

going on? Are Chicago's inner-city residents "pandering to racism"? Or have they all just been reading *Parliament of Whores*?

Tom Bethell replies:

Living organisms are so complicated that scientists often don't know how to repair them when they break down, don't understand the cause of aging, and certainly don't know how to manufacture duplicates in laboratories. How did they come into ex-

istence? Well, says Darwin, they just did come into existence with the capacity to leave offspring. Furthermore, some organisms leave more offspring than others. And so they get more and more complex over the eons. That's all, folks. What a genius was this Darwin and how easily satisfied the curiosity of this Moomaw. Try again, birdbrain.

Liberal Dogs and Conservative Cats

While P. J. O'Rourke's annual Enemies List

was entertaining ("Commies—Dead but Too Dumb to Lie Down," *TAS*, November 1991), he makes a critical mistake when he places cats on the enemies list. Cats are right-wing animals. They are independent and self-reliant creatures. They give affection in return for services rendered. Moreover, every cat is equipped with a highly effective personal-defense system in its claws. I have no doubt that if cats could speak, they would be enthusiastic advocates of the Second Amendment. →

Christmas Books Supplement

Thanks to postal confusion nationwide as well as to jammed FAX lines, secretarial walkouts, the deepening Darman recession, and other pressing matters of state, the following Christmas Book Recommendations reached us too late for inclusion in last month's annual list. Last-minute shoppers, however, will find them no less helpful; they may even be what we need to turn this economy around.

—Ed.

BRUCE N. AMES

Reading the six Palliser novels by Anthony Trollope was one of the major pleasures of the year. I wallow in the Victorian characters and language. Here is a very Trollopiian quote from *The Prime Minister*: "It is easy for most of us to keep our hands from picking and stealing when picking and stealing plainly lead to prison diet and prison garments. But when silks and satins come of it, and with the silks and satins general respect, the net result of honesty does not seem to be so secure."

I also enjoyed *Bionomics: The Inevitability of Capitalism*, by Michael Rothschild. He compares the evolutionary nature of biology with market capitalism. Very stimulating and Hayekian (though he seems not to have read Hayek). Peter Huber is as usual witty, articulate, and sensible, and his *Galileo's Revenge: Junk Science in the Courtroom* was fun to read. The most unusual novel in verse: *The Golden Gate* by Vikram Seth. An unalloyed pleasure by an incredibly verbal and witty author—even more of a pleasure for a resident of the San Francisco bay area. I also reread *Silent Spring*. Rachel Carson was all heart and no head.

Bruce N. Ames is professor of biochemistry

and molecular biology at the University of California, Berkeley.

JOE KLEIN

Sorry for the delay (I plead Clarence Thomas). But:

The Borderless World, by Kenichi Ohmae (HarperBusiness), because the 1990s will see the decline of the nation-state, a consequence of globalization on the one hand and tribalization (third world) and market segmentation (first world) on the other.

And, since we'd better know more about tribes, I recommend a re-reading of *Beyond the Melting Pot*, by Moynihan and Glazer, particularly the introduction to the second edition (1973), which predicts the next twenty years of race relations in America. This is, by the way, the book's 30th anniversary.

Joe Klein is New York magazine's political columnist.

NICHOLAS LEMANN

The book published in 1991 that impressed me tremendously but impressed a small enough number of other people that some of your readers may not have heard of it is *U and I*, by Nicholson Baker (Random House). It's a strange work, and difficult to describe precisely—in theory it's a short book about John Updike, but what it's really about is Baker's obsession with Updike. Baker has the courage to try something inherently weird and embarrassing, and the talent to bring it off; *U and I* gives rise to the rare sense that a writer has successfully invented a new way to write. Be-

sides being extremely funny and smart, it's the best thing I've ever read about the process of psychological transference by which aspiring writers gather odd bits of information about established writers and then freight them with absurd significance, as a way of finding their own literary identities.

Nicholas Lemann, author of *The Promised Land: The Great Black Migration and How It Changed America* (Knopf), is national correspondent for the Atlantic.

