

CORRESPONDENCE



To the Editor:

Until today, I had great hope in The Alternative as a responsible organ for conservatism, and ergo, democracy. I had envisioned your fine journal as the voice of "what's right with America", tolling the sweet bell of insight in lucid contrast to most contemporary student journalism. But now I have been let down, and my disillusionment is not banished by Mr. Buckley's compliments to your work. (Buckley's nationally published column recently extolled The Alternative's zaniness-ed). Not until today, when I received my February issue, did I become suspicious of your real intentions and begin to probe your positional innuendoes. My incredulity has become disappointment — I had believed in you!

First, you ridicule the keystone of our democratic, or republican, system in "Great Moments in the Ninety-First Congress, Part I". This alone I might have

been able to understand as an example of the occasional irresponsible journalism that slips into any literary accomplishment. Unfortunately, coupled with your article by Mr. Moynihan, I fear my suspicions are correct. You people are leftists! In Moynihan's calling for "great complexifiers" he has insulted the native simplicity of Middle Americans, and you allowed this tripe to go un-rebutted! Your toleration of such ideas implies espousal of them.

Even this I could excuse, as imagination, but all of the aforementioned indications plus my final observation left me no doubt. You probably could have maintained your facade of conservatism and continued to warp your readers by little subtleties—that they were-not-even-conscious-of-being-influenced-by, if your cover had not given you away. Really, Abraham Lincoln portrayed in a thinly-veiled black-power salute, don't you think that was a little flagrant? You might under-estimate our perceptive powers.

In conclusion, I would like to commend your ingenuity in emulating a true conservative stance, and hope someday that you find yourself giving up this fraud and turning to the true conservatism. I recognize that in one's youth it is difficult to restrain radical tendencies, but I must caution you that we don't need any more extremism. I shall remain on your mailing list to keep my well-trained eyes upon further subversive tendencies.

Really conservatively yours,
William Quigley, Jr.
Purdue University

To the Editor:

Enclosed is a check for a one year

subscription to your excellent, and I must say fair, magazine.

Keep up the good work. There is support perhaps more than anyone realizes for your position.

Sincerely yours,
Robert F. Johnston, Jr.
Denison University
Granville, Ohio 43023

To the Editor:

The Alternative is fantastic! I have never read anything as intellectually stimulating and funny.

Sincerely,
Ronald R. Hauser
Cleveland State University
Brook Park, Ohio 44142

TO THE EDITOR:

I was recently introduced to your devious publication by a member of that insidiously rightist organization, ISI. Being a poor graduate student (no pun intended), I am curious about the possibilities of free subscriptions. This may sound like a clever leftist bid, but I find that your equally clever and dastardly extremism provides the nourishment I need while I fight out my time in one of our country's citadels of learning, morality, etc.

Any encouragement, nourishment, revolutionary-extremator kits, etc. (not to mention a subscription!) will be humbly and rightfully accepted.

Plottingly yours,
William C. Johnson
Denver, Colorado 80222

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it. For these massive demonstrations accomplish no palpable purpose aside from attracting seasonal headlines and fleeting recognition for the singular lemming who manages to get himself photographed in the Oslo Times, committing a hideous indiscretion at a public sauna or floundering into the King's soup. For the march of the lemmings appears to most conscious thinking persons as inconsiderate, obnoxious, mindless, justified only on the most morally imaginative premises and probably counterproductive.

How different are the men who produce scientific monographs about the march of the lemmings from the pundits who produce hot air about the march of the "anti-war" demonstrators. The scientist rests his case on facts; the pundit stands on myths. The scientist's method is reason; the pundit's is emotionalism. And where the scientist judges every creature's behavior against a single standard, the pundit has a whole deck of standards. The pundit applies his most fastidious standard to Presidents, Vice Presidents and in fact any individual achiever possessed of talent and quality. For conservatives, moderates, or just plain average persons uninterested in cultural or political revolution (Joe

Frazier was the most recent to suffer this judgment), he maintains a rigorous standard of conduct in contrast with which the behavioral standard of his predecessors shows Zeus to have been a slacker and Yahweh to be hopelessly permissive. But for the peace demonstrator and cultural or political revolutionaries he reserves a standard that is admirably tempered, reasonable and understanding—indeed, his heart skips a beat at the merest thought of them.

