Two, it makes it easier to avoid having to say anything directly at all. Finally, and most importantly, it is easier than real thought or originality. I think that the professoriate has found that intimidating sounding jargon and very elaborate looking mathematical formulas can make even the most trivial point sound quite impressive--impressive enough to convince people to give you grants, sabbaticals, and tenure and maybe even make you a full professor somewhere.

CR: You touched on this a little earlier, but I'd like to go a little bit further into who exactly is teaching undergraduates at highly touted universities. What is the extent that you have found of students for years never being taught by professors?

SYKES: This is where the real outrages of academia come in. The professoriate has not only abandoned the classroom, but it cares so little what happens in that classroom that they have put in their place, in front of the undergraduates, teachers who often lack minimal communication skills. Frankly, I think that that fact is important because it is the most dramatic

possible evidence for the contempt for undergraduate teaching in the American university. It is possible, as a case I discovered at the University of Illinois shows, for a senior never to have had a professor in a class in his major in four years at the university. That is a scandal. There is no question about it. The latest permutation of this sort of thing is a classroom of a thousand or more undergraduates where you don't even have a human being in the classroom--you just have video monitors showing a professor giving a lecture while that professor is off busily doing something else. So I think that the real impact of the professor's scam is the impact it is having on our undergraduate education.

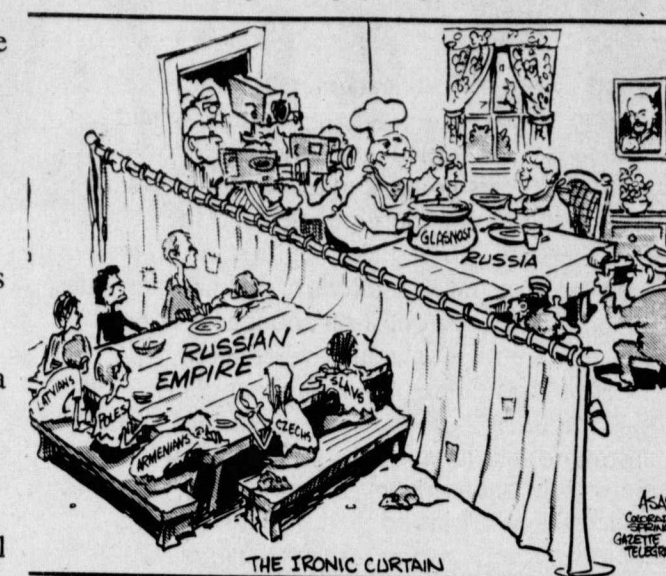
"The professoriate has abdicated its responsibility to insure that there be some sort of intellectual in the curriculum."

CR: What other steps do we need to take to rescue higher education?

SYKES: At the state universities I think legislatures ought to take a rather radical step, and I am fully aware of how radical it is, of requiring professors to teach. Putting teachers back in the classroom and mandating minimum teaching loads. I know that this is regarded as the ultimate heresy in academia, but I think that somehow the universities need to make the point as clearly and graphically as possible that their number one priority from hence forth is undergraduate education. You cannot do that unless you put professors back in the classroom. So perhaps mandating a teaching load of nine hours a week--which does not strike me or most people outside of academia as unduly burdensome--would be a good step. Short of that, I think that parents and students ought to insist on truth in advertising at the university. Universities are very seldom candid about what students will actually find on their campus. They ought to disclose the work load of their faculty, spell out on a course by course basis the degree to which professors rely on teaching assistants. They ought to let parents and students know the sizes their classes are going to be. On a school by school basis you are going to have to restore genuine core curriculums that are centered on the student and that are unashamedly centered on the intellectual tradition of western civilization. Also, universities should acknowledge that there are certain books and certain authors that any graduate should read to be considered truly educated. And this core ought to be based on a curriculum of the sort prescribed by Robert Maynard Hutchins at the University of Chicago--not a group of bloated specialized courses like at Harvard. Again, I am not sure that change in academia is going to come by any blanket solution. I think it is going to be fought out school by school, campus by campus, maybe even department by department. I am more hopeful about the fate of the smaller schools than the larger ones.

