



### On 'The Bork Confirmation Hearings'

My entry for the Robert Rauschenburg translation contest:

—Testimony of artist Robert Rauschenburg:

Young, old, rich, and hopeful are united by repulsion that a nouveau changling by his tongue and his unproven change of ideology might entrap decades of innocences.

—My translation:

Attention, Art World! Did you see me trash Bork? Do you like me, toad that I am? O, I will do anything to please you! Will the invitations come now?

If I win the \$100 purse, please donate it to The Rockford Institute in my name.

—John Peterson  
Barrington, IL

### On 'The Children Back in School'

A public schoolteacher the past 17 years, I believe the cost to the nation and its children of turning education over to a protected monopoly is much greater than even conservative editors might realize.

Admittedly, the consolidation trend you deplore is a most deserving target for criticism. You neglect, however, one notably destructive consequence of that trend: huge high schools. Anonymity, formula-processing of stu-

dents, and alienation are predictable outcomes of putting so many adolescents in one school.

But this is only one example of the quality of decision-making insured by leaving the crucial decisions about schooling to bureaucrats and union-dominated legislatures. The greatest cost of the protected monopoly structure of America's schools is the impossibility of entrepreneurial advances in everything from history instruction to teacher selection.

There is no market to promote what works and reject what does not; hence, good and bad ideas replace each other in cycles. Real innovation has no advantage over the politically motivated

popular fad.

Your interest is gratifying, but I predict you and many others will be making virtually identical comments 20 years hence unless parental choice and competition are introduced by tuition tax credits, vouchers, or capitation fees (as in the Thatcher government proposals).

—Tom Shuford  
Oyster Bay, NY

### On 'Video Stores and Libraries'

I have had a running battle with the liberal outlook of the library profession since my library school days. My orals covered why I thought that libraries did

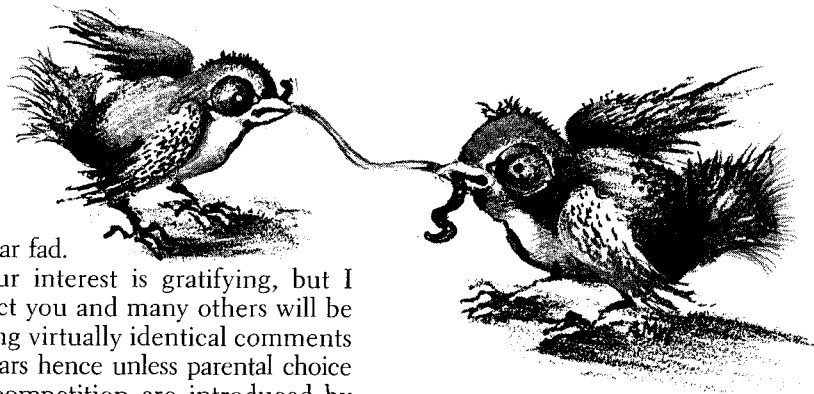
not purchase conservative serials and books. I replied that books are generally reviewed in the liberal media, and the few conservative publications that review books either review the liberal books to put them down or are not taken by libraries. The reason conservative magazines are not taken is that they are not indexed in *Readers' Guide*, and the reason they are not indexed is that they are not taken by libraries, a vicious circle.

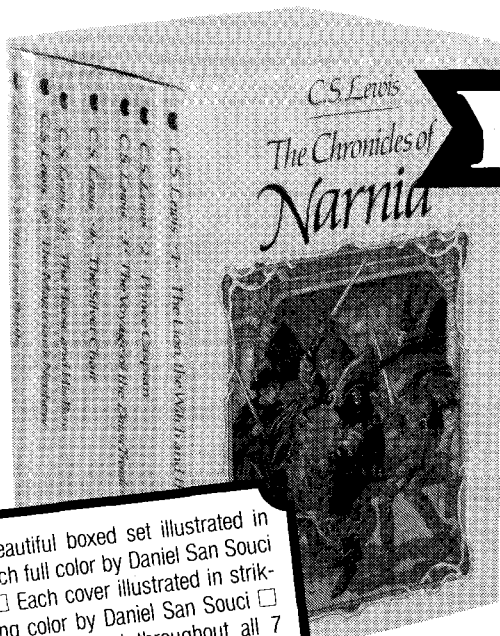
Librarians do not censor, they select—that is, they do not purchase books or remove those that may be offensive to liberal tastes. Nothing liberal is too offensive, but a scholarly book written suggesting that racial dif-

ferences might exist is offensive, as are books criticizing modern art or evolution.

Nonprint items are growing faster than books—in fact, the other day I found over 30 tapes of a recent book, but only one copy of the book in our system. The retiring of books—that is, burning of many—is truly a horror story. I am afraid that taking money away from libraries will make the problem worse. Those of us that are book people are on the low end of the totem pole and will be the first to go.

—Anonymous





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