

widow Kennedy. "But she was also extremely sensitive. . . . She had grown very depressed by, and very critical of, the war. In any event, she became so tense she could hardly speak [and] suddenly exploded . . . turned and began, literally, to beat on my chest, demanding that I 'do something to stop the slaughter!'"

Eisenhower, Goldwater, McCarthy, the JCS—so much for the black hats, those McNamara now sees as having plunged the United States into the Southeast Asian equivalent of our own Civil War (with Ho Chi Minh, presumably, in the role of Lincoln). But what about the white hats, those who, had they lived, might—no, most certainly *would*—have done something to stop the slaughter?

"John F. Kennedy saw the world as history," writes the author of *In Retrospect*. "He took the long view. He was truly a great leader, with uncommon charisma and ability to inspire. . . . In an imperfect world, he raised our eyes to the stars." And what would Kennedy have done about Vietnam had he lived?

I have been asked that question countless times over the last thirty years. Thus far, I have refused to answer for two reasons. [First,] the president did not tell me what he planned to do in the future. [Second,] I saw no gain to our nation from speculation by me—or others—about how the dead president might have acted. But today I feel differently. Having reviewed the record in detail, and with the advantage of hindsight, I think it highly probable that, had President Kennedy lived, he would have pulled us out of Vietnam.

So much for Ike's lousy advice, Joe McCarthy's purge of experts, that old devil Goldwater, the Strangeloves of the JCS; if Kennedy had lived, we would have had a leader with "the ability to stand back from an issue and see its broader implications."

Odious comparison, but what does this say of Lyndon Johnson? Only that he, like Kennedy, is dead, but *Kennedys* are still around—senators, congressmen, rainmakers. And there come those world-historic moments when sycophants with *courage* must choose between masters.

Loyal Bob. Still brown-nose after all these years. Speer would approve. □

THE SECRET WORLD OF AMERICAN COMMUNISM

Harvey Klehr, John Earl Haynes, and Fridrikh Igorevich Firsov

Yale University Press / 348 pages / \$25

reviewed by PHILIP TERZIAN

For those who were startled to learn that Joseph Alsop was homosexual, or that Oprah Winfrey once used cocaine, the contents of this book will come as something of a shock. For while the authors' revelation—that the Communist Party of the United States (CPUSA) was subsidized by Moscow to undertake espionage—is sensational enough, it should scarcely surprise anyone who knows much about the Soviet Union, or about the moral presumptions of certain American leftists.

The Secret World of American Communism confirms what was long suspected: that, beginning as early as 1919, American party members organized and nurtured an underground spy network, financed and directed by a Soviet controller. The network flourished even—and perhaps especially—when the nation was imperiled by the fascist dictatorships, and lasted throughout the Cold War. It was only when Gus Hall, who still heads the CPUSA, wouldn't cease criticizing perestroika that Mikhail Gorbachev stopped the subsidy in 1989.

For decades it has been a safe assumption that many American Communists spied for the Soviet Union, deliberately subverting the American national interest. Until now, however, proof positive was unavailable. The testimony of certain former Communists was persuasive, as were the revelations of various security agencies. But in *Secret World*, the first volume of a projected series based on the declassified archives of the Communist International (Comintern), we have first-hand, primary, irrefutable evidence of treachery—evidence which sweeps away all previous polemics and accounts, and bathes a lurid story in unrelenting light.

Philip Terzian writes a column from Washington for the Providence Journal.

The notion that the American Communist Party was a homegrown assemblage of impractical eccentrics, friendly but by no means connected to the Kremlin, may no longer be presented as a charming romance; it is a fiction, a lie, methodically deceptive, historically false. American Communists did not just agitate for union organization, or to end segregation, or against military preparedness on the eve of World War II. They infiltrated the agencies of government, stole atomic secrets, corrupted the republican cause in the Spanish civil war, kept the Kremlin informed about what Washington might be thinking, and spread disinformation. For this knowledge we may thank the authors and their Russian research associates, and hope that some semblance of the truth may now take root. But that will not be easy, for it is in the popular culture, and in the accumulated folk wisdom of the past thirty years, that the fiction persists.

