

CURRENT WISDOM

Presbyterian Survey

The elucubrations of Sue Nichols Spencer, Grand Strategist of Toys for Peace, finally pay off:

Walking into any toy store, we may find a wide assortment of toys on display—but also a serious gap. On today's mass market, there are basically just two kinds of playthings: pistols, rifles, machine guns, daggers, bayonets, hand grenades—toys for playing war and violence; and tea sets, doctor's kits, fire engines and dolls—toys for playing ordinary life. Missing are any playthings that reflect our struggles for peace, that hold before our children the occupations of peace, the images of peace, or the heroes and heroines of peace. . . . There are no toys that say that they should involve themselves in working persistently for peace, as we all must do.

The financial risks involved in introducing totally new products can be reduced by making minor changes in toys that already have a successful track record. For instance, in the game of ring toss the spindle could be molded in the shape of a diplomat with a sash across his chest and a top hat on his head, and each ring could be labeled "peace offer." Children playing the game would be acting out the negotiating process by tossing peace offers to a diplomat.

The popular Rubik's Cube could be changed: Instead of trying to get colored sides to match, the player could try to complete a picture of people representing the nations of the world holding hands around the cube.

The card game of Old Maid has always implanted a negative image. The unwanted card could be changed to "War" or "Violence."

[December 1985]

New York Times Book Review

In an ad for Dr. Ellen Goodman's latest collection of metaphysical rumblings her publishers present a tantalizing chrestomathy:

The Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist is at her very best in her first book in four long years, *Keeping in Touch*:

On women: "The woman of another era who married her architecture and became a housewife is now a working wife with the double work load of a societal bigamist."

On work: "For all the talk about stress, there is still a real tension between the life we want for ourselves and the work we want out of others."

On surrogate mothers: "I never expected to see a new breed of entrepreneurs arrive on the scene hanging out shingles that offer Wombs for Rent."

On herpes: "Not long ago, extramarital sex . . . was weighted down with fears of brimstone, not to mention pregnancy. Many people continue to need some sort of deterrent, some external reason to abstain . . . to deal sanely with their sexuality. We have gone from hell to herpes in three generations."

[December 8, 1985]

The Progressive

Unsportsmanlike Conduct espied by one of the venerable *Progressive's* stalwart editorial writers:

That's the way the game is played these days. When U.S. forces invaded Grenada, pitting the world's mightiest military power against a tiny Caribbean Island, millions of flag-waving Americans didn't laugh or cry; they cheered themselves hoarse. We won, didn't we? And when U.S. aircraft managed to intercept an Egyptian plane and compel it to land in Italy, virtually the entire nation applauded. After all, there were hijackers and murderers aboard that plane—and that made it perfectly all right for us to engage in hijacking and to threaten murder. Even the Washington director of the American Civil Liberties Union voiced his enthusiastic approval.

If Durocher was right, America is bound to finish first. There aren't many nice guys left.

[December 1985]

The Progressive

From the ever-fertile *Progressive*, more fecal-buccal:

Our economy and our culture are tied to models of industrial affluence that place an intolerable burden on individuals and on the environment. We pay the price in pollution and illness, in higher deficits and diminished productivity, in alienation and social disarray. We need a whole new pattern of public and private investment.

The Government should stimulate new modes of regional and self-sufficient agriculture, preventive health care, decent housing, and sensible transportation. The technology to design such programs is available, and the proposals to implement them have been formulated. All that remains is the political will to place these proposals on the political agenda and fight for their enactment.

[December 1985]

Yale Alumni Magazine

The historians of the Yale class of '74 depart from the usual chronicling of marriages, births, and herpes to deliver a well-rehearsed homily:

It seems appropriate to close out this year's series of columns with a cautionary note recently received from Charlie Finch: "I couldn't let Rurik Ingram's passing remark that we had been 'spoiled as undergraduates' (by comparison to the Wharton School) go by without a comment. The late Sixties and early Seventies at Yale were a golden era when higher values than grade grubbing and financial competition motivated us. In the Eighties era of \$350 billion Pentagon budgets, conspicuous consumption, deficits financed off the backs of poor we can see the true spoiled and the spoilers: The Reagan revelers sucking up the spoils of greed and selfishness. We left a legacy at Yale which today's straight and narrow students look back on with envy." Any rebuttal from Reaganites or grade-

grubbing graduates will be printed pursuant to the equal time rule.

Until next fall, vale!