JOSEPH I. LIEBERMAN

There are two new books out this year that I would recommend (and not only because I am quoted on their dustjackets!): one is *Minority Party* by Peter Brown (Regnery Gateway), a fine journalist I have had the pleasure of knowing for some years now. He explains how the Democratic Party lost much of its traditional base of support because it is being perceived as a party that takes money from people who work and gives it to people who don't work.

The second book is *The Great Hartford Circus Fire* by Henry Cohn and David Bollier (Yale University Press). It tells the story of a major disaster that occurred in my state during the 1940s and of the way in which people of good will were able to settle the damage claims resulting from the disaster in a short period of time, with no need for lengthy court battles. Our legal system has much to learn from this example from the past.

Joseph I. Lieberman is a U.S. senator from Connecticut.

(continued on next page)

JOHN MCCAIN

Lonesome Dove, by Larry McMurtry: An emotional and, at the same time, hilarious page turner which I could not put down.

The Spanish Civil War, by Hugh Thomas: A gripping and definitive account of the carnage that served as a curtain raiser for the Second World War.

The Last Lion, Winston Spencer Churchill (Volume II: "Alone 1932-1940"), by William Raymond Manchester: A factual and illuminating account of the critical period in the life of the most influential man of the twentieth century.

John McCain is a U.S. senator from Arizona.

DANIEL PIPES

The Rise of the West, by William McNeill, is a tour de force—the only true world history by a single author. Unlike Spengler and Toynbee, this is not one man's quirky vision, but an accurate summation of the human experience; it changed my understanding of history.

The Image, by Daniel Boorstin, explains the difference between reality and image in politics and daily life in a way that allows others not to be confused.

Exporting Democracy, by Joshua Muravchik, is a recent book that stands out. Muravchik turns what might appear to be a dry and self-evident topic into something fascinating and deep.

My own speciality, the Middle East, inspires more bad books than good ones (and they, of course, dominated the bestseller lists during the war with Iraq). Two classics are *The Venture of Islam*, by Marshall Hodgson, a three-volume survey of Muslim history that is original, quirky, and brilliant; and *Islam in Modern History*, by W. Cantwell Smith, who explains the profound trauma of Islam during the past two centuries, and why it continues. I also recommend two recent studies: *Culture and Conflict in Egyptian-Israeli Relations* may not sound exciting, but this little-known study is Raymond Cohen's dazzling interpretation of political culture in diplomacy and the relations between states. *The Closed Circle*, by David Pryce-Jones, is a virtuoso indictment of what's wrong with politics in the Arabic-speaking countries.

Daniel Pipes, director of the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, is the author of seven books.

Dogs, by contrast, are liberals. They are servile worshippers of authority. They constantly intrude in their owners' lives. Observe wealthy liberal women in Bloomfield Hills or Beverly Hills. They do not walk their cats (cats are perfectly capable of walking themselves). They constantly carry small disgusting dogs that are so primed, preened, and pedicured that they symbolize their owner's commitment to wasteful spending.

Certainly the right should retain their vigilance against overly cute cat books. And it should be every conservative's ambition to punch Garfield in the snoot. But cats themselves are allies, not enemies, of the conservative movement. —*Martin Morse Wooster*
Silver Spring, Maryland

Tell P.J. O'Rourke not to shoot cats. He is wrong about their personalities. They are independent entrepreneurs, and the leftists do not realize that this is what they are harboring. They have a fine eye for a soft touch, love luxury, and reward their patrons (of whatever stripe) with contented purrs, shielded claws, and discreet brushings against the pantleg or nylons.

They quickly become accustomed to cut-up pork chops instead of the dry cat food you used to feed them. They do seem to have a fondness for their patrons. They are a nice warm furry thing that greets you when you come home. If they have their own interests at heart, who's to blame them? It's the pot calling the kettle black.

—*Claire Scoltock*
McMinnville, Oregon

I profoundly enjoyed the re-education primer, especially the part about cigars. Those who contemplate shooting my cats, however, would be well advised to read this page's header closely ["I'm the NRA"]. Shooting other people's livestock is something I frown on, and when it's my livestock I take a very dim view indeed. A view that I prefer to brighten up with a muzzle flash.