Imagine the response of the pundits if a group led by, say, Bob Hope, Billy Graham, Senator Goldwater and the Grand Shaman of the Ku Klux Klan planned an April march on Washington supporting Mr. Nixon's strategy for peace in Vietnam. And imagine that this was about their third march for this purpose. Further, imagine that violence and destruction had always attended their demonstrations and that the war continued unaffected by their displays.

First of course, Hope, Graham and Goldwater would be reviled by the New York Times for associating with known racists, and the demonstration would be described as racist-inspired or as a racist front. Secondly, no CBS correspondent would ever appear on the evening news

standing incongruously before a gas station in desolate Valdez, New Mexico and reporting how the citizens of Valdez have collected their nickels to send Johnny Pruitt to represent Valdez at Bob Hope's Peace March. And of course the march would never be called a peace march because according to the pundits' standards only leftists are "peace" marchers. Anyone who views foreign policy differently from Senator McGovern is ipso facto not interested in peace. This demonstration would be termed "hawkish" or "patriotic" or "pro-administration", and the epithet "peace" would remain safely reserved for those demonstrators that the pundits feel are really interested in peace. Finally some editorialists would have to remind us that participants in Mr. Hope's last demonstration were "provocative" or violent and anyway this is Hope's third time around on this stunt, "which neither seems to represent the will of the majority of citizens nor to be terribly effective in ending the war. So what is the real point of one more demonstration?"

As winter's sobering winds fade before spring's balmy breezes, we again hear the rustlings of the peace demonstrators. Last spring they massed on Washington with

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such force that the New Republic proclaimed the November elections would bring the dawn of a new politics. The Nation assured us that their force would endure even beyond the November elections, and how different the Ninety-Second Congress would be!

Unfortunately by election day 1970 the peace demonstrators were all floating belly-up in the security of their dormitories or perhaps on park benches. Despite such ingenious proposals as the Princeton Plan the peace students were really not very prominent at the polls and not even the pundits could find them active at the precinct level (the only student groups that noticeably participated in campaigns were Young Americans for Freedom and Young Republicans, as the New York Times dolefully admitted). The peace students make their migrations in the spring and like the lemmings their march is generally obnoxious, mindless, justified only on the most mysterious suppositions and probably counterproductive. Their officious scamperings through American cities manifest little awareness of the toughness of statecraft. Yet the men who observe the peace lemmings will offer diverse explanations for this peculiar behavior, and—unlike the scientist—they will, in their concern, condone the actions of the peace lemmings.

It is cool and secure out on the campuses now. But the lemmings are sensing a distant pulse. Their distraction will increase, and soon they will cease to breed and frolic in the meadows. They will close shop and begin to rumble down toward Washington. Many will arrive on 24 April. The pundits will be justifiably concerned by this tragic emigration but do they really have to condone it? Only a ninny sympathizes with a rodent.

George Nathan

CONTINUING CRISIS

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thing." The chairman of the Young Americans for Freedom doubted the effort would succeed.

- Dr. John Edward Corbally Jr. became the thirteenth president of the University of Illinois and declared that the young generation is "far ahead of any before." The Unidex poll of college students found that just over half of them could name both their senators.

- The General Student Senate at the University of Maine decided to finance loans from the university's student activities fees for coeds purchasing abortions in New York. New Mexico State University announced that it has in the last two years graduated 250 students with degrees in horseshoeing.