It is easy enough now to dismiss the work of revisionist historian/journalists—David Caute, Maurice Isserman, Ellen Schrecker, Victor Navasky, Richard M. Fried, Vivian Gornick, Robert Rosenstone, etc.—but expecting that the press, or the academy, or Hollywood, or the publishing industry, will come to understand their fundamental error about the nature of American Communism is probably expecting too much. The mythology of the Cold War, of patient Mother Russia and belligerent Uncle Sam, of gallant radicals and feverish ex-Communists, is too deeply embedded to be easily extracted.

In a series of annotated documents, Harvey Klehr and John Earl Haynes neatly demonstrate a number of remarkable facts. For example, it is now certain that John Reed was not just

Warren Beatty with a brain, an idealistic young radical fresh out of Harvard who moved from insurgent Mexico to revolutionary Russia. He was in truth a paid saboteur who, at a time when Russia was afflicted by the first of its several post-Bolshevik famines, was granted the sum of \$1 million—a colossal figure for the times, largely in confiscated gold, silver, and jewels—to export the revolution.

And then there is Armand Hammer. In a career that spanned the years from manufacturing pencils under Lenin's friendly gaze to trading funny stories with a reverent Johnny Carson, Dr. Hammer built a fortune promoting U.S.-Soviet trade by laundering Soviet money, disbursing stolen cash, and cutting deals with Stalin, all the while lying about his fealty to the party. The ironies of history: As despicable as Hammer was, it is useful to note that a man whose business empire was sustained by slave labor, and dependent on the patronage of Soviet tyranny, ultimately ran afoul of American law by illegally contributing to Richard Nixon's re-election campaign, and ended his career presiding over a payroll that featured Al Gore's father.

There can be no question now that, regardless of the justice or injustice of their punishment, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were guilty of atomic espionage, and that Alger Hiss was put away for perjury with good cause. Hiss's name is not to be found in this particular set of documents, but it would make little sense for his partisans to rejoice. The name of his chief accuser, Whittaker Chambers, is conspicuous, and so is the evidence that Chambers's assertions—that agencies of government had been penetrated by Communists throughout the late 1930s and early '40s—were not only accurate, but may even have been understated. The network described by Chambers, which included Alger Hiss, is revealed here in detail; the only things missing (thus far) are certain names.

It should also be noted that while not all Communists in Washington were spies, the only spies of consequence in that era were Communists. The authors are intrigued by the presence of two diplomatic letters found in the Comintern archives that were written in 1936. One, from ambassador William Bullitt in Paris to assistant secretary of state R. Walton

Moore in Washington, cheerfully discusses the European news, and contains Moore's deeply pessimistic marginal notes. The other, from ambassador William Dodd in Berlin to President Roosevelt, reports on a number of sensitive discussions with high-ranking Germans, and expresses Dodd's grim assessment of the future.

How did these letters fall into such hands? There are a number of plausible explanations. Both were transmitted by way of the State Department, where Alger Hiss was working in 1936. It is also possible that a White House source copied Dodd's letter. Bullitt was a stalwart opponent of the Soviets, but had been Roosevelt's first ambassador in Moscow; moreover, he was married to John Reed's widow, Louise Bryant, and was notably indiscreet. In Dodd's case a simpler explanation may be likely: his daughter Martha was a Communist who fled to Czechoslovakia with her husband in the 1950s. This fact goes unmentioned; the authors may not know it.

A handful of historic reputations must now be pondered. For the left, it may be instructive to observe how astute J. Edgar Hoover appears in these precincts. Whether restraining zealous subordinates or battling the impulses of fellow travelers in the government, the director comes across as that rare specimen—a sensible bureaucrat. Hoover's imperial habits may have sullied his last years, but his instincts about the CPUSA were shrewd and remarkably prescient. And while his reputation might usefully be rescued, whatever sentiment still attaches to the International Brigades, and their struggle against Spanish fascism, should be rapidly interred. Incapable of inflicting much harm on Franco's legions, the combatants of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade seem to have settled on shooting one another for political incorrectness, deviationist tendencies, or insufficient rapture at the sight of Marshal Stalin.