I also nominate Ted Turner for probationary removal from the Enemies List, on the grounds that CNN's coverage of the war more than anything else strengthened the public's certainty that television journalists have the patriotism of turkey buzzards as well as a similar mode of earning a living.

—*E. F. Ahlsen-Girard*
Orlando, Florida

Last Straw

Pat Buchanan has made "The Enemies List." How sad.

Please cancel my subscription.

—*Rich Stasiak*
Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin

Miranda Writes

RET's article, "A Bizarre Province" (*TAS*, November 1991), which detailed the politically correct weirdness on college campuses, missed the West Coast censorship at California State University, Northridge. University trustees, henpecked by the campus Women's Center and cowed into proper submission by campus homosexual groups, refused to allow Carl's Jr., a fast-food franchise, from coming to campus because of the founder's pro-choice views and opposition to the pro-homosexual agenda. . . .

The outrage is in the blatant openness of the groups opposing the franchise. Students are prevented from buying at a restaurant of their choice because a small group of wailing left-wing censors won't let them.

—*Caroline Miranda*
North Hollywood, California

Hasty Rice Pudding

First of all, I must state that I truly enjoy reading your journal. As an ex-liberal and chairman of my school's College Republican club, I find *The American Spectator* a good reminder of why I left the left.

But, Mr. Tyrrell, in regards to my school, Rice University, you have done me wrong. In your November 1991 issue you referred to a case involving a Rice professor who ran afoul of the PC patrols. In this article, you seemed to refer to Rice as "one of the less prestigious universities" and one of the "cow colleges."

Really, Mr. Tyrrell. Our university has long been considered one of the finer universities in this nation, and has won more than its fair share of accolades. Why, just lately, *U.S. News & World Report* named us the fifteenth best university in the nation (ahead of such venerable schools as Brown and the University of Virginia), and *Money* magazine rates us the number one buy in American education. And, of course, there is George Will's kindly reference to Harvard as "the Rice of the Northeast" in a column he wrote about our school a few years ago. "Cow college," sir? I think not. Perhaps you were thinking of Texas A&M.

At any rate, you owe us a Texas-sized apology.

—*Mark R. Yzaguirre*
Rice University
Houston, Texas

You Bet

Bill Casey had better show ("Casey's Final Mission," by Michael Ledeen, *TAS*, November 1991). I've got five dollars on him.

—*Dick Hazelett*
Colchester, Vermont
(continued on page 82)

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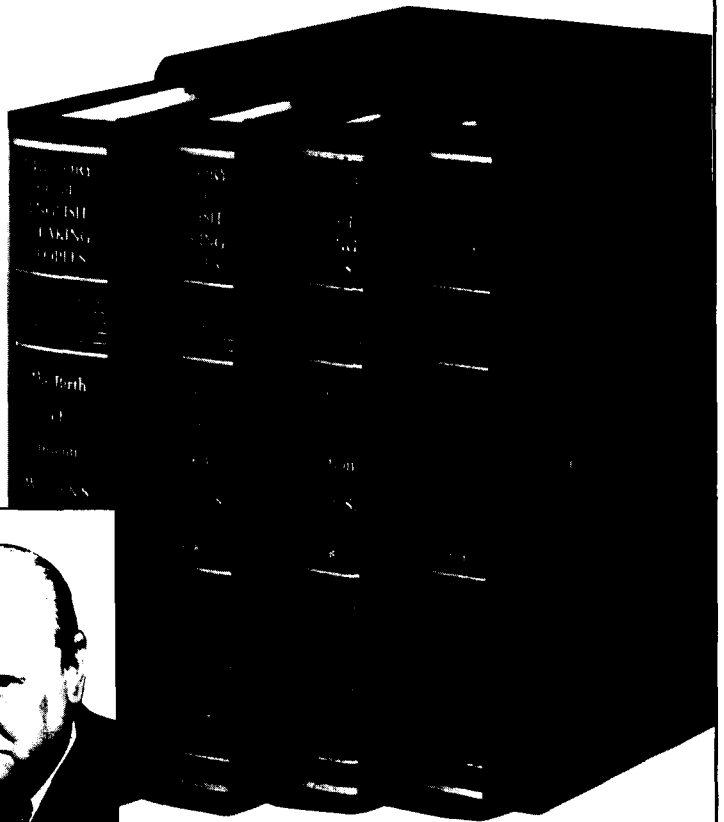
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The Brady Bunch