On Gorbachev and Eastern Europe

by Gary Gray



republic. The need for bringing these others along, coupled with an inability to hide actions for such, is an area where Gorbachev can be studied without distortion. Interactions between the communist nations that would be of analytical value in this sense can be divided into 3 separate policy fields; military, economic and ideological. A mention of what to look for in each will be presented here in an attempt to demonstrate the potential of this source.

The first policy area mentioned, military relations, would seemingly be the most obvious source of information but since this is apparent to both sides, it is not necessarily true. Currently, cosmetic signs of benevolence abound from the military proposals of the Kremlin. The promises of unilateral troop reductions are meaningless in quantitative terms but also tell us nothing about long-term intent. The reduction of tension in Europe is presently wholly consistent with the short-range interests of the USSR, as previously mentioned. This posturing should be encouraged since it may lead to substance eventually, but it definitely should not be mistaken for a Soviet loss of interest in European hegemony. The only acceptable indication of something this profound would be a change in the Russian force posture and doctrine in Europe which reflected acceptance of the status quo. Although negotiations with NATO may play some part in this, the best way to study changes in their military doctrine is from within the Warsaw Pact (WTO) itself. Even though the forces of the non-Soviet members of the WTO are not a crucial measure of its power, their future is reflective of the alliance's intentions. If for example the Eastern European nations were permitted to reduce their military infrastructures to a significant extent and redirect what remained of them to predominantly defensive use, this would signal a significant shift in Soviet goals. In this situation deployments would finally match the claim that Eastern Europe is not a forward staging ground but a defensive buffer. These actions are not being presented as the only promising option open to the Soviets, but rather a particular case in which a glimpse of motivation might be gained. The important element is that some indication of a "real" shift in WTO force posture towards the defensive would be encouraging but only credible if the allies are its leading edge.

Economic and ideological steps taken by the Soviet leadership are other avenues which could be explored for hidden meaning. There are many different options open to the East in these areas and the following generalities about their substance are sufficient at this early point to describe them. The certainty that increased economic ties to the capitalist powers would help their renovation efforts is demonstrated by the recent Kremlin calls for such. This is simi-

lar to developments in the military area however because although it is a peaceful gesture, it is consistent with their interests and can be terminated when no longer necessary. Meaningful steps would be ones that initiated interaction between the economies of the two blocs such as a reduction of currency exchange barriers and increased joint ventures. In essence the two areas are intertwined because one action that Gorbachev is undertaking, increased influence of market forces, is an ideological compromise. This has been attempted in the past however, as with Lenin's "NEP", and these changes proved to be short lived and all too self serving. The communist bloc's economic organization, COMECON, could tell us much in the years to come on the basis of its relevance. If nations allied with the USSR are permitted to pursue their own national economic agendas with the West at the expense of COMECON ties it would be a significant development. For this to happen Gorbachev, or his successor, would have to be secure with his nation's economic status but also unafraid of international competition outside of the military realm. Thus if future economic relations between the West and Eastern Europe are permitted to progress beyond their current state of bailout loans, a substantially less threatening Soviet adversary might be behind this.

There will undoubtedly be many attempts to study and analyze the implications of the current policy actions by the new Soviet leader Gorbachev. A broad consensus exists that the changes he speaks of are unique from his predecessors programs and as a result, we as the adversary superpower, are faced with many decisions and opportunities. Let us not forget however, that we also share the historical responsibility of not rushing along with his agenda until we certify that it is also in the long term interests of our free way of life. Thus proposals cannot be taken at face value only, they must be dissected in the search for the illusive property of intent. Many would dismiss this attempt as trying to read the minds of our adversary which couldn't possibly succeed. What has been shown here is that this doesn't have to be the case. Concrete indicators of Soviet intent do exist, such as the relationship with its allies in Eastern Europe. It is not enough to sit back at this point and celebrate the recent "death" of the Cold War. Much more productive time could be spent unearthing and studying undistortable sources of why the Soviets actions take place. Only with this type of vigilance can recent gains be truly understood and fully appreciated if genuine.