For the right, this begs the question of Senator Joseph McCarthy. While much of the material may appear to confirm many of McCarthy's public suspicions, it also reveals how reckless he was, and ultimately how destructive to the cause he purported to serve. Between the 1920s and the 1960s, thousands of people

joined the Communist Party for one reason or another, and many seem to have left within a few years of joining. Only a relatively small number actually engaged in espionage, or otherwise devoted their lives to the Soviet Union. This is not to minimize their misdeeds, but to put them in perspective. It is true that many party members (and assorted radicals) found employment in federal agencies, and of these, some stole documents, engaged in subversion, and reported to the Comintern.

There is a distinction, however, between Soviet agents and muddle-headed liberals. By failing to comprehend differences of opinion in policy matters, and criminalizing dissent with demagogic skill, all for partisan purposes, McCarthy gave the Communists and their friends a certain moral standing that they never deserved, and drove the anti-Communist left very nearly out of business. The effects of this disaster may still be felt today.

McCarthy was right that there were Communists in government. But William Blake was wiser: "A truth that's told with bad intent/Beats all the lies you can invent." □

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CORRESPONDENCE (continued from page 10)

who burn their weed and spew death into the air. Perhaps you might have someone write about drunken drivers next. Your Coors ad on the back cover cinched it. The foul liquid that was my father's doom is touted as "pure"—give me a break!

So you demand the freedom to flaunt in my face two addictions that kill over 600,000 of us each year! Not with my support.

—George Williamson
Evergreen Park, Illinois

Fast Boats to China

Kenneth R. Timmerman's article, "China Shops" (*TAS*, March 1995), contains numerous inaccuracies, a number of them regarding the actions of the Commerce Department's Bureau of Export Administration (BXA). Unfortunately, he makes so many misstatements that a point-by-point rebuttal would be longer than the original article. However, several of the allegations that relate to the Department of Commerce are so egregious that I feel compelled to respond.

He asserts that the Commerce Department is circumventing law by allowing the shipment of sensitive goods to the Chinese military, citing as an example the sale of gas turbine jet engines made by the Garrett Engine Company.

This assertion is untrue. The reason for Mr. Timmerman's concern about this engine—that it is suitable for use in cruise missiles—is spurious. Numerous technical constraints, including size, weight, and power, preclude its use in cruise missiles.

The engine in question is a commercial item that powers executive jets throughout the world. First certified by the FAA in 1974, it can hardly be considered new or cutting-edge technology. There has been no dispute about its commercial nature.

For shipment to China, the engine contains a digital electronic engine control (DEEC), which under current law and consistent with international agreements can be exported without prior written permission from the U.S. government.

The author claims that BXA political appointees blocked access to information he sought under a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, and that a BXA official deleted portions of information that the Commerce Inspector General's office had cleared for release.

These statements are incorrect.

Information of the nature sought by Mr. Timmerman is subject to FOIA and must be reviewed by appropriate officials to ensure that its release would not compromise national security or breach laws requiring the protection of business proprietary information. Regarding the author's request, both the Inspector General's office and BXA were required to perform such reviews.

Ms. Eileen Albanese, the BXA official responsible for conducting the review, redacted information because it could not, by law, be released to the requester. Ms. Albanese, a career civil servant, acted lawfully and appropriately.

As the chief political appointee in BXA and having consulted with the other appointees in BXA, I can also say with certainty that none of us reviewed the author's FOIA request, nor were we even aware of its existence until reading the article in your publication, since the initial request was submitted not to BXA but to the Inspector General.

Factual inaccuracies aside, the author simply disagrees with long-standing U.S. policy. He is among a minority that believes virtually no dual-use goods should be licensed for export to China. Were the United States to adopt such a policy, we believe it would more likely do serious harm to American security.

The mainstream view in the U.S. Government, the private sector, and among our allies, is that many dual-use goods are not sensitive and would not pose a national security or proliferation risk if exported to China. Let me be clear that this Administration is committed to controlling the export of goods that would harm our national security or would aid in the development of weapons of mass destruction. In regard to dual-use goods and technology, BXA administers this policy in a careful manner.

Focusing our enforcement activities on truly sensitive goods maximizes our ability to prevent or punish illegal export activities that harm the United States. Mr. Timmerman chooses to cast a far wider net and would include items that are simply not critical. If we were to follow his policy prescriptions, we would be squandering scarce government resources on controlling trade that does not have a national security impact, thus lessening our ability to enforce the law in cases that really do matter. This would also hamper economic growth by unnec-

essarily restricting U.S. exporters' access to important markets like China.

