

well, he just added a whole new category to the list of those who never have to say they're sorry. Noting how philandering with pretty boys has made him a "more complete human being," he also warned that "all members of Congress are in need of humbling experiences from time to time." Careful bending over in the showerroom, men! Meanwhile, former Republican flamethrower Robert Bauman of Maryland, who lost his 1980 re-election bid after his arrest on Studs-like charges, is all set to begin a new life as a homosexual and political activist, accord-

ing to friends. He is considering moving to San Francisco. It's getting lonely on the Right.

•In Hollywood, model Vicki Morgan, a pal of the late Alfred Bloomingtondale, was batted to death by her roommate, Marvin Pancoast, for no special reason. But in San Jose, Robert Paul Yarrington knew what he was about when he asked his girlfriend, Connie Martinez, to chop off his foot with an ax. At least, that was the feeling of a Santa Clara County Superior Court jury which found Yarrington guilty of faking a motorcycle accident in an insurance fraud

scheme. In Madrid, Rafael Escobedo was found guilty of murdering his father-in-law, Manuel de la Sierra, the Marquis of Urquijo, and his wife, the Marquise Marca Lourdes Urquijo. And from Washington John W. Hinckley Jr. sent word that "I would like to tell everyone concerned that I'm not the least bit dangerous."

•Finally, on July 20 ABC news saw its Washington presence diminished when anchorman Frank Reynolds died, and a week later NBC retaliated by dropping Roger Mudd as a co-anchor of the "NBC Nightly News." At last report Mr. Mudd was

accusing his employers of "a general anti-Washington bias" and insisting "I did nothing shameful or unconscionable." Meanwhile, ABC's Roone Arledge denied he was hoping to hire Mudd. If I were Roone, I'd look into Chume Edozie, who, while doing the seven o'clock news on Nigerian state television on July 28, suddenly announced: "I am sorry I cannot with my conscience continue to read this news full of falsehood. I hereby resign my appointment with immediate effect." Television, here's your man for all seasons!

—WP

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

The Lady is a Tramp

I hope *The American Spectator* is not trying to thin the ranks of its well-earned subscribers and lose its reputation as one of the last journals of sanity. How else to interpret the publication of "Cosmo's Aging Vixen" by Rachel Flick (*TAS*, June 1983)? Miss Flick fails to mention the two insufferable flaws which run through Helen Gurley Brown's most recent tome.

First, the theme of the book is monotonously uniform, despite the seemingly diverse assortment of chapters in it. This theme is "Put on whatever airs are necessary, and fake it as much as you can, and you will make it big in this world." One wonders how it is possible to believe this woman is telling the truth, when she is essentially advising her readers to live a gigantic lie.

Second, Mrs. Brown claims to have men figured out and thus advises the reader to emulate her by putting vanity and lust before all else when dealing with them. She seems to think this is the only way to achieve success and be considered a woman of quality. Certainly men find a beautiful and passionate woman attractive, but no matter how attractive a woman is, or how well she provides sensual gratification, if she is also amoral, most men will ultimately find her contemptible. To put it bluntly, a tramp, no matter how beautiful, is still a tramp. . . .

Who knows? Maybe Mrs. Brown has already gotten the word. Why should she fear the loss of her "beauty" as much as she does, unless she knows what she is without it?

—Edward B. Elmer
Boston, Massachusetts

Cable Rights

David Wilkinson's article on the Founding Fathers and cable TV ("Porn, Cable TV, and Censorship," *TAS*, July 1983) reminds me of the H.L. Mencken quote that Puritans lay awake at night worrying that someone somewhere was having a good time. Obviously Wilkinson spends a lot of sleepless nights.

Toward the end of his article he mentions assaults on the "sensibilities of unwilling recipients" of blue broadcasts. Tell Mr. Wilkinson there ain't no such animal so long as there's a switch on the radio or TV.

—Thomas C. Duddy
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Thank God that we do not live in the Theocracy of Utah where insecure minds like David Wilkinson are elevated to Attorney General, from which position they dare to determine what we shall do in the privacy of our homes. How could your publication waste precious natural resources on his unfounded tirade against cable TV in the July issue?

His standard for broadband communication is appropriate. I do not care to have open reception to many things (although I would never condemn a group of consenting adults from doing, seeing or hearing them in a private circumstance.) Cable TV, however, is a narrowband "closed" form of communications and should be free from any censorship. I may not want to subscribe to certain program services offered over CATV but I should not deprive my neighbor of the right to them.

