

Repent

I immensely enjoyed Mary Eberstadt's cover article on Susan Faludi ("Wake Up, Little Susie," *TAS*, October 1992). Speaking as a politically incorrect working wife and mother (and proud of it), I'm sick to death of these whimpering, spoiled brats like Ms. Faludi. Believe me, I know one when I hear one because I used to *be* one back in my uneducated, uninspired, incredibly selfish youth.

Faludi and her contemporaries' vituperative ravings spew forth from pathetic, jealous, lonely individuals who have no concept of loving another human being more than they love themselves. Were I not so sick and disgusted by this country's outrageous liberalitis infecting all "gimme" groups from evil racists, the media, and morally bankrupt politicians to baby-aborting murderers, I could almost feel pity for these ugly creatures.

—Jo Bunney
Spokane, Washington

Right On

I enjoyed Edward Norden's article ("South-Central Korea: Post-Riot L.A.," *TAS*, September 1992). It described the aftermath of the L.A. riots, with regard to the Korean community, well.

As described in the article, many Koreans were traumatized by the riots. They felt betrayed because they were not adequately protected. Some of them blamed themselves and society for the riots.

Koreans should not let their self-pity cloud their judgment. They should not degrade themselves and join numerous groups in America that are busy proving how victimized they are by so-called racist American society. Koreans can be successful in America without joining those who only blame the society and demand ever more special treatment from government. They should avoid the us vs. them mentality, which is embraced by some Asian-American students at U.C. Berkeley, where all whites are seen as enemies and all non-whites as allies. Koreans should ignore people like an Asian-American columnist for the U.C. Berkeley student newspaper who suggest that they should unite with other non-whites in a so-called struggle against

whites. Such a mentality would only worsen racial tensions.

Koreans should not blame themselves or whites, living in neighborhoods unaffected by riots, for the L.A. riots. They should instead blame the rioters, unlike most of the media who mostly preach for so-called understanding of the rioters' "rage." Rioters should be castigated for losing their self-control and disrespecting human life and private properties.

—Kang Hee Seo
Berkeley, California

Right Thinking

Most of Tom Bethell's observations ("Better Dukakis," *TAS*, October 1992) about George Bush are accurate and well stated. But he ends in misperception. He has the right diagnosis but an awful cure.

Without actually saying how he thinks the vote should go in November, he seems to be suggesting that a Clinton presidency would be the best bet for generating a definitive conservative triumph in 1996.

That notion of a silver lining is often bandied about, but amounts only to wishful thinking.

George Bush is only the symptom of our national political disease, not the malady itself. The basic disease is what Mr. Tyrrell has aptly identified as *Kultursmog*. And while *Kultursmog* is a real problem now, under a Clinton presidency it will speed through our national veins like a galloping poison, beyond the reasonable expectation of treatment.

By 1996 any conservative effort to regain a measure of influence on political, social, and economic events will realistically be out of reach.

—Stan Langland
Belmont, California

In Your Infinite Wisdom

A more unwelcome fate is hard to imagine. Have I been exposed as a former agent of the Stasi? Called to public court as a character witness for Ted Kennedy? Consigned to O'Rourke's Enemies List? No, my infinitely worse calamity was to be counted among the Assorted Jackasses contributing to October's Current Wisdom. This is no place for one whose political leanings have been described as substantially to the right of Attila the Hun. Allow me to defend myself.

The current campaign to distribute condoms in the public schools has nothing to do with AIDS prevention, and everything to do with population control and the promotion of promiscuity. Accordingly, I have tried to discredit this pretext by publicizing the fact that latex rubber is filled with micron-sized voids and is thus a dubious means to prevent HIV transmission. My true feelings on the subject were made evident in an earlier letter published in the *Washington Times*. However, getting a letter critical of condoms published in the *Washington Post* was problematical. (Has that left-wing rag even yet informed its readers of the Bulgarian connection to the papal assassination attempt?) My letter to the *Post* attempted to undermine the pro-condom credo by dryly reciting the facts (can't appear to be trying to impose one's politically incorrect morality on others, you know). At the letter's end, I could not resist poking fun at the veneration of condoms by advising that "when recourse is made to condoms for the prevention of HIV infection, at least two should be worn during sexual activity." Surely not even liberals could be witless enough to take this statement seriously! Alas, my humor was too subtle for the editors of *The American Spectator*, who unwittingly ensconced me in its jackass hall of shame.

—C. M. Roland, Editor
Rubber Chemistry and Technology
Washington, D.C.

Weld in '96

As one of a growing number of openly gay conservatives, I read *The American Spectator* and I am thrilled by the clear-headed analysis (yes, of course, they got that right—about the devastation wrought by liberal economic engineering, the social distortions bequeathed by affirmative action, etc.) and appalled by the gratuitous nastiness toward homosexuals.