As the President has said many times, economic growth is crucial to our national security. Our policy is to balance the legitimate security need to support economic growth by fostering exports with the imperative to prevent the transfer of sensitive technology to those countries that would use it against us. Mr. Timmerman's errors and misstatements only serve to cloud the issues, lower the level of debate, and detract from what should be our real focus—stopping the export of critical goods and technology that could contribute to the development of weapons of mass destruction.

—William A. Reinsch
Under Secretary for
Export Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C.

Kenneth R. Timmerman quotes one source as saying that the Chinese "are even trying to purchase the \$36 million forge originally bought by Iraq before the Gulf war." He then writes: "Made by West Homestead Engineering in Homestead, Pennsylvania, this forge was used to make the 16-inch guns for all the Iowa-class battleships."

Malcolm Muir has written a brief but interesting history of the Iowas in which he says that their 16-inch by 50 big guns were all made as part of a World War I Navy expansion program that was put on hold by the Washington naval arms limitation treaty of the 1920s. The Navy had ordered 150 of the guns, and 70 or so had been completed before the freeze. These were all made before 1922 and had been in storage ever since.

It looks as if either Mr. Timmerman's source or Professor Muir has the wrong information. Maybe the Chinese really did want to buy a 75-year-old forge press, but I doubt it.

—W.T. Furgerson
Louisville, Tennessee

Kenneth R. Timmerman replies:

I thank W.T. Furgerson for his comment on the Iowa class battleships. Indeed, it appears there has been a confusion. The guns he is referring to are undoubtedly the 16-inch Mk2 and Mk3 guns originally intended for the South Dakota (BB49) class battleships and the Lexington (CC1) class battlecruisers, which were laid down

in the early 1920s and subsequently discontinued. One of these guns can actually be found today down at the Washington navy yard. The forging press the Chinese are trying to buy, however, was used to cast the Mk7 guns that were used on the Iowa class battleships built during World War II. These ships were retrofitted with Tomahawk and Harpoon missiles starting in 1983, and subsequently used off the coasts of Lebanon and Iraq. China's interest in such a forge is simple: it is a unique piece in the history of contemporary armament and has not been replicated since. If a country wants to make 16-inch 50 caliber guns, they would either have to buy the Homestead, Pennsylvania forge or make a similar one themselves. China's attempt to buy the forge suggests that the Chinese navy is interested in building battleships as part of its expansion program. The right question, I believe, is whether the U.S. wants to assist China in that effort.

I would have been disappointed had "China Shops" not elicited a rejoinder from Undersecretary of Commerce William Reinsch. The Commerce Department, as virtually the sole arbiter of U.S. high-technology exports these days, has long exercised a "Don't ask, don't tell" policy regarding its own actions, as Rep. Tom Lantos (D-Calif.) pointed out in a September 1993 hearing on U.S. exports to Iran.

During the Reagan and Bush administrations, Commerce did not always get its way. At interagency meetings where export licenses were discussed, Commerce was frequently opposed by the Pentagon, which argued against certain exports because of national security concerns. In the current administration, the Pentagon's political leadership has become as effective an advocate of U.S. commercial interests as is the Commerce Department. Unfortunately, no one is left to argue the national security case anymore. This is what I have tried to do.

The issues raised by China's purchase of U.S. high technology are several. But first, let me dispel one absurdity: I do not believe, as Mr. Reinsch asserts, that "virtually no dual-use goods should be licensed for export to China." I do believe that there should be an informed debate on the implications for U.S. national security and our economic security of certain exports to China, which the Commerce Department has refused to enter into.

The Garrett engine, while initially

designed as a commercial gas turbine engine, is being sold to power the K-8 military jet trainer for the People's Liberation Army at a time when Congress is still enforcing an embargo on arms sales to China. China is developing the K-8 in conjunction with Pakistan for export to other Third World countries; Pakistan announced recently it planned to sell the K-8, equipped with a Garrett engine, to Iran. I seriously doubt that the administration wants to be seen as helping to train the Iranian Air Force. But in the end, this is the least of the problems with this sale.

Contrary to Mr. Reinsch's assertion, there have been numerous reports from within the intelligence community on the potential cruise missile applications of the Garrett engines. These have been dismissed by Commerce, and deleted from the file on the case forwarded to other agencies for review. (Mr. Reinsch himself may not have seen these reports.)

