

Book Briefs

BIOENERGETICS

By Alexander Lowen

"Lowen continues here to champion his thesis that the body is central to the individual personality and that it includes the mind, spirit, and soul. He tells how he developed the bioenergetic approach after years of study with Wilhelm Reich (who was also his analyst), and how Reich's body-oriented theory and therapy influenced his own work. Lowen outlines the exercises employed in bioenergetic therapy and cites examples of patients who have benefited from them in the treatment of stress, sexual dysfunction, anxiety, and other disturbances...."—*Library Journal* / **Psychology** (298 pages) / **LR Price \$9.95**

DOSSIER: THE SECRET FILES THEY KEEP ON YOU

By Aryeh Neier

"Dossiers are inherently negative, seldom aid later investigators, and inflict an irrevocable invasion of privacy on their subjects. The stigma a dossier pins on its subject may label him for life.... Neier, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, has documented here many injustices resulting from misleading, incorrect and/or unnecessary dossiers. He recommends greater attention to individual privacy and elimination of all but the most needed ones.... the book's message is important."—*Publishers Weekly* / (216 pages) / **LR Price \$7.95**

THE END OF INTELLIGENT WRITING: LITERARY POLITICS IN AMERICA

By Richard Kostelanetz

"This is sure to be controversial: Kostelanetz addresses himself to the issue of why certain writers are published and known while other writers of equal caliber are not. He shows how the communicative channels between intelligent writers and readers are clogged by commercial intermediaries. He exposes the tactics of the New York literary 'Mafia,' whose structure and membership he specifies.... The author knows the 'current scene' in great detail, and his muckraking is informative and righteously indignant."—Ralph Flores in *Library Journal* / **Literature** (480 pages) / **LR Price \$12.95**

BAKUNIN: THE FATHER OF ANARCHISM

By Anthony Masters

"Mikhail Bakunin, who said 'The passion for destruction is a creative passion,' and 'Freedom can only be created by freedom' is a shadowy figure for most people. Yet in view of our time's growing disillusion with authoritarianism, it could be that Bakuninism, for all its somewhat vague connotations, is in for a revival. Master's careful re-examination of the man, his writings and his life is therefore not only extremely interesting but possibly timely.... Bakunin admired Marx but disliked his authoritarianism; his dream of a society based on communalism and voluntary cooperation may seem hopelessly utopian. It's a powerful dream, nevertheless."—*Publishers Weekly* / (279 pages) / **LR Price \$9.95**

DE-MANAGING AMERICA: THE FINAL REVOLUTION

By Dick Corneulle

"With wit, tolerance and a wealth of quotable one-liners and insights, corporate dropout Dick Corneulle tells why he believes the 'soft' revolution of America's new generation is right on.... He wrote *Reclaiming the American Dream* and now, in this sequel.... shows how really 'unmanageable' our society is. He knows what today's 'de-managed' Americans—young, old, countercultural or merely 'independent'—are doing in many areas by common sense, intuition and enterprise that structured management hasn't done, can't do and never will do."—*Publishers Weekly* / **Political Philosophy** (147 pages) / **LR Price \$7.95**

NOWHERE AT HOME: LETTERS FROM EXILE OF EMMA GOLDMAN & ALEXANDER BERKMAN

Edited by Richard & Anna Maria Drinnon

"*Nowhere at Home* is an interesting and historically valuable selection of letters from the correspondence of two exiled American anarchists. The editors try to make their subject 'topical' by drawing parallels between the experiences of Goldman, Berkman, and contemporary Vietnam war resisters, but the real significance of these documents lies in what they tell us about American radicals and radicalism in the 1920s and 1930s. Each letter contains something of interest, whether philosophical (a confession of anarchist faith, a consideration of the role of violence in revolution) or personal (Berkman's almost pathological resentment of the demands made on him by the motherly Emma)...."—Harry E. Ritter in *Library Journal* / **History** (303 pages) / **LR Price \$12.95**

THE GOOD OLD DAYS— THEY WERE TERRIBLE

By Otto L. Bettmann

"The so-called 'good old days' in America were just that for the comparatively few who had it made.

"But, says Otto L. Bettmann, founder of the famous Bettmann Archive, for the average man—the man in the street—the good old days were usually a nightmare of deprivation, uncertainty and frequently downright fear....

"Bettmann... pretty well proves his case with more than 300 engravings, cartoons and photographs selected from 3 million in his archive, and by his accompanying comments....

"Here are some of the vignettes, sharpened by illustrations, drawn by Bettmann in the *Good Old Days* from the Civil War's end to World War II's beginning:

"• Air quality: pollution and stench from animal wastes, uncollected garbage, clogged sewers and industrial smoke made most city life a 'nasal disaster.' New York City's 150,000 horses each produced about 20-25 pounds of manure daily, which in dry spells, powdered by pounding traffic, covered clothing, ruined furniture and clogged citizens' nostrils.

"• Traffic: New York's Lower Broadway in 1872: 'What a jam. Stages, carriages, cartmen, expressmen, pedestrians all melted together in one agglomerate mess.' In summer, horse carts

with straw on their floors were a 'porridge of nausea'; in winter, 'rolling iceboxes.'

