


all school-age children in America will be from minority populations. Amnesty of illegals is now to include their families; such may "run to a million," according to INS spokesman Duke Austin, spouses and children becoming eligible for welfare permits.

The irony is that while America is opening its borders to multi-ethnicity, Europe is closing its (Italy even evolving a McCarran-Walter quota system of its own). With the abolition of frontiers pan-Europe sees the spectacle of floating work forces (Vietnamese, Sri Lankan, Zairian, whatever) moving freely from country to country and displacing indigenous workers. Sri Lankan Tamils have already violently resisted deportation at London's Heathrow Airport, even stripping off their trousers in protest. It is by no means alarmist to see networks of smugglers and forgers entering eventual pan-Europe as tourists when documentation, already minimal, will be nonexistent.

So when the Senate passed a measure that would exclude illegal aliens from Social Security and disability payments, liberals called it "punitive" and the ACLU "unfair," although Idi Amin was allowed to get away with expelling 26,000 Asians. Unfair, let us add, to those who should by rights be subject to deportation, and punitive to our exchequer—in 1986 the U.S. government paid more than

\$17 million in Social Security benefits to illegal aliens. Outside the law itself we find tax-levying bodies relaxing or breaking it, as when CUNY (City University of New York) granted reduced tuition for "undocumented" aliens. As one who taught within CUNY I can assure the reader that its humanitarian stance in this regard was commingled with a sneaking desire for survival. Its financial aid offices encourage as many students as possible, since without students the colleges would not exist. Bilingualism becomes a must under such circumstances, just to hold class.

And in the immigrant-rich states (New York, California, Florida) bilingualism is such that there will soon be no necessity for newcomers to this country to speak English at all. As for American history, the representative of an immigrant rights coalition has said, "It is nice to know who was the first President of the United States, but it's not necessary." With a third of Inner London now ethnic the British critic Russell Lewis depicts welfare-state immigration in words that could well be applied to America: "In post-Beveridge Britain we have tended more and more to think of membership of our democracy as a ticket, enabling the holder to join in a squalid scramble for benefits, instead of as a privilege, a share in a decent and just, even a great society." 