Don't misunderstand me, I am as incensed by lame-brain political correctness as any other conservative, and believe with every libertarian-conservative impulse that individuals must be free to think and advocate whatever they so choose. But if, as in the October issue's Continuing Crisis, you refer to "the American poofter" (I

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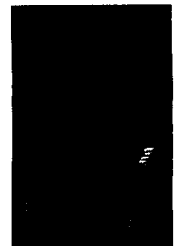
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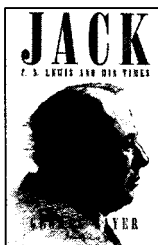
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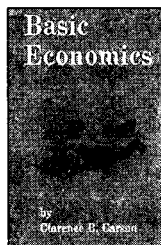
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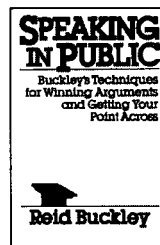
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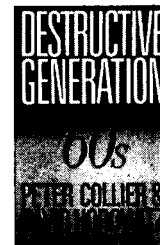
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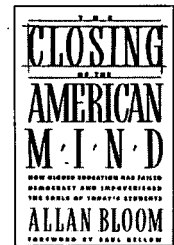
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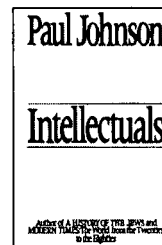
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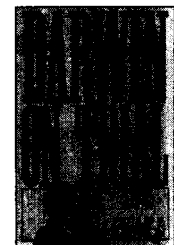
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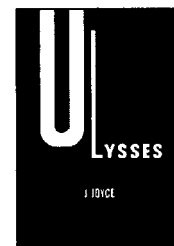
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The Lost Gentleman

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

George Bush is, according to those who know him, one of the finest gentlemen to inhabit Washington in many years. Certainly he is one of the finest gentlemen I have known. Thus it is a paradox that this very kindly and amiable man is steadily going down to defeat because of the determined antipathy of nearly 60 percent of the electorate. He is one of the most unloved nice men in American history.

In the last grisly days of this election some of George Bush's friends are wondering how to explain what seems to be a public apodiabiosis. Millions of conservatives dislike the President—though Liberals snort that he advanced conservatives in the judiciary, advanced their social policy, resorted to their favorite poisoned shibboleths, and, as William Safire lays down in the *New York Times Magazine*, sought “solid support from the far right.” Millions of Liberals are even more indignant against him—though the conservatives swear that he is a “moderate Republican,” surreptitiously tacking towards the Liberal hot air. He began his presidency proffering a “kinder gentler” politics

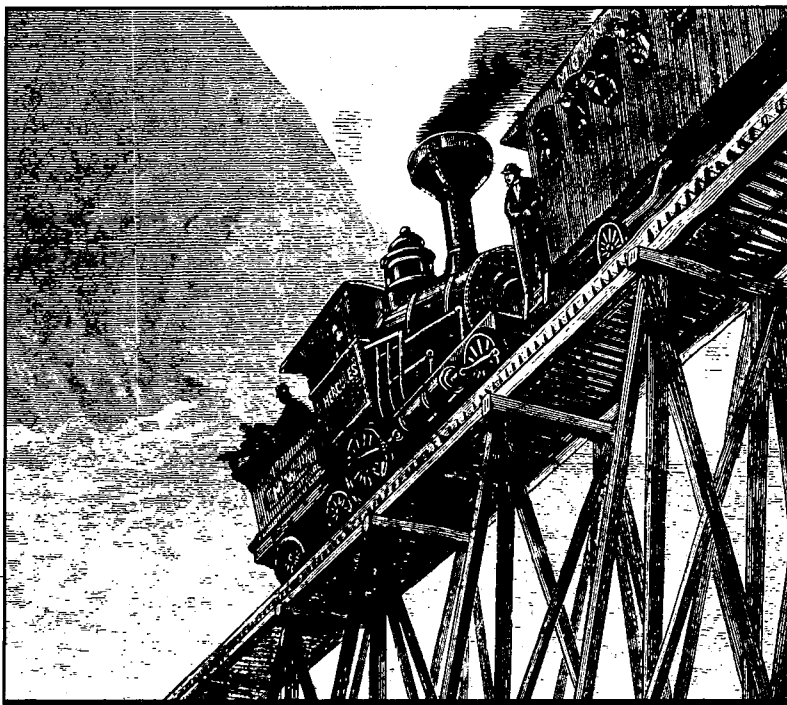
to all sides, and today he is being pummeled from all sides—occasionally with astounding venom.

One and a half years ago, despite a slowing economy, George Bush's approval rating was 88 percent, well above that of any other President since the victorious culmination of World War II. Now it has plummeted below the ratings Jimmy Carter suffered in his death throes, though Jimmy's presidency was a foreign policy disaster, and Jimmy's economy—with double digit interest rates, double digit inflation, almost nonexistent productivity gains, high unemployment and a Misery Index (combining unemployment and inflation

rates) of 19.6 percent—was, well, Third World. So popular was George Bush not long ago that the Democrats' leading messiahs decided to sit out Campaign '92, thus producing this century's most mediocre presidential field. Nearly half the Democratic candidates were retired politicians!

Now George Bush is facing defeat against a mediocrity whom roughly half the electorate adjudge destitute of character or integrity—72 percent of the electorate approve Bush's character, but only some 30 percent would vote for him over the vastly less admired Boy Clinton. How did George Bush get into such a mess? Was he too nice?

In a way he was. He was too much the Yale gentleman. His closest associates were other gentlemen, such as the failed secretary of the treasury, Nicholas Brady and the far less admirable director of the Office of Management and Budget, Richard Darman. But George Bush's predicament has come about not simply because he is polite and high-minded (the Machiavel Darman certainly suffers neither of these disabilities). The President's deeper problem is that he cannot conceive how polluted the airs of



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