- Dr. Edward Bloomquist claimed that marijuana can harm personality when taken internally, and in West Iran five more narcotics smugglers were executed bringing the total to seventy-five in the last twenty months. And, though it was revealed in New York City by the De Laval Separator Company that dairy cows—the classic symbol of tranquil existence—are producing more milk than ever before,

police in Berkeley took advantage of a peaceful, rock-throwing, anti-war demonstration to experiment with two new weapons for riot control, the "stun gun" and the "ricochet round."

- Still there were some bright spots as the enlightened Massachusetts House of Representatives passed a bill on 16 February prohibiting exhibition of albino persons in the state. From Chicago came word that something was finally going to be done about Mother's Day. A group representing the hopes of literally millions of American women demanded that the traditional day be replaced by International Women's Day. Speaking for the group, a human being by the name of Dillon said "We want to reward ourselves for more than waiting on husbands and cleaning dirty diapers. We want a day that recognizes us as human beings." It remains doubtful whether the nation will respond. Nevertheless, in Baltimore a judge ruled that the Baltimore police department could not refuse to hire a man because he is a nudist.

- The struggle for an aseptic environment continues. Commerce Secretary Maurice Stans banned the killing of whales by American whalers. Four dozen people jammed into a Louisville, Kentucky office to fast for fifty-four hours in an attempt to see if the world in the year 2000 will be as uncomfortable as they expect.

- On 8 February Mr. Nixon submitted Congress a bill asking for appropriation of over two billion dollars for the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Detroit Zoo announced that a Cobra, a Siberian tigress, a rhinoceros, four elk, two camels and eight bison are in the family way. But a most disturbing development took place in Brazil when the government decided to legalize cock fighting.

- In Washington Representative Clarence J. Brown of Ohio introduced a bill calling for abolishment of the Senate and

its replacement by a House of Lords. Walter Trohan reported in the Chicago Tribune that more than 27 million gallons of liquor, beer and wine were sold in the capital in the twelve months ending 30 June. And Mr. Nixon delivered his State of the World Address which struck many as a superficial account.

- Rioting went on in Northern Ireland where six British soldiers were killed, and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals claimed that there was a disturbing increase in the number of dogs suffering nervous breakdowns in that embattled country. Texas physicians have announced that they will operate on Mrs. Delores Johnson who suffers from a glandular problem causing her to continue to grow. Mrs. Johnson is now 8'2" tall and weighs 431 pounds. But it appeared American's repressive ways were becoming contagious when the Moosejaw, Saskatchewan, City Council passed a law requiring pedestrians to walk on the right side of the sidewalk to keep them from "bumping into each other." □

Irving Kristol and Daniel Bell believe their thoughtful journal can demythologize social problems. Use this subscription blank to find out.

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Brayings from the Left

"Whom the gods destroy they first make mad." --Euripedes

THE NATION

Proof that drunkenness impairs bird-watching:

Richard Nixon knows the war is unpopular; there is hardly a hawk left in the country.

THE NATION

Mr. Nixon, in another scheme, is nabbed flagrante delicto by the ever-so-cunning Nation:

Nixon has considerable room to maneuver, and he will use it for his own political advantage and pose as the President who ended Johnson's war, yet managed to keep communism out of South Vietnam.

THE NATION

Proof that there are no law and order nuts at The Nation:

The Basque guerrillas who seized Eugene Beihl, the honorary West German Consul in San Sebastian some weeks ago, and who released him on Christmas Day, behaved intelligently and humanely.

THE NATION

Another courageous stand is taken by the Good Angels at The Nation; "off the NFL":

The connections between the politics of facism and the mania for football are too many to be ignored: both ground themselves on a property-seizing principle, apotheosize struggle and competition, publicly idolize victory and the powerful, make authority absolute, and relate to opposing groups by violent aggression.

THE NEW REPUBLIC

Shrewd acuity characteristic of the luminous New Republic:

The only time progressive Democrats are a majority in the House, or even in the Democratic caucus, is when there are enough of them, and there aren't now.