Womankind and Poesy: A Parable

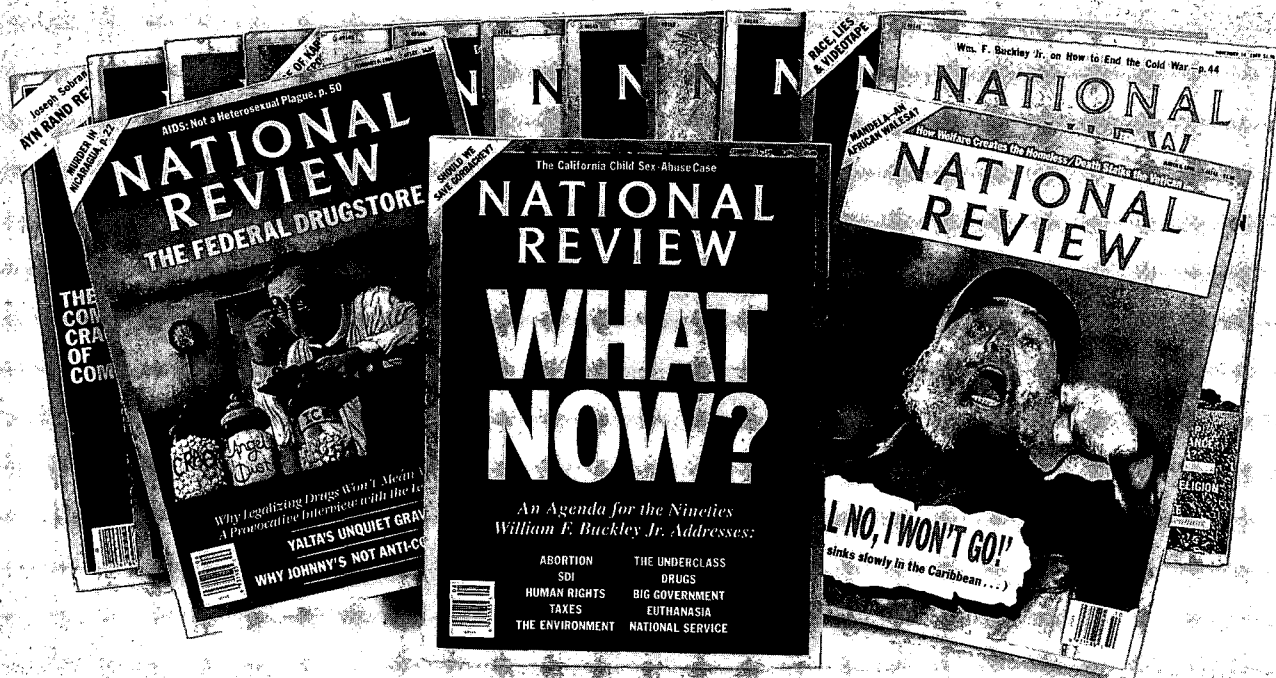
by Tom Disch

"Because formal poetry has an obvious place in the male tradition, many contemporary feminist poets have rejected it completely, accused women of working in those traditions of buying into the patriarchy."

—from a review in *Open Places*

Cassandra stood outside the gate
Scarce able to express her hate
For traitors to their sex whose verse
Would rhyme or scan. On them her curse:
Should any woman ever write
As patriarchal acolyte
Let her sisters ever treat her
Strictly as her strictest meter,
Binding tight her tender feet
And beating her when she would cheat
By throwing in an anapest.
Then round about her swelling chest
Let constraining couplets wind
Till she cry out to Womankind:

O my dear sisters
forgive me if you can
I have been writing like a
patriarch
but now I've seen the error
of my ways
and by Gaea
I'm free!



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Give Us Your Huddled Masses

by Donald Huddle

"Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me. . . ."

—Emma Lazarus

Friends or Strangers: The Impact of Immigrants on the U.S. Economy

by George J. Borjas
New York: Basic Books;
274 pp., \$22.95

The Economic Consequences of Immigration

by Julian L. Simon
Cambridge: Basil Blackwell;
402 pp., \$39.95

The publication of a Julian Simon book is a cause for rejoicing among advocates of laissez-faire and open-border immigration. According to Dr. Simon, who teaches business administration at the University of Maryland and is an adjunct scholar at the Heritage Foundation and the Cato Institute, all immigrants and refugees, no matter how many or in what form, are good news for the American economy. His latest opus will not disappoint his followers, but it adds little of any substance to the real-world immigration policy debate.

The much smaller volume by University of California economist George Borjas is a valuable contribution to the debate on immigration—it is a penetrating, scholarly work incorporating state-of-the-art economic research and is very accessible to the noneconomist. In contrast to Simon's replay of the same old message, that the United States "needs" many more immigrants, Borjas finds that recent immigrants are much more likely to live below the poverty line, to be unskilled and unemployed, and to go on welfare. Borjas concludes that the United States must dramatically upgrade the quality of im-

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Anna Mycek-Wodecki

migrants if we are to avoid the very large costs of the past fifteen to twenty years.

I begin with Simon's notions because they are both oversimplified and extreme. Those aspects of Simonism that are not contradicted by Simon himself are contradicted, for the most part, by Borjas later on.

Simon claims substantial scientific documentation to support his controversial thesis: increased immigration of at least one million a year is a "fool-proof" way for the U.S. to advance every major national goal and ensure our economic success. Some of Simon's key contentions are that immigrants:

—work harder, save more, and are

more innovative than are natives;

—do not displace native workers, not even unskilled minority workers;

—actually create new jobs on net balance by increasing the purchasing power of goods and services and by starting new businesses;

—use few welfare services and more than pay for those they do use in taxes;

—are typically as well-educated occupationally as natives: upon arrival immigrants earn less than natives, but within five years they catch up with and then earn more than native workers.

To Simon the popular belief—documented in opinion polls—that immigrants are harmful to the U.S. economy is the result of misinformation from the media. According to Simon, "cultural homogeneity" is just the contemporary code word for racist opposition to immigration. Those who differ with him are either badly informed or have a hidden special-interest political agenda.

Simon claims to be the first economist to "quantify" the costs and benefits of immigration because he has brought together a scientific approach and a solid economic-statistical basis for determining the social loss from keeping out nonwhite foreigners. The reader will be appalled to find that his analysis consists largely of pseudoscientific method, overstatement, hyperbole, and contradiction.

What then are Simon's so-called scientific and economic statistical bases that "prove" that immigrants, legal and illegal, bring untold economic benefits to American shores? The best way to illustrate Simon's methods and proofs is to offer several typical quotes from his work:

Immigrants have a high propensity to start their own businesses; this seems obvious to the casual observer. For