[June 1985]

Indianapolis Star

Let us face the facts. Notwithstanding the journalists' boasts about their unparalleled daring and candor, one finds more frankness and controversy on the how-to pages of a conservative newspaper than on the op-ed pages of the great liberal dailies. Behold this syndicated wisdom:

The Kinsey Report by Dr. June Reinisch
Dear Dr. Reinisch: I'm scheduled to have my uterus and ovaries removed but still don't understand how my husband and I will have sex afterward.

Where will the penis go and will it feel the same to my husband?

Dear Reader: Even if the surgical route for removal of the uterus and ovaries is through the vagina, a woman's vagina remains after the operation. In those cases where the cervix (the opening into the uterus, or womb) is also removed, the vagina may be shortened but should remain able to accommodate a penis.

[November 14, 1985]

Small Press

The poet-pol's historic presidential candidacy continues to inspire verbal clink and jingle:

Four Winds Press wants manuscripts for *Jesse Jackson, A National Portrait in Poetry*, a volume of poems commemorating the first African-American's run for the American Presidency. Manuscripts should be quality submissions of any length, in any writing style. Preference is for those that express substantive ideas with unusual beauty; evidence a disciplined command of language, and are consonant in spirit with the life and times of the individual they honor. They may deal with any aspect of Jackson's rise to prominence. Deadline: December 31, 1985. Chosen manuscripts receive \$100 award and publication. No returns without SASE. Mail submissions to Etta Ladson, Editor, Four Winds Press, Box 109, Laurelton, NY 11413.

[November/December 1985]

The Herald-Telephone (Bloomington, Indiana)

The announcement of a forthcoming Public Broadcasting spectacular provides still more proof that the New Age Liberal's fundamental political value is merely to bring distress to his neighbor: Sex and love are not confined to the physically able of this world. In *The Skin Horse* (Ch. 30 at 8), an unusually candid British film, severely disabled people not only talk about their sexuality, but they are unflinchingly photographed. A young girl without hands watches herself eat in front of a mirror; we have just seen her in a sexual encounter with her boyfriend. No, nobody is unclothed. . . . The film spends

some time on showing us film clips from the movie, *The Elephant Man*, and stills of people from the old circus "freak shows." They at first seem unnecessary, but then, the references hit you hard. *The Skin Horse*—you'll have to watch to find out the derivation of the title—is a small film that says a great deal about humanity.

[October 16, 1985]

Chicago Tribune

Egghead cackelocutions from Miss Joni Mitchell, songstress and metaphysician:

"The church is very aligned with the right wing today, and Russia and communists are the enemy 'cuz it plays into their Armageddon prophecies," she says. "And now they have access through the media to a lot of public brainwashing, and that's very dangerous, 'cuz if you can't criticize the president without being branded a Commie, you're on the verge of witch-hunting. They haven't gained quite enough power for persecuting yet, but they're playing with the idea, and there's a lotta pushing and testing . . . it's all pretty scary to me."

[December 1, 1985]

New York Times

Pecksniffian declarations from a New Age cad:

To the Editor:

My colleagues and I should thank you for your support in the Accuracy in Academia affair. As the details of the attack on free speech and academic freedom become clear, I believe they will be seen as an attempt by the radical right to prevent the American public from hearing three basic lessons that I and others in education are trying to learn and teach:

- That war, domination and violence of all kinds (including verbal abuse) are, if ever they were, no longer functional in human affairs.

- That people everywhere must pursue the human, rather than the national, interest to avoid nuclear war and provide for the well-being of those who, it may be hoped, come after them.

- That only by compassionately addressing the global problems of inequality, poverty and alienation shall humanity be able to make the case for its own retention in the cosmos.

As Loren Eiseley wrote in "The Immense Journey" (Vintage, 1957): "The need is not really for more brains, the need is now for a gentler, a more tolerant people than those who won for us against the ice, the tiger and the bear. The hand that hefted the ax, out of some old blind allegiance to the past, fondles the machine gun as lovingly. It is a habit man will have to break to survive, but the roots go very deep."

The time has come for Accuracy in Academia to lay down its verbal arms and join the rest of us in the painful search for ways to build a more peaceful, sustainable and democratic world.

—Mark Reader
Tempe, Arizona

[November 13, 1985]

Classifieds

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WORK AT The American Spectator this summer. Summer internships are now available in the editorial and business office of TAS. If you are interested in gaining valuable experience in publishing, and if working long hours for low pay appeals to you, send your resume or write for an application. TAS, Personnel Dept., P.O. Box 10448, Arlington, VA 22210-1448.