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Simi Valley

As the flags snap in a blue, blue sky high above the heads of President George Bush and of four former Presidents drawn here to solemnize the opening of the Reagan Library, a melancholy thought creeps in. All save one of these heirs to Lincoln's bed were failures. Only the eldest—and nowadays most disparaged—successfully served two terms. That is Ronald W. Reagan; his terms were peaceful and prosperous. At the time he left office, his objectives mostly achieved, the electorate accorded him the loftiest approval rating of any retiring President.

Now, pollsters tell us, Ronald Reagan is not so popular. It would be a miracle if he were. The American intelligentsia, so called, has for years been abominating him lustily. But remember that our intelligentsia adheres to the infantile. Its members think America's longest stretch of peacetime prosperity was an illusion. They think the Reagan Administration was a tyranny of lies. To them, Jimmy Carter, who incidentally spoke very gracefully here, was America's last freely elected President. They ought to be thinking of why Ronald Reagan succeeded after these other Presidents, including the deceased Lyndon Johnson, failed.

He succeeded because he faced the music and took appropriate action. The music he faced was not Washington's idiotic chorus, but the music beyond the Beltway. I hope President Bush is ready to face the music and act. The recent off-year elections suggest it is high time. A little over a year ago President Bush was unduly attentive to the Washington chorus's plea to reduce the budget by raising taxes. Budget director Richard Darman spoke for the whole chorus when he said a budget agreement in-

cluding increased taxes and spending restraint would save us from the shocking deficit and strengthen the economy.

The results are now in. Taxes are up. The economy is faltering. The middle class is irked. The deficit has bulged beyond Darman's calculations. In fact, the deficit for the recently expired fiscal term is history's highest, and the official five-year OMB deficit forecast is going to be over a trillion dollars. According to Warren Brookes of the *Detroit News*, Darman's calculations will have been off by 1500 percent!



The budget deal that Washington's chorus urged upon President Bush is the failure that the advocates of economic growth predicted. It is time for President Bush to take action and retire those who got the country into this mess. That means retire the Democratic Congress, Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady, and, of course, budget director Darman. They have all been thunderously wrong.

In his 1988 campaign President Bush was prudent to promise no new taxes. The record of the past twenty or so years clearly demonstrates that tax increases do not lower budget deficits. They merely give the Congress more loot to spend and the taxpayer less to save and to invest. The consequences have been higher deficits and low-

er economic growth. For two decades federal spending has engorged itself with an ever increasing percentage of the Gross National Product. That is why deficits have increased. Congress spends money whether the government has it or not. Reagan's stroke of genius was to make it harder for Congress to spend by forcing Congress to confront the deficit it creates. He refused to burden the economy with heavier tax levies and the economy grew, leaving the deficit as a shrinking proportion of GNP.

The Washington chorus has obviously been wrong in arguing that increased taxes would strengthen the economy and reduce the deficit. If this economy continues to weaken, President Bush will become our next unsuccessful President. Those of his aides who urged the wisdom of the Washington chorus on him should do the honorable thing. Admitting their failure, they should retire. Doing so would allow the President to call for the retirement of the other accessories to this failed policy, the Democratic Congress.

It is the fear of many of President Bush's supporters that he will not be able to renew his call for tax cuts until Secretary of the Treasury Brady and budget director Darman go. Without tax cuts it is hard to imagine the economy resuming the robust growth that diminishes the deficit's dangers. The major problem with the economy right now is that high taxation is denying capital to private business. Hence the economy does not grow. Employment does not expand or actually declines. Wealth is not created. The middle class is squeezed. A careful reading of the recent senatorial campaign in Pennsylvania suggests that the middle class recognizes that Washington is responsible for the economy's decline. The Republicans who imposed the failed budget deal should retire, so that the President can challenge the Democratic Congress with 1980s tax cuts and ask it to retire too. □

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