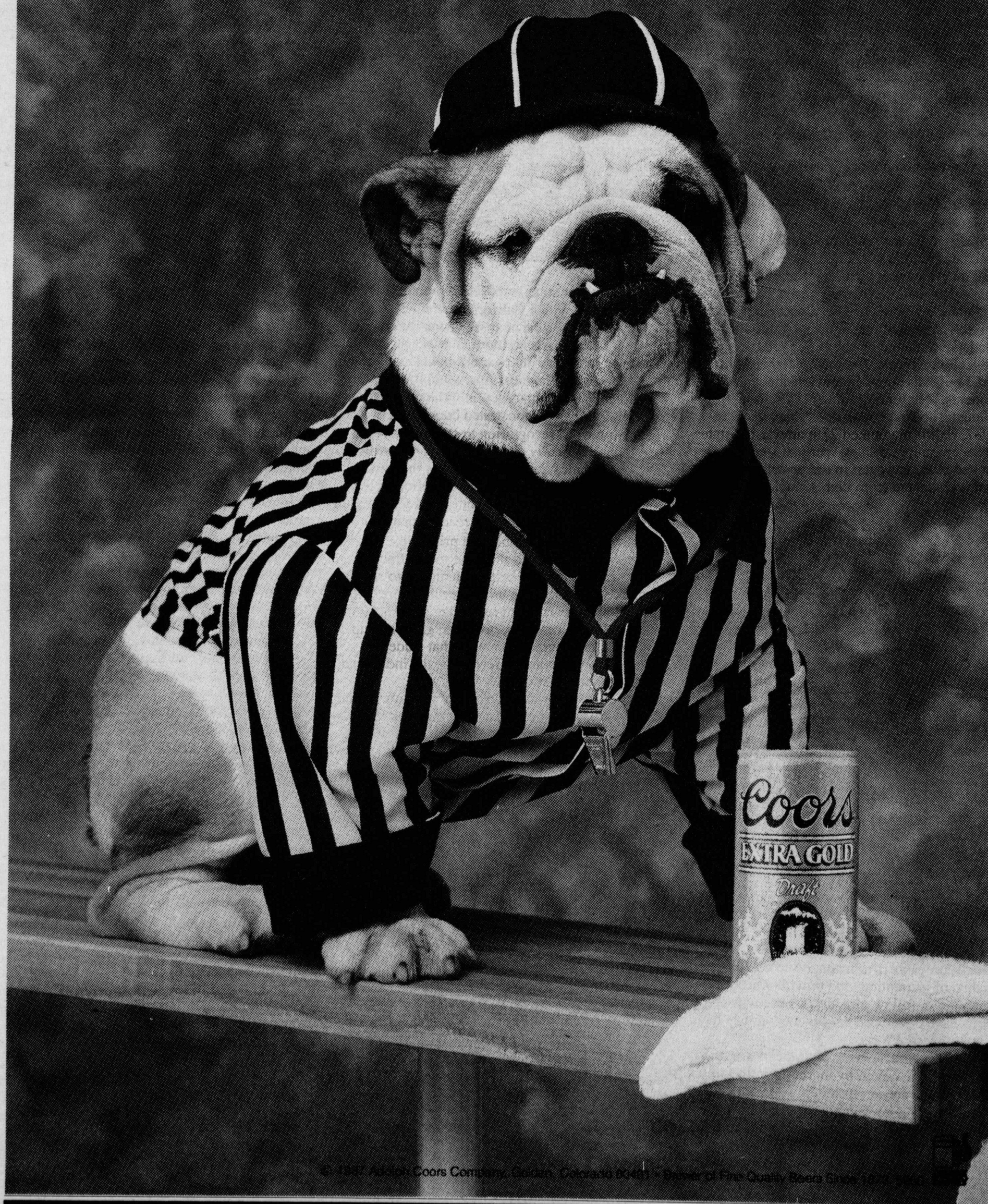
Gary Gray is CR's East European Expert.



Coming Next Issue

The Inhumanity of Modern Architecture

COORS EXTRA GOLD. ALWAYS A GOOD CALL.