Furthermore, modern technology has provided the CATV industry with the lock-box converter. Adults in a household may want to indulge in

certain programming at appropriate hours when the children are not near the television or in bed. The converter box allows them to "lock out" certain channels so that the children have access to the rest of the program offerings and, safely child-proofed for the evening, they simply unlock the converter for unscrambled access to their own tastes.

A free society should be less concerned with the attitudes and tastes of those outside the norm. By Wilkinson's logic, your publication should be censured for bringing Taki's writings into my home where our preteen girls might read him!

—Victor Berardelli
Medford, New Jersey

Stewed

It is appalling that a magazine with a dignified name such as yours would publish Ben Stein's vacuous pipe dreams about "stewardesses" ("Flying Low in First Class," *TAS*, June 1983). One might expect this type of journalism in *Hustler* magazine.

Mr. Stein's remark that Marilyn, Vicki, and Valerie are not supposed to be taken as representative stewardesses is not vindication for the tens of thousands of women and men working as Flight Attendants in this country alone. The generic term "Flight Attendant" has been in use for ten years now and the fact that Mr. Stein is unaware of that might be an indication of where his head is. It has been said that one speaks as one lives.

Flight Attendants are required safety experts on board airplanes, proficient in life saving measures which is their primary function. Having been in this profession for almost 17 years, I can factually state

that the popular myth fostered by Mr. Stein's slanderous article neither was nor is the norm among the women with whom I work. The vast majority of my membership are hard working safety and public service oriented individuals who, after working their flights, go home to their spouses, children, and mortgages like any other hard working American.

The perpetuation of the "stewardess" myth is a disservice to the passengers who come to imagine that friendliness and courtesy on the job means more than what it is. The greatest disservice, however, is that it robs our women of their dignity.

—Bruno Paluk
President/Association of
Professional Flight Attendants
Euless, Texas

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants represents approximately 6500 Flight Attendants in the employ of American Airlines, Inc.

I found Benjamin J. Stein's article "Flying Low in First Class," (*TAS*, June 1983) to be a highly offensive affront against the professional flight attendant. Although Mr. Stein did, finally, add: "Marilyn, Vicki, and Valerie are not supposed to be taken as representative stewardesses. For all I know, most stewardesses are creatures of sober and regular habits. Marilyn, Vicki, and Valerie are far more than representative stewardesses. They are representative of a whole huge slice of a nation's deluded young women, deceived at an early age, who exist to be near money," he would have been far wiser to select examples for his
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EDITORIALS



BLACK CATS

Last month that black cat the Washington press corps had perceived arched atop a pile of Jimmy Carter's briefing papers slipped back toward oblivion, but that did not mean President Reagan could bask in the glow of benign news stories about low inflation and economic revival. Not at all; last month two more black cats crossed his path. This time the press corps was warning of the catastrophe he faces because of "the gender gap" and the alienation of blacks. The NAACP and the National Women's Political Caucus were holding their conventions and both groups were hollering for amiable Ron's blood. The pundits were reporting that unless he changes his policies he will be a goner with both groups.

Well, in this glorious age of truth and candor I certainly wish we had some truth and candor. The reason the Reagan Administration is so disrelished by these groups is not that Ronald Reagan is opposed to women and blacks but that these groups are overwhelmingly liberal and he is a conservative. These groups do not represent all women or all blacks. They represent liberal women and liberal blacks. Ronald Reagan's disagreement with them is on grounds of political principle, yet so successfully do they manipulate the terms of political debate in the country that Reagan is made to appear moss-backed and prejudiced while the black leadership and the feminists are made to appear as victims of his hoary bigotries. The conclusion, always implied in the news stories and occasionally boldly stated by the pundits, is that Reagan must change his views to accommodate these liberals. Never is it suggested that they should change their views to accommodate him. In a word conservatism continues to be treated as a second-class political position, while liberalism is accorded hushed rever-

ence, so much so that it can dictate to the press how it is to be described.

At the National Women's Political Caucus much was made of the fact that 35 percent of the 400 head of feminists in attendance were Republicans. Well, if memory serves, John Anderson was once a Republican, and there are liberal Republicans still, even as there are still flying fish and fish that survive outside of water. The fact is that all the issues favored at the convention—from the Equal Rights Amendment to the nuclear freeze—are liberal issues. A feminist is a liberal, albeit a loud liberal. The black leadership too is almost wholly composed of liberals favoring the same old liberal policies of ever more government, which is to say more inflation, taxation, political coercion, and economic hardship—the percentage of blacks below the poverty line in 1980, notwithstanding all the federal spending of the 1970s, was actually .3 percent higher than in 1969.