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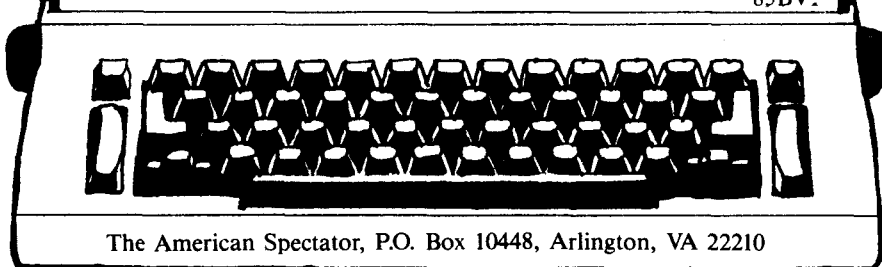
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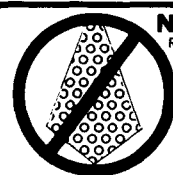
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Granta, (Numbers 1-14). First editions of any work by Paul Bowles. LT Richard Zeigler, NLSO, NAVSTA, Long Beach, CA 90822.

Britain's Master Spy, or the Adventures of Sidney Reilly, by Sidney Reilly (ghost written by Pepita Reilly 1931: Eldin, Matthew and Maroitt, London, England).

Master Spy, by Edward van der Rhoer (hdbk. Scribener's 1981). Adam Kaplan, 325 Valley Rd. Havertown, PA 19083.

The Educational Writings of John Locke, ed. James L. Axtell (Cambridge University Press, 1968).

The Philosophy of the American Constitution: A Reinterpretation of the Founding Fathers, by Paul Eidelberg (New York, Free Press, 1968).

Prof. Paul Rahe, American Research Institute in Turkey, Serencebey Yokusu 61-63/10-11, Besiktas, Istanbul.

The Long Watch, and The Kingbreaker, by Elizabeth Linington. Pinehart Potts, 1223 Glen Terrace, Glassboro, NJ 08028.

Out of print anticommunist volumes or pamphlets for undergraduate group. Alexander Sacks, 109 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

Out of the Night, by Jan Valtin. Elizabeth Richman, 20780 Honeygrove Rd., Alsea, OR 97324.

Hilaire Belloc's essay on "censorship." Thomas Stamm, M.D., 7546 W. North Ave., Elmwood Park, IL 60635.

Youth of Erasmus, by Albert Hyma (1930). (English translation, ed. F.M. Nichols, 1904-1918). Joseph F. Mazy, P.O. Box 485, Fountain, CO 80817.

The Revolt of Mamie Stover, by William Bradford Huie. Donald Strand, 740-B Elmwood Terr., Rochester, NY 14620.

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The Myth of a Guilty Nation, by Albert Jay Nock (New York: B.W.Huebach, 1922). On Doing the Right Thing and Other Essays, by Albert Jay Nock. Merlin Berry, 962 Summer Hill Dr., Gambrills, MD 21054.

Knythlinga Saga, Landnamabok, Ari Thorgilsson (Trans. Halldor Hermannsson). Jon Warman, P.O. Box 709, Lincoln, MT 59639.

Darwin & Darwinism: Revolutionary Insights Concerning Man, Nature, Religion and Society, ed. H. Vanderpool. Totalitarianism: Temporary Madness or Permanent Danger?, ed. P.T. Mason. (Published by D.C. Heath and Co., Lexington, MA). K. Lewandowski, Jr., Hiroshima Naka-ku, Finairi Honmachi 5-5, Japan, 730.

The Death Ship, by B. Traven. Walter Stabb, 55 E. 86th St., New York, NY 10028.

Propaganda, The Engineering of Consent, by Edward Bernays (1928) (1955).

Language in Thought and Action, by Samuel Hayakawa (hardback, any edition).

Security Analysis, by Benjamin Graham. Douglas Miller, 1882 Columbia Rd. NW, Washington, DC 20009.

The New Mencken Letters, by H.L. Mencken, ed. Bode. Don Fernando, The Gentleman in the Parlour, by Somerset Maugham. Terry Teachout, Harper's Magazine, 666 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

A Preface to Metaphysics, by Jacques Maritain (London: Sheed & Ward, 1948). Thomas Bieter, 1924 Jefferson St., Duluth MN 55812.

Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy, by Frederick Denison Mauvise (Vol. I, London: Macmillan and Co. 1882). Robert Donlan, 81 Railroad Ave., Norwood, MA 02062.

The Birth of the Christian Religion, The Origin of the New Testament, by Alfred Loisy. Max Price, 142 Verano Loop, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

Admiral of the Ocean Sea: A Life of Christopher Columbus, by Samuel Eliot Morison (Two volume edition). Lawrence Skutch, P.O. Box 5214, Westport, CT 06881.

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