

Sidelights

"It had to happen," writes the London *Spectator*, "a hospital for hypochondriacs is to open in Norway." The magazine predicts Hypochondria Awareness campaigns that warn, "We are all at risk!"

✦ Rome's communist newspaper *Il Manifesto* has been reduced to raising money by issuing shares of stock. . . . Latvia has opened its first stock exchange since 1940.

. . . China's cellular phone coverage now extends nationwide, with over 2 million users.

✦ Current estimates indicate Japan's top banks hold around \$600 billion worth of problem loans. Bad loans may end up equaling one-quarter of Japan's GDP and require a government bailout costing \$175 billion to \$350 billion. ✦ High-tech American companies like Sun Microsystems and Intel fear rising anti-immigration sentiments will hinder their ability to hire skilled workers. Asian immigrants make up about 25 percent of Silicon Valley's work force, reports *Reason's* **Glenn Garvin**.

✦ Raising teenagers isn't easy, one working mother told the *Wall Street Journal*: "She and her attorney husband... sold their second home to reduce the pressure to keep earnings up. She cut back to a 40-hour week from 60 and began volunteering at her daughter's school." . . . *Women's Quarterly* editor **Danielle Crittenden** complains that "parents have come to treat their children not as raw specimens of humanity, in need of educating and civilizing, but as tiny citizens in their own nations of families, with rights equal to their parents." . . . Co-ed teenage "slumber parties" are becoming popular among teens, reports the *Wall Street Journal*. During one party, **Scott Murphy's** father walked in on his son and a girl "at a tender moment." The elder Murphy "apologized on the spot, which everyone agreed was cool." . . . When Americans remade the French movie *Nine Months*, they took out the slapping of a truculent 13-year-old. "In American movies you can kill 10,000 people and that's okay. But slap

a loudmouth brat? Forget it," said the French director. . . . From a recent Nike ad: "We are hedonists and we want what feels good.... And we will jump up and down and scream until we get it."

The Manchester, New Hampshire *Union Leader* has reminded readers that **Pete Wilson**—who now calls himself a "Reagan conservative"—stumped the state for **Ford** in 1976 and denounced Reagan as California's "worst governor." . . . An economic liberal in social liberal clothing? Famous for combining liberal moral views with conservative fiscal ones, Massachusetts Gov. **William Weld** is angering former supporters with his backsliding on crime, government reduction, and affirmative action—"a warning to voters elsewhere about the integrity of new-age fusion Republicanism," says Bostonian **Jon Keller**. . . . Do as I Do: Deficit hawk **John Kasich** (R-Ohio) cut his House Budget Committee's operating expenses by \$2.1 million and reduced staff by 33 percent. ✦ When an accounting firm estimated that eliminating the marriage penalty tax would cost the U.S. Treasury \$25 billion, a California customer rephrased that: "Not to eliminate the marriage penalty would cost married taxpayers \$25 billion." . . . Washington, D.C. Delegate **Eleanor Holmes Norton** is wary of congressional plans to abolish D.C. taxes: "I don't want this to be Hong Kong or some kind of tax haven. The price of land would go through the stratosphere."

✦ Democratic State Rep. **Ron Wilson**—who represents an inner-city Houston district—sponsored the bill that restored Texans' right to carry concealed handguns: "I really don't care if the crime rate decreases because of this bill. All I want to do is put innocent people, those who are potential victims, in a position of being able to protect themselves." ✦ "If there is retributive justice, he'll get AIDS from a transfusion, or one of his grandchildren will get it," said



National
Public Radio's **Nina**

Totenberg, reacting to Sen. **Jesse Helms'** comment that government spends too much on AIDS research. . . . When Father's Day and Gay Pride Day fell on the same date this year, the *Washington Post Book World* devoted 224 column inches to the gay/lesbian experience and 42 column inches to heterosexual fatherhood. . . . **Kristine Holt**, a Democratic candidate for County Commissioner in Venango, Pennsylvania, is a woman who used to be a man. Her campaign slogan: "Committed to Change."

Last year, 129 teamsters' union officials learned over \$100,000; highest paid was **Frank Wsol**, secretary/treasurer of Chicago Local 710 (\$399,418). . . . Pay and benefits for an average blue-collar worker at the U.S. Postal Service came to \$44,342 in 1994.

✦ Your tuition dollars at work: A college intern in a Senate office threw out a personal letter from a Dr. **Henry Kissinger** because it was from out-of-state. . . . Over a third of Britain's schoolchildren can't identify **Winston Churchill** or V-E Day. . . . In a letter attacking **Lamar Alexander** two teachers twice misspelled *Tennesseans*.

. . . New York Mayor **Rudolph Giuliani** was similarly vilified by college students who misspelled his name, "tiution," and "priority." ✦ **Leonard Jeffries**—chairman of the City University of New York's black studies department and infamous for anti-white and anti-Semitic diatribes—has been succeeded as chairman by **Moyibi J.**

Amoda, a native Nigerian said to hold moderate views. ✦ **James** and **Susan McDougal** of Whitewater fame are selling dirt from the **Clinton's** own Lot 24 at \$23.90 a cubic foot.