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The Promise of Proposition 98

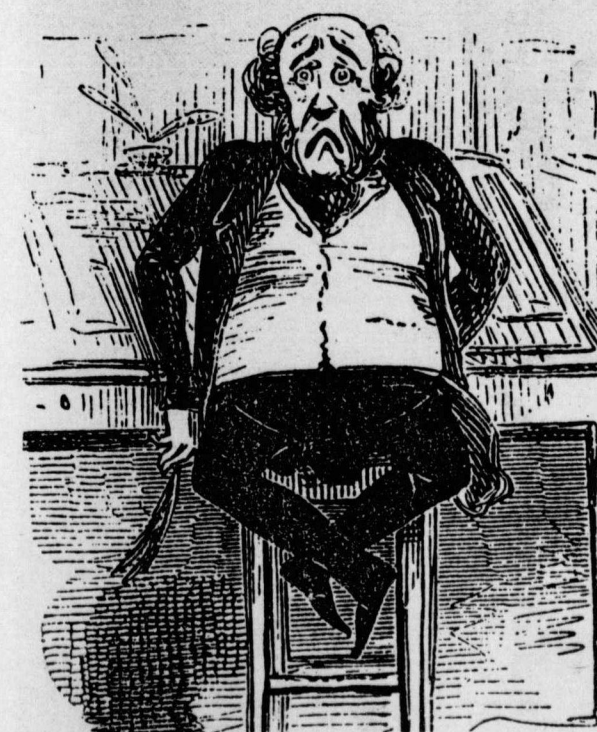
by Dr. Patrick Groff

California's voters accepted Proposition 98, the initiative that gives the public schools 39% of the state budget, by the slimmest of margins. There are legitimate reasons why almost half of the electorate turned down this guarantee of affluence for our schools.

Almost half of the people in voting on Proposition 98 doubtless sensed that more money for school, as such, is not the long-term solution for their numerous problems. The voters in general obviously realized that students must have classrooms in which to study and learn. They thus were far more willing to ratify Proposition 79, which provides for new school buildings and for improvements on existing ones.

In its different reaction to Propositions 98 and 79, however, the electorate made a sensible distinction between the need to provide rooms for students, and what it takes to spur schools to make sure that students meet academic standards and graduate.

The evidence is clear that there is no significant relationship across the nation between the amount the schools in a state spend per student and the percent of students that graduate. Statistics gathered by the U.S. Department of Education indicate, for example, that Missouri and Louisiana spend identical sums on their students. Missouri graduates 21% more of its students, however, than does Louisiana. In 1987, California ranked 27th among the states in the amount of money spent on students. It ranked 39th, however, in the percent of students that it graduated from high school.



There are out-of-school factors that influence these figures, of course. For example, the negative attitudes that some students bring to school about learning and instruction prove difficult for teachers to manage successfully. The habits of inattention, and unwillingness or inability to follow directions, that some children have developed at home, obviously handicap teachers' efforts.

These characteristics of students are seldom overcome, however, by increases in the amount that schools spend on students. As a matter of fact, it costs schools no more to conduct disciplined lessons, and to use the most effective methodologies, than to tolerate disorder in classrooms and neglect to practice the most efficient instructional techniques.



The recent state-level selection of basal textbooks, from which California's students will learn to read for the next six years, illustrates this point. It costs no more to select the basal reading textbooks that experimental research has shown are the most functional for carrying out basic reading instruction. The research on this matter has demonstrated convincingly that teaching word recognition to students directly and systematically, through intensive instruction in phonics, best accomplishes this task.

Nonetheless, in this year's selection of learning-to-read textbooks the California Curriculum Commission rejected basal readers that conform to this well-established principle. The Commission insisted that "the most effective teaching techniques help students get to sense quickly often leaving until later the more difficult task of learning to recognize written words." The research, however, gives no support for this incredible notion that students somehow can come to recognize the individual words in the passage.

Foolish decisions about how students should be taught, like this one, can be made by the schools without impunity, the public doubtless knows, because teachers are not held accountable for the products of their instruction. In this regard, the teachers' union leaders in California who helped sponsor Proposition 98 are also the people who reject all proposals for giving superior teachers merit pay. All teachers are effective, these union leaders lamely argue, and thus teachers deserve equally high salaries.