Given liberalism's policy failures I cannot blame the various special interest groups of the Left for concocting esoteric new labels for the same old hokum, but the press ought not to allow itself to be bamboozled. Is there really a "gender gap"? All the women in my life adore Reagan and give me very fierce looks when-

ever I am discourteous. Of course, being a man of taste, my woman friends are mainly conservatives, and they have waited a long time for a conservative President.

Nationally there is indeed some modest and persistent difference between the sexes on issues, as *Public Opinion* magazine reported some months ago, but the gap is nothing like that found at a feminist convention and on the so-called women's issues—abortion, the ERA—there is almost no difference between men and women. Moreover such differences as do exist have narrowed perceptibly by election day in our last two national elections.

The April/May issue of *Public Opinion* provides evidence that women's groups and the NAACP are not the only special interest groups that hide their fundamental liberalism beneath a toney label. According to social scientists S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman, the leaders of virtually all public interest groups, be it the Environmental Defense Fund or the American Civil Liberties Union, are thoroughly committed to liberalism and far left liberalism at that. "The liberalism of public interest leaders shades into profound dissatisfaction with the American social and economic order, a feeling not shared by the public," Lichter and Rothman write. So in our political discourse let us have some truth in

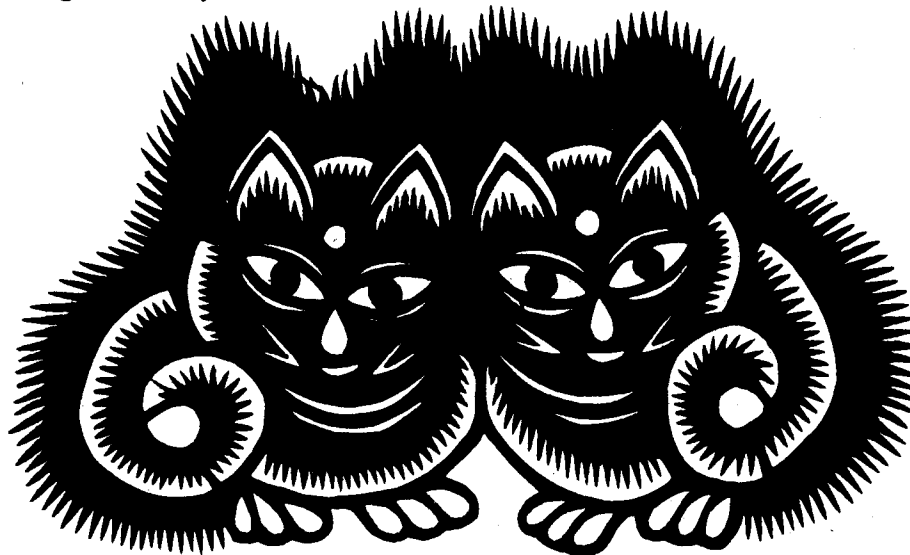
packaging. Ronald Reagan's big problem is with American liberalism; that explains the black cats spied in his path by the press last month. □

MITRED MOONSHINE

I for one am profoundly grateful to the editors of a vigorous new religious publication for explaining to me why I recently encountered a Roman Catholic priest wearing a pink suede suit. Possibly the suit was pink velvet. I did not allow myself to get close enough to verify the material. What alarmed me was not the gentleman's pink suit, however, but his rampancy on behalf of vegetarianism, or was it nuclear holocaust or human sexuality? I have forgotten. Whatever it was that inflamed him I do recall that he had it all wrong and that he was unusually disagreeable. Christian love was not apparent in his demeanor nor was the dignity that hitherto has so often distinguished the Catholic cleric even in the eyes of scoffers.

Dignity and charity seem to have vanished from large numbers of Roman Catholic priests and nuns, and now the editors of *Catholicism in Crisis*, a journal published at Notre Dame's Jacques Maritain Center, explain that all this is a consequence of the Catholic clergy's growing absorption with left-wing politics and style. But hold, these *nouveau gauche* are not your down-home populists with that gentle Will Rogers aura. "There is a manifest and tangible clericalization of the Catholic church," the editors explain, "worse now than before. . . . More and more often, priests and bishops make political, economic and social pronouncements about the temporal order, to which the laity is expected solely to react. This is an inversion of vocations and roles." Thus do not expect these New Age clerics to be from the Mother Teresa of Calcutta mold.

Of course America is not Spain,



Adapted from RET's weekly Washington Post column syndicated by King Features.