

Peewee Marquette

Victor Gold erroneously refers to "Shorty, Birdland's midget m.c." ("Cool Diz and Me," *TAS*, March 1993). The Jazz Corner of the World's dyspeptic host, Peewee Marquette, upon hearing this misnomer, would no doubt have jabbed Mr. Gold in the posterior with his lit cigar, which he used as a weapon against the world, filled with people he was forever doomed to look up at.

A fixture at Birdland until its demolition, Mr. Marquette was renowned for his malapropish introductions ("And now, Ladies and Gentlemen, Birdland proudly presents: the great Count Basie, with Joe Williams and His Orchestra!"), his triumphant weather reports ("I know y'all are glad to be at Birdland tonight, because outside it's freezin' cold, but down here it's warm . . . and it's cool!"), and his egalitarian ringside table celebrity intros ("We're real proud to have here tonight one of the world's mos' popular great ladies, Eleanor Roosevelt! Stand up and take a bow, honey!"). He also tap-danced on rare occasions, and when egged on enough by Dizzy, Basie, or Ella Fitzgerald, could be prevailed upon to offer a nifty rendition of "South of the Border."

—Tom Garlock
Knoxville, Tennessee

Victor Gold replies:

You're right. I'm wrong. My apology to Peewee, wherever he may be. But after forty-plus years my memory seems to have come up short.

The Word on Slobo

Special congratulations to Jeffrey Gedmin for his profile of Slobodan Milosevic, Serbian dictator and architect of genocide in Bosnia ("Comrade Slobo," *TAS*, April 1993). In the sea of ink that has been dedicated to the war, Gedmin is among the very few to recognize that this war, in the end, has much less to do with past grievances, particularly the oft-cited sufferings of Serbs in World War II, than with the desire of Milosevic and his gang to remain on top. Gedmin seems to be the first to have enunciated the obvious fact, "Milosevic wants war . . . because he needs war to stay in power."

I'm also amused to see the magazine

utilizing the classic antiwar cartoons of Robert Minor (same issue, page 31). Minor's career is fascinating. Texas born, he became nationally famous as a daily newspaper cartoonist, then yet more famous for his radical journalism and his pacifist works during World War I. The last cost him his position in what today we would call the mainstream media. He was a founder of the American Communist Party, and became one of its leading and most tragic figures, abandoning his art for a career as a Stalinist functionary. He died in obscurity.

In publishing Gedmin's article and reproducing Minor's work, *TAS* has demonstrated, ironically enough, that the authentic successors of the fine old tradition of American moral protest are to be found today very far from the leftist milieu.

—Stephen Schwartz
San Francisco Chronicle
San Francisco, California

Taking to Terrill

I was on the verge of dismissing William McGurn's review of Ross Terrill's *China in Our Time* as another lengthy exercise in dry book-review journalism that I could live without—until something caught my eye, and forced me to read the entire piece (*TAS*, April 1993). Fascinated by the irony throughout, I came away regretting the scarcity of other similar "conversions" of seventies left-liberals to sanity in these days of American socialistic experimentation.

Will some future historian, in chronicling the "Clinton Era," echo the Peking professor's tragic observation—"All the old ethics were destroyed, but nothing new has come"? How long will the siege continue?

—William E. Laughlin
Wichita, Kansas

L.A. Numbers

Edward Norden's interesting and perceptive article on Fairfax High School in Los Angeles ("International Studies in Los Angeles," *TAS*, March 1993) neglects to mention one significant fact: at 71-percent combined minority student enrollment, Fairfax is actually in the bottom third of L.A. high schools in ethnicity—that is, two-thirds of L.A. Unified School District high schools have ethnic-

ity figures greater than 71 percent. This is unsurprising, given that minority high school student enrollment in the district as a whole is 86 percent.

Clearly, as Norden so well points out, the demographic transformation that California in particular is experiencing is enormous.