I have just learned, in addition, that Garrett Engine Co. and its parent, AlliedSignal, have again approached the administration to inform them of their intention to sell the production technology for these engines to China—something the Commerce Department still denies. This is the real concern, not the sale of a few dozen aircraft engines; selling the production technology would give the Chinese the ability to adapt the engines to a future cruise missile design. Mr. Reinsch understands this, but is apparently convinced that technology transfer is not at issue in this sale. It is.

Another issue raised by the sale of aerospace production equipment to China is whether the United States government wants to sponsor and subsidize the creation of a full-fledged aerospace industry in China, which in a very short order will compete with Boeing and McDonnell Douglas here in the U.S. If the U.S. did not approve the sale of cheap, used (but high quality) machine-tools to China, as it is currently doing, the Chinese would have to spend approximately ten times the amount to purchase similar tools new from a foreign supplier.

Finally, I would like to applaud the editors of *The American Spectator* for allowing me to pursue this investigation unhampered by political considerations. This has not been the case with other news organizations. When I conducted a similar investigation on Chinese high

(continued on page 74)

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CORRESPONDENCE

(continued from page 71)

technology purchases in the United States for a major national publication last year, the editors of that publication caved in to pressure from Commerce and State and killed the story entirely. They did so in response to a letter sent by an assistant secretary of commerce, in which the official complained of my line of questioning during a background interview. While some readers might find such a crude attempt to influence the press to be improper, as a journalist I find the response of the mainstream editors even more astonishing, since it suggests that when given the choice between a cozy relationship with the administration and investigative reporting critical of the administration, they will choose the easy path.

What's Owed the Veteran?

In "Errors of Commission" (*TAS*, April 1995) David Frum says that "entitlements" include "veterans' compensation." If by that statement he includes military retirement, he couldn't be more wrong.

Military retirees receive pay based solely on longtime service and performance. It is not a giveaway, any more than a civilian's retired pay, and should not be means-tested to justify it.

By law (37 U.S.C. 101 (25)), the military equivalent of civilian salary is called regular military compensation (RMC) and is composed of basic pay as well as food and housing allowances. Twenty-year retired pay is actually 34 percent of the average 20-year RMC, which will decrease to 25 percent in 2006 under the Military Retirement Reform Act of 1986.

For this, military service demands great personal and family contributions that cannot be put in monetary terms. They include hazardous duty, family separations, frequent moves, forfeiture of personal freedoms, unpaid overtime, and a forced mid-life career change. What other employer imposes such conditions?

—James E. Murphy
Ridgecrest, California

David Frum replies:

Military retirement, like Social Security, Medicare, and welfare, is a program whose costs are determined by the number of people who are eligible for it, and

not by a specific congressional appropriation. That's what makes a program an entitlement—whether the money is merited or not.

Re UNITA

Foreign Editor Michael Ledeen's comments on Angola in your April issue can not withstand close scrutiny ("Africa Goes South," *TAS*, April 1995). He is content to repeat left-wing canards about the UNITA leader and presidential candidate, Jonas Savimbi. His claim that "Jonas Savimbi decided he'd rather fight on than accept electoral defeat," while often repeated, is patently untrue. In point of fact, there was no war in Angola until the dos Santos government launched coordinated attacks against UNITA facilities in Luanda on October 31, 1992, using helicopter gunships and tanks.

Crack government troops, known locally as Ninjas because of their dark uniforms, murdered the UNITA Vice President Jeremias Chitunda, a U.S.-trained mining engineer, the party Secretary General Alicerces Mango and Elias Salupeto Pelia, the UNITA representative to the Joint Political Military Commission, who were in the capital negotiating an interim arrangement for the period leading to a constitutionally mandated presidential runoff election. An additional 20,000 people, according to church sources, were massacred in the Luanda area alone in a two-week period solely on the basis of their ethnic origins and political affiliations.

Nevertheless, the war still did not become generalized until the first week in January 1993 when government troops and armed civilians attacked UNITA offices and supporters in widely dispersed cities and towns across the country. MPLA and UNITA coexisted in these urban areas for two whole months after the pogroms in Luanda. The unprovoked January attacks led to the full-scale resumption of the war.