THE NEW YORK REVIEW OF BOOKS

For the New Review of Trash marvels never cease. Another sign that every day in every way, the world is getting better and better:

What liberals found most interesting and hopeful about the Panthers were their efforts to supply dignity and direction to black street people. Their talk of violent revolution, their identification with third world political leaders, and even the weapons they carried seemed, by contrast, largely rhetoric and theater.

LINDA EVANS (FREE SPIRIT)

Cultural notes intoned at a recent University of Wisconsin anti-war menagerie, by an idealistic and knowledgeable member of the new left's fairer sex who is presently charged with bombings in California, Chicago and New York:

I'm going to jail tomorrow so it's really, uh, you know. So you see and uh, and uh, a month and a half of freedom. I didn't know I was supposed to talk about our culture. I didn't know, uh, how I would label it but, uh...Psychedelic patterns in my head and, uh...There's really a lot to say and, uh, I'm just getting these vibrations of real power from us, you know, that we really, really are brothers and sisters and we need to understand to get together how much we...We have to make that count in the struggle that is happening and that's going to happen in the years to come because whatever evolves from the last year.

I had three of my friends blown up...Our culture and our people isolated from everybody for ten months...Our culture and our people.

I'd like to speak to you a little bit about culture right now and about the way we are getting into each other, and getting into real relationships and stuff—building families and building tribes that can fight together. We seem a lot to be really turmoiled at this point probably because...and partly because I think people are responding to the repression in real scared ways. There are lots of indictments out, a lot of us are facing time in jail. Really heavy s—, you know. People all over the country, black people, brown people, us...So we're digging into each other a whole lot. Getting closer. Trying to decide what we are going to do. But in some ways we've forgotten our responsibilities.

The destruction of the earth is really what's happening, you know, we have a lot of responsibilities as white people in the f—g belly of the monster to try and stop them in every way possible. And I think that we have to deepen our culture and deepen our understanding of who we are to be not just songs and music and dancing and dope and loving each other, but also build a different culture of struggle on every level. (For this graceful hybridization of Karl Marx, Harpo Marx, Leary, Freud, Reich and Kipling we are indebted to the Jack Andersons at the University of Wisconsin's Badger Herald.)

THE MILITANT

Free enterprise rears its ugly head even at the organ of revolutionary socialism, The Militant. All hope is lost, as boosterism scores yet another triumph:

At the end of the first week of the "blitz" campaign to obtain 7,500 new Militant readers, 20 areas are ahead of schedule, 28 new areas have taken quotas, and enthusiastic reports are coming in from all over the country.

A letter from the director of the campaign in the Twin Cities writes, "We're planning sub blitzes two or three times a week. Courageous sellers are braving 52-degree below zero temperature (wind chill) to go subbing!"

THE MILITANT

Even amid the serious business of revolution, Mr. Harry Ring cannot restrain his playful wit:

Poor Choice - We were pleased that shoplifting charges were dropped against former Secretary of the Interior Udall, who was busted for absentmindedly dropping a 95-cent packet of cigars into his pocket. But, we do wish he would stay away from the nicotine. (HE HAW!—eds.)

NEW YORK TIMES

Aesthetic and theological profundity blended into one pungent passage in the most celebrated of Liberal gazettes:

Obviously, the story of the last days of Jesus Christ was an attractive story choice. Portraying Christ as a modern day prophet who has all the ego hang-ups and image confusions of a rock superstar is a fascinating and contemporary notion.

WASHINGTON MONTHLY

Optimistic social analysis from the decorous journal of Establishment Liberalism, The Washington Monthly:

When people realize they're all up Queer Street together, the bonds of kinship can grow denser and stronger than any of the divisive factors of class, or caste, or suit, or kind.

WASHINGTON MONTHLY

While attending a "Gay Liberation" revival a prize-winning reporter from the Washington Monthly nosed around and came up with the following astonishing revelation:

As one marcher put it, "So much has been accomplished in terms of who we are. We are people." And not only were they people, but they were evidently quite happy.