—Alan O. Ebenstein
Santa Barbara, California

Honeymoon in Boulder

Ben Stein's definition of Baby Boomers (a miscreant nobility which I have the great misfortune of being a member of), contained in his April 1993 Diary "Two Steps Forward," is the best I've seen to date. It is articulate and succinct, and will no doubt find its way into a dictionary one day. . . .

If you wish to predict the effect the Clinton administration will have on this country, have a look at the reign of former Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau in Canada—a once-great nation that he almost single-handedly ruined (and from where I have escaped, only to find a man of the same ilk inhabiting the White House). Intellectual aptitude; egotism; avoidance of military service; contempt for conventional morality; advocacy of multiculturalism and an activist, interventionist government; abiding interest in socialism; and a loony wife are but a small number of the meritorious qualities these two gentlemen have in common. God help the USA.

—Avrom E. Howard
Boulder, Colorado

Snake Oil

One of the best things about *TAS* is the movie section. It's always a pleasure to read a review by someone to the right of Trotsky, but there is a danger that the reviewer may have weird ideas of his own. James Bowman's peculiar thesis in the March issue—that movies such as *Alive* and *Lorenzo's Oil* don't rope us in because of the unlikelihood we'd ever find ourselves in the same situations—applies to just about every movie I can think of. Yet that supposed distance doesn't seem to stop people from enjoying everything from *Star Wars* to *Driving Miss Daisy*, all of which deal with unlikely or impossible

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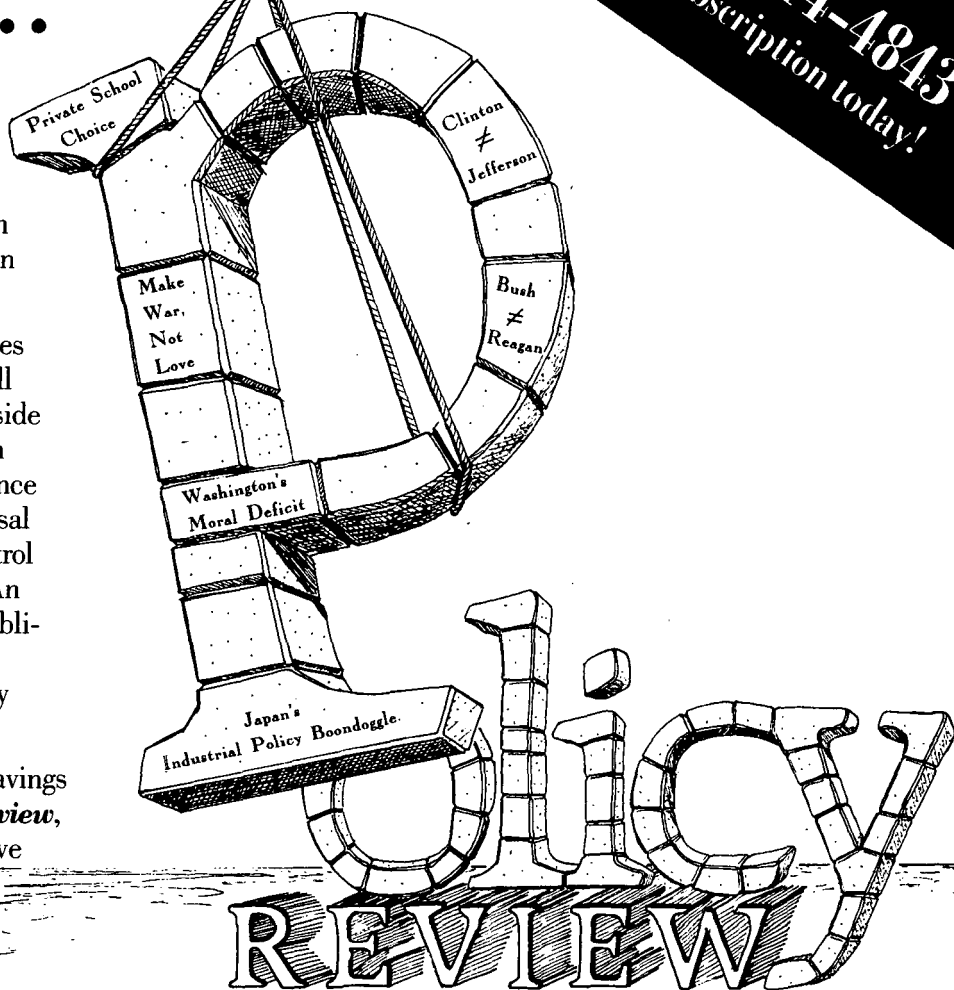
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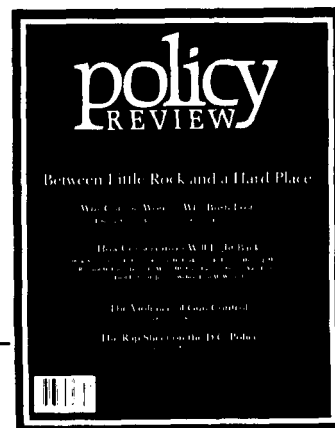
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Public Radio's Anti-Semites