Mr. Ledeen fails to inform his readers that the UNITA president formally accepted the results of the legislative elections in a letter to United Nations emissary Marrack Goulding on October 17, 1992, "in the interests of preventing war." But UNITA and seven other political parties still considered them "rife with fraud and irregularities." The then-United Nations special representative in Angola, Margaret Anstee, declared the elections "generally

free and fair" on the same day before an in-depth investigation could take place. However, not all U.N. staffers agreed. An internal U.N. report dated October 16, "Summary of Findings of the Provincial Investigative Committees on the Conduct of the Elections," concluded: "It may generally be concluded that there were irregularities discovered in the electoral process, which could have affected the overall outcome of the voting. In some cases, the volume of votes lost or gained by each candidate could, taken nationally, be significant [sic] as to distort the final results."

The description of the UNITA electoral campaign as based on "intimidation, xenophobic and anti-Western diatribes" is simply not true. Mr. Ledeen should present documentary evidence to support this baseless claim.

Finally, your foreign editor failed to reveal important information about the unelected Angolan president, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, whom he describes as "a charming and talented man," albeit someone who "does not seem to have the grit, vision, and charisma to lead Angola out of the hellhole into which it has fallen." Mr. Ledeen has said on more than one occasion that he considers dos Santos "a personal friend."

—Jardo Muekalia
UNITA Representative
Free Angola Information Service
Washington, D.C.

Michael Ledeen replies:

As one of those people who spent a great deal of energy and passion supporting Jonas Savimbi, and who has long had many personal friends among the ranks of UNITA, I am amused that Mr. Muekalia has confused me with advocates of the MPLA. I have no doubt that the elections wouldn't pass muster outside Cook County, but I also have no doubt that the MPLA got more votes than UNITA. Like many of UNITA's friends, I hoped that Savimbi would swallow his pride and lead the opposition in a new parliament, but he chose to fight instead.

My information on UNITA's election campaign comes from first-hand observation, interviews with U.N., U.S., African, and European officials and businessmen, and occasional hours listening to UNITA's radio broadcasts. I am not the only person shocked and disappointed by the tone of the campaign.

I have no intention of getting involved in the fruitless game of deciding who started what after the elections. The fact is that, as I said, both sides bear a heavy burden for the continued destruction of what should be one of Africa's richest countries. A pox on them both.

Jan Karski

Joshua Muravchik's review of *Karski* (*TAS*, April 1995) triggers memories of one of the true heroes of World War II and a truly unforgettable teacher. It omits mention of one of the ironies of Karski's life. Having dared and survived repeated wartime passage through both Nazi and Communist military lines, albeit with capture and torture by both, Karski suffered the final indignity of being mugged right in the District of Columbia. It took place near Lincoln Park as I recall, in the late 1960s. You could look it up. But it never seemed to dim his enthusiasm for his adopted country.

—William C. Chapman
Captain, U.S. Navy (Retired)
Atlantic Beach, Florida

A Russia in Our Future

Praise, praise, and more praise for Jonas Bernstein's excellent article "Is Boris Good Enough?" (*TAS*, March 1995). It was a brilliant analysis of the state of affairs in Russia. The article reinforced my conviction that by the twenty-first century, Russia will once again become a totalitarian state and a possible threat to the United States.

One must remember that the idea of democracy is an alien concept in Russia, where totalitarian governments have dominated the political landscape for centuries. Therefore it is hardly surprising that the Yeltsin regime would follow in the footsteps of its Soviet (and Czarist) predecessors; the promise of democracy notwithstanding.

—Joseph L. Monzione
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Make My Week

Mr. Pleszczynski's use of the word "sniveling" in his article "Atlas Shrugged" (*TAS*, April 1995) made my week! I am still smiling about it as I write this letter. Thank you for fine articles and great use of words. God's Blessings.

—Thomas P. McHugh
Irmo, South Carolina



Syracuse Herald American

To the advice column of an honored American daily, the Hillary Rodham Clinton of greater Syracuse pens a bold bull:

Dear Pat: My therapist has encouraged me to write you and share a ritual I conceived of to celebrate my decision to lead a single life. Next month I will be 30. Instead of being depressed about hitting "the big 3-0," and being unmarried, which is something I have decided against, I'm having a different kind of wedding party. In front of close friends, I plan to marry myself. I will ask for their blessings, anticipating some will read poetry, others may play a song on the guitar, or read something they have written especially for me. Then I will place a beautiful jade band on my "ring finger," symbolizing my marriage to myself.