That over 49% of the people voted against Proposition 98 was a signal of their apprehension at putting 39% of the state's monies at the disposal of educational professionals who hold or tolerate such illogical assumptions about teachers and their instructional practices. These voters were likely aware of the finding that up to 70 million Americans have left school as functional illiterates. A goodly share of these marginal readers reside in California, especially in its under-class. About 57 percent of welfare recipients in the state lack the reading skills necessary to find and keep a job. Approximately 75 percent of our unemployed adults fall short of the reading abilities needed for employers to train them.

Poor judgements about the teaching of reading made in our schools are a major cause of these educational failures. Those who make such errors of judgement thus must bear in large part the responsibility for the prevalence of these educationally handicapped adults.

By voting against Proposition 98 the public expressed its collective wisdom that the educational record of the schools so far is not deserving of a substantially larger percent of the state's tax money than schools now get. In particular, people seem to say, there should be strings attached to the increase in financial grants made to schools. Apparently many of the voters noticed that Proposition 98 asks for no monetary penalties against schools that teach more poorly than would be expected, nor any additional payment for schools whose instruc-



tion is superior in this respect. In short, Proposition 98 reiterates the tiresome nonsense that schools with unenthusiastic, careless, poorly-trained, irresponsible, and indolent teachers should receive as much money as more productive schools.

Not to be trusted, there fore, is the prediction that the passage of Proposition 98 will result in a remarkable turnaround in the way the schools are presently operated. It is far more reasonable to speculate that the approximately half-billion extra dollars the schools will receive each year will have an insignificant effect on how well California students are taught to read, for example. After the State Department of Education announces in our local newspapers next year's reading scores for California students we will know whether my pessimism is justified. We will find out here whether Proposition 98 has fulfilled its promise.

Election Supports Incumbents

by Alfred G. Cuzan

It's over. At last, after almost two years of what seemed like an interminable campaign, in which many millions of dollars were spent, the voters have had their say.

The results were mixed. On the one hand, Bush had a comfortable win in the presidential race taking 54 percent of the vote and forty of the fifty states. On the other hand, the Democrats made marginal gains in the Congress. Next year, Jim Wright's party will control 261 out of 435 House seats and 55 out of 100 in the Senate. In effect, the election yielded a sort of stand-off, with the White House once again in Republican hands and the Democrats in control of the Congress.

It's a sort of balance between the two parties that keeps reasserting itself. The Republicans have won seven of the last ten presidential elections, five of the last six. For their part, the Democrats have ruled one or both houses of Congress for three consecutive decades. Not since 1954 have the Republicans been in the majority in the House of Representatives.

Thus, president-elect Bush, like Richard Nixon twenty-two years ago, will have to live with a legislature controlled by the opposition party, teeming with probable presidential aspi-

rants already looking toward the next election, such as Senators Bill Bradley, Sam Nunn, Albert Gore, and Charles Robb, not to mention Lloyd Bentsen, whose popularity as Dukakis' running mate has enhanced his stature on Capitol Hill. The new president will have his hands full dealing with a hostile Congress.

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Dr. Cuzan is Associate Professor of Political Science of the University of West Florida, in Pensacola.

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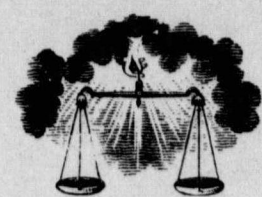
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Election Supports Incumbents

by Alfred G. Cuzan

It's over. At last, after almost two years of what seemed like an interminable campaign, in which many millions of dollars were spent, the voters have had their say.

The results were mixed. On the one hand, Bush had a comfortable win in the presidential race taking 54 percent of the vote and forty of the fifty states. On the other hand, the Democrats made marginal gains in the Congress. Next year, Jim Wright's party will control 261 out of 435 House seats and 55 out of 100 in the Senate. In effect, the election yielded a sort of stand-off, with the White House once again in Republican hands and the Democrats in control of the Congress.

It's a sort of balance between the two parties that keeps reasserting itself. The Republicans have won seven of the last ten presidential elections, five of the last six. For their part, the Democrats have ruled one or both houses of Congress for three consecutive decades. Not since 1954 have the Republicans been in the majority in the House of Representatives.