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

As we contemplate the fiftieth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, and the 400,000 Polish Jews who over a two-and-a-half-year period were shipped from Warsaw to hideous deaths in the Treblinka concentration camp, let us pause to note that our government funds anti-Semitism right here in America. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting gamely subsidizes such orifices of hate as KPFK-FM in Los Angeles. According to the Corporation's chairman Sheila Tate, there is nothing that can be done about it. The First Amendment protects hate. Yes, but does the First Amendment call for government funding of hate? I think not.

As Los Angeles simmers with racial tension, the programmers at KPFK have been doing their bit for tolerance and harmony by broadcasting tapes of distinguished bigots claiming that the genetic makeup of whites makes them incurably psychopathic and in need of incarceration, psychosurgery, or—in extreme conditions!—death. The thesis that Jewish doctors have been injecting black infants with AIDS has been aired by a Mr. Steve Cokely, as have Dr. Leonard Jeffries's irregular hypotheses, for instance, that Jews, not Arabs, ran the African slave trade. Other speakers have defamed Asians, Hispanics, and homosexuals.

Adapted from RET's weekly Washington Times column syndicated by Creators Syndicate.

Most of this stuff has been aired on a show called "Afrikan Mental Liberation Weekend," whose producer/host Dr. Kwaku Person-Lynn indulges callers lauding Adolf Hitler and abominating American democracy.

Now, of course, Dr. Person-Lynn is most likely just another of the hundreds—perhaps thousands—of charlatans who regularly prey on the ignorance of the poor illiterates of our inner cities. And the charlatans' dupes are not defined solely by the color of their skin. Doubtless there are multitudes of whites and Asians who tune in to KPFK daily to ruminate upon the arcane knowledge of the various "doctors" and "professors" howling there. There was a day when such dopefetchers

simply worked the neighborhoods on foot or from a soapbox in the park. But now with the spread of "higher education" and the appalling lowering of university standards many of these charlatans have advanced degrees. Some teach at heretofore respectable universities Dr. Jeffries menaces intellect at City College of New York. And all bring to their spiels a patina of science and learning.

The important point is that our government is subsidizing these dispensers of hate and stupidity. Only one member of the Board of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Victor Gold, the writer, is alive to the problem. He draws a distinction between "censorship," which expurgates or changes programming and obviously runs afoul of the First Amendment; and "sponsorship" of programming, which is beyond the purview of the First Amendment. He has submitted a proposal to the Board that reaffirms broadcasters' right to free expression but denies them federal funding for "repeated programming" that "defames any race, religion or minority." The Board has rejected that proposal, though Gold continues to champion it.

Nat Hentoff, one of the Republic's most tireless defenders of free expression and of tolerance, would approach KPFK's hate programming differently. He believes that it is the duty of intelligent minds to criticize stupidity and hate. He urges that local broadcasters and commen-