"• Housing: 'Decent accommodations at modest rentals were non-existent as a housing famine proved an economic calamity to the mass of city residents....' Between 1870 and 1906, Chicago, Boston, Baltimore and San Francisco burned to the ground, a record unmatched in any country in the world...."—Victor Wilson in the *Washington Post* / **History** (207 pages) / **LR Price \$4.95**

CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

By Maria Montessori

"Written during the late 1940's, when the author was looking back at almost half a century of work in education, this work does not pretend to be a detailed explanation of how the Montessori schools were designed and operated. It is, rather, an explanation of Montessori's basic philosophy of child development and of how she came to hold her views. She believed that the basis of education reform must be built on the scientific study of man and his place in the cosmic order, and that we must seek an understanding of how the child learns in his psychological nature.... Her ideas are still relevant today."—Shirley L. Hopkinson in *Library Journal* / **Education** (137 pages) / **LR Price \$5.95**

THE COMPETITIVE ECONOMY: VOLUME I

Edited by Yale Brozen

"'Oligopoly' and 'concentration' may be pejorative to some but not to University of Chicago economist Brozen. He questions the theoretical work of Edward Chamberlain of Harvard and Joan Robinson of Cambridge in the '30s on the economics of so-called monopolistic and imperfect competition.... He has gathered a host of reprinted articles in support of his position. His names include some of the biggest in the business... Harold Demsetz, George Stigler, John McGee, Arthur Laffer, Kenneth Arrow, J. Fred Weston, D. T. Armentano, Neil Jacoby and Joseph Schumpeter. The Schumpeter reprint is a classic, 'The Process of Creative Destruction'.... A welcome and hard-hitting anthology."—William H. Peterson in the *Wall Street Journal* / **Economics** (450 pages) / **LR Price \$12.95**

THE PAINTED WORD

By Tom Wolfe

"Wolfe owes his new book to New York Times art critic Hilton Kramer. A year ago Kramer wrote that, when looking at a painting today, 'to lack a persuasive theory is to lack something crucial.' Immediately Wolfe had his 'handle' on what passes for Modern Art. As he explains it, the truth dawned on him that 'Modern Art has become completely literary' and exists only to 'illustrate the text' provided by some influential art critics who pontificate as theorists. As Wolfe sees it, there are two phases of the rites of art as practiced on the Greenwich Village scene from 1945 to 1975: the 'Boho Ball' (his term) where painters seek solace from their anti-bourgeois kind—and the 'Uptown consumption,' where radical chic takes over and a Jackson Pollock can turn up obscenely drunk in Peggy Guggenheim's drawing room and be lionized because some eminent critic had supplied the 'theory' that made him important and salable...."—*Publishers Weekly* / (128 pages) / **LR Price \$5.95**

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OTHER FEATURES IN LR

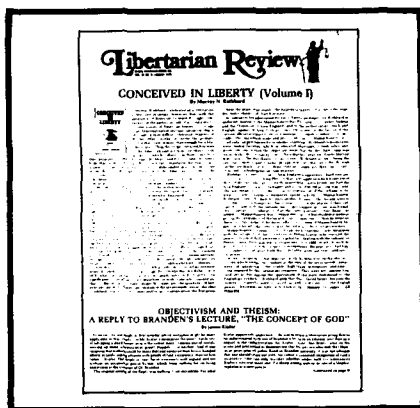
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■ **AN AFTERWORD FROM READERS, AUTHORS AND REVIEWERS**, LR's lively letters column in which spirited debate is aired over points made in book reviews. Here, *your* views can be expressed.



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A LIBERTARIAN WHO'S-WHO

The many distinguished libertarians whose writings have appeared in LR include:

■ **MURRAY N. ROTHBARD**, the well-known economist, historian, and social critic, whose countless articles and books (including the number one libertarian best-seller, *For A New Liberty*) would fill a small library.

■ **HENRY HAZLITT**, the eminent economist, former *Newsweek* columnist, author and essayist, whose writings over several decades have become a source of inspiration to countless libertarians.

■ **JOHN HOSPERS**, 1972 Presidential Candidate of the Libertarian Party, author of *Libertarianism* and many other works in philosophy. Chairman of the University of Southern California's Department of Philosophy.

■ **ARTHUR A. EKIRCH**, whose *Decline of American Liberalism* is a classic of libertarian historical analysis.

■ **HANS J. EYSENCK**, a scholar of world-wide renown. Professor of psychology at the University of London and author of the *I. Q. Argument*.

■ **JEROME TUCILLE**, the prolific young author of *Radical Libertarianism, Who's Afraid of 1984* and other books.

■ **ROBERT SHERRILL**, the prominent Washington journalist, whose biting and iconoclastic political reporting has appeared in scores of leading periodicals.

■ **FELIX MORLEY**, the Pulitzer Prize-winning former Washington *Post* editor, college president and long-time scholar of isolationism.

■ **THOMAS SZASZ**, the well-known libertarian psychiatrist, whose *Myth of Mental Illness* and many other books have revolutionized his profession.

■ **BARBARA BRANDEN**, whose new novel, long-awaited in Objectivist circles, will soon be published.

■ **ROBERT LEFEVRE**, the well-known libertarian philosopher, lecturer and author.

■ **HENRY B. VEATCH**, probably the best-known Aristotelean philosopher in the world. Author of the classic *Rational Man*.

■ **ALSO**, D. T. Armentano, Petr Beckmann, Walter Block, Peter Breggin, Allan C. Brownfeld, R. A. Childs, Jr., James Dale Davidson, Percy L. Greaves, Walter Grinder, Karl Hess, Tibor Machan, James J. Martin, Edmund