Thus, president-elect Bush, like Richard Nixon twenty-two years ago, will have to live with a legislature controlled by the opposition party, teeming with probable presidential aspi-

rants already looking toward the next election, such as Senators Bill Bradley, Sam Nunn, Albert Gore, and Charles Robb, not to mention Lloyd Bentsen, whose popularity as Dukakis' running mate has enhanced his stature on Capitol Hill. The new president will have his hands full dealing with a hostile Congress.

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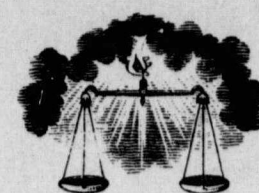
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When you are famous, you can bore people at parties and they think it is their fault. -Henry Kissinger	No army can withstand the strength of an idea whose time has come. -Victor Hugo	It is human nature to act in an absurd fashion. -Anatole France
A sure defense is expensive, but not nearly so expensive as weakness could turn out to be. -Margaret Thatcher	Confidence is simply that quiet, assured feeling you have just before you fall flat on your face. -Anonymous	Perhaps one should not think so much of oneself, though it is an interesting subject. -Norman Douglas
I thank God that in this world there exists America, which won't allow this plague of socialism to spread. -A. Petrov (Soviet Journalist)	A parking space is an area that disappears while you are making a U-turn. -Anonymous UCSD student	Reality is always more conservative than ideology. -Raymond Aron
When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it happened or not. -Mark Twain	Strong lives are mutilated by dynamic purpose; lesser ones exist on wishes and inclinations. The most glowing successes are but reflections of an inner fire. -Kenneth Hildebrand	Most human beings have an almost infinite capacity for taking things for granted. -Aldous Huxley
You may give them [children] your love but not your thoughts. -Kahlil Gibran	A single death is a tragedy, a million deaths is a statistic. -Joseph Stalin	Don't expect to build up the weak by pulling down the strong. -President Calvin Coolidge
We believe that to error is human. To blame it on someone else is politics. -Hubert H. Humphrey	Democracy, obliterating the old aristocracy, has left only a vacuum in its place; in a century and a half it has failed either to lift up the mob to intellectual autonomy and dignity or to purge the plutocracy of its inherent stupidity and swindishness. -H.L. Mencken	The most conservative persons I ever met were college undergraduates. -Woodrow Wilson
The difference between a good man and a bad man is the choice of cause. -William James		

Wisdom and Folly

Christ died for our sins. Dare we make his martyrdom meaningless by not committing them? -Jules Feiffer	What is commonly called Love, namely the desire of satisfying a voracious appetite with a certain quantity of delicate white human flesh. -Henry Fielding	Man is something that is to be surpassed. What have you done to surpass him? -Friedrich Nietzsche
A mistress should be like a little country retreat--Near the town, not to dwell in constantly, but only for a night and away. -William Congreve	When you sit with a nice girl for two hours, you think it's only a minute. But when you sit on a hot stove for a minute you think it's two hours. That's relativity. -Albert Einstein	The Press is our chief ideological weapon... -Nikita Khrushchev
Bi bo ergo sum. (I drink, therefore I am.) -Anonymous	I did not know how good a man I was till then ... I remember my youth and the feeling that will never come back anymore - the feeling that I could last forever; outlast the sea, the earth, and all men ... the triumphant conviction of strength, the beat of life in a handful of dust, the glow in the heart that with every year grows dim, grows cold, grows small, and expires too soon - before life itself. -Joseph Conrad	Children see through windows that we no longer look through -Catherine Murphy
God is back - and boy is he mad! -California Bumper Sticker	Pro Football gave me a good sense of perspective when I entered the political arena. I had already been booed, cheered, cut, sold, traded, and hung in effigy. New Secretary of HUD -Jack Kemp	Ceremony in love and eating is as ridiculous as in fighting: falling on briskly is all that should be done in those occasions. -William Wycherly
There is only one thing in this world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about. -Oscar Wilde		History is more or less bunk. -Henry Ford
You only live twice: Once when you are born, and Once when you look death in the face. -Bassho		It's not that I'm afraid to die. It's just that I don't want to be there when it happens. -Woody Allen
Welfare was created to prevent you from going to hell, not to take you to heaven. -Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan	The arrogance of age must submit to be taught by youth -Edmund Burke	The whole world is about three drinks behind. -Humphrey Bogart