—SW

SCAN

WELFARE SHOWDOWN IN THE SENATE

Decades of so-called "welfare reform," complains Missouri Senator John Ashcroft, have tinkered "at the margins" of a "bankrupt" system. Yet even after the watershed election of 1994, many Republicans still succumb to the tinkering temptation: witness the timid "welfare reform" proposals put forward by the Senate's Republican leadership.

Ashcroft and his colleagues Lauch Faircloth (R-N.C.) and Phil Gramm (R-Tex.) have recently introduced a much bolder reform bill whose provisions include:

- Expanding from one to nine the number of federal welfare programs transformed into block grants to the states.
- Terminating those federal agencies, programs, regulations, and workers whose failed efforts will be replaced by state and local action.
- Creating stringent work requirements for welfare recipients.
- Using tax credits and other means to aid poor couples who marry, parents who adopt, and persons who volunteer with charities.
- Prohibiting welfare to new legal immigrants for their first five years.
- Prohibiting Supplemental Security Income benefits to persons "disabled" by alcohol or drug abuse.
- Above all, prohibiting direct cash benefits to mothers who are minors or who refuse to establish their children's paternity, and prohibiting extra benefits for additional children borne by women while they are on welfare. These measures attempt to reduce illegitimacy, the source of many of today's worst underclass pathologies.

"The true measure of our reforms," says Ashcroft, "will never be in dollars saved, in bureaucrats cut, in programs re-

duced, but in our ability to move people from hopeless governmental dependence to hopeful economic independence."

As we go to press, the bill has 24 cosponsors and the strong support of William Bennett, the Family Research Council, the Traditional Values Coalition, the Christian Coalition, Concerned Women for America, and others. Its fate at the hands of Senate "moderates," however, is uncertain.

OUR MONOTONE UNIVERSITIES

Universities have worked assiduously to racially diversify their faculties in the past few decades. Unfortunately, academia's notion of diversity has completely ignored diversity in the intellectual realm: conservative professors are an almost-extinct species on many campuses today.

It's not news that universities are dominated by left-wing ideologues, but empirical evidence to corroborate this reality has generally been lacking. My recent analysis of the political affiliation of faculties at two elite universities gets some of the relevant facts on the table.

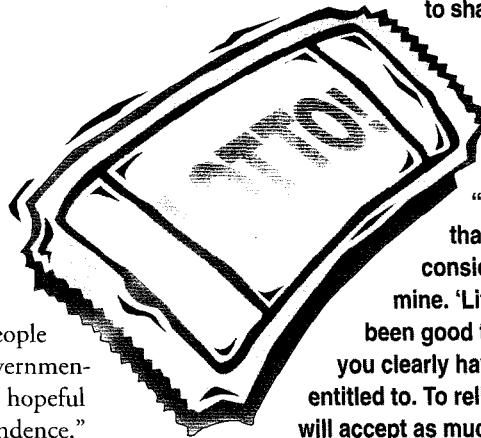
By checking public voter registration records, a colleague and I were able to determine that Cornell University's history department has 28 registered Democrats but no registered Republicans. Democrats outpolled Republicans 35 to 1 in the English department. In the Women's Studies and Africana Studies departments there were a combined 38 Democrats and no Republicans. (See table on page 8.)

Over 2,000 miles away a similar political imbalance exists at Stanford University. The English department, for instance, has 33 registered Democrats and only 2 regis-

SHARE AND SHARE ALIKE

"Those who have prospered and profited from life's lottery have a moral obligation to share their good fortune."

—remarks by House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt (D-Mo.) in support of tax reform



"Congressman, I note that your annual income is considerably higher than mine. 'Life's lottery' sure has been good to you! By your lights, you clearly have more than you are entitled to. To relieve your conscience, I will accept as much of your annual 'good fortune' as you are ashamed to keep. A stamped, pre-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience."

—Letter to Congressman Gephardt from Mr. B. E. Hughes, concerned citizen

tered Republicans. In the history department, Democrats outnumber Republicans 22–2. Investigation into the faculties at other top-notch schools yield similarly lopsided results.

The paucity of Republican professors presents this question: Is there discrimination against conservatives at our nation's top universities? For years, liberals have argued that the underrepresentation of minority professors is *ipso facto* proof of racism, and they have implemented affirmative action programs to reach the goal of proportional representation. Since Republicans represent over a third of the electorate, and an even higher proportion of the college-educated population, perhaps universities should recruit intellectually conservative professors with the same zeal they display for balancing flesh tones.

Political lopsidedness does not bode well for the educational process. While today's students are taught by professors of diverse skin colors, they are not exposed to a diversity of ideas. What are the chances that students in a women's studies course will read, along with the usual litany of feminist works by Gloria Steinem, Betty Friedan, and Naomi Wolf, books by critics of modern feminism like Christina Hoff Sommers and George