[March 5, 1995]

Santa Barbara News-Press

Mr. Bryan Rosen makes his literary debut in the correspondence section of the illustrious *News-Press*, hoping to "lift" the spirits of the homeless, though he is apparently quite ignorant of just how inspiring a shot and a beer can really be:

When people give money to help the homeless, a high percentage of the time it's used for alcohol and cigarettes.

So giving money to the homeless is likely to help them get into the hospital or graveyard.

It's better to give them food—healthy organic food if possible. These people eat a lot of junkfood, so nutritional food is important.

It would be nice if health certificates could be sold for the homeless. Persons who want to help could give them to the homeless for use at a health food store or restaurant. There's nothing like a delicious fresh-squeezed juice, for example, to lift up a person's spirits.

[January 16, 1995]

Dutton

(Division of Penguin USA)

Advance notice of a new novel every Clintonite will want to read before Our President and his lovely wife Bruno are extradited to Arkansas:

A star-struck young boy from the wrong side of the tracks shakes the hand of President John F. Kennedy, and his feet are firmly set on the political path. A handsome young man full of burning ambition seeks the nation's highest office, vowing to create a new Camelot . . . But a scandal from his past threatens to topple his promising presidential bid.

Sound familiar? In **SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP**, by Robyn Sisman (Dutton; August 21, 1995; \$22.95), political golden boy Jordan Hope, favored candidate for the Oval Office, is faced with a hitherto unknown souvenir from his time in England as a Rhodes scholar: a twenty-year-old son.

Tom Hamilton is caught up in the usual undergraduate concerns—his car, his girlfriend, his courseload—when a chance discovery throws his paternity into question, and his life into turmoil. Tom bears an uncanny resemblance to Jordan Hope; his mother, a successful literary agent, concealed his illegitimacy from him; has she lied about his parentage as well?

For Annie Hamilton, Tom's accusations are a shock of the worst kind: she is happily married, with two other children—and a devoted husband who thinks he fathered all three. Annie has spent twenty years guarding her secret, and now her private life may be turned into lurid tabloid headlines . . . with the American elections only six days away.

Robyn Sisman deftly evokes both the frenzied tumult of a modern Presidential campaign, and the more innocent political passions of the generation that came of age in the sixties. **SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP** is a compelling first novel that explores the tangled structure of a modern family, and asks whether it's possible to resuscitate an old love . . . or whether one should.

[March 1995]

Publishers Weekly

An urgent correction in the pages of *PW*, lest readers get off on the wrong foot:

Correction: The review of John Gray's *Mars and Venus in the Bedroom* (Nonfiction Forecasts, Mar. 20) erred in stating that the book lacked a discussion of safe sex. The reader is referred to pages 9 and 10 in the Introduction.

[April 10, 1995]

Santa Cruz County Sentinel

A Politically Correct leftie aboard Politically Correct transportation commits a capitalism in a public place:

A Santa Cruz Action Network official and 14 other people were arrested in a police prostitution sting Saturday, police said.

The arrests came during a 10.5 hour operation in the Beach Flats and Lower Ocean Street areas of Santa Cruz, with plainclothes cops playing the roles of prostitute and customer, police Sgt. Steve Clark said.

John Robbins, the 27-year-old program coordinator for SCAN, was arrested after he offered a female police officer \$22 for a sex act, according to a police report. Police allege he rode his bicycle up to the officer in the 600 block of Riverside Avenue about 9:30 p.m. and propositioned her.

Robbins said Sunday that the arrest was "one of those situations in your life when you feel terribly embarrassed."

"I am very remorseful and apologize to anyone I've affected in the community for this," he said.

City Councilman Mike Rotkin, a founder of the progressive political organization which has fielded several successful City Council candidates, said Robbins' arrest likely won't have much impact on the group.

"To be honest, SCAN has never really represented itself as a moralistic organization," Rotkin said.

"It doesn't quite face the same crisis as other, right-wing groups do when something like this happens," he said.

[March 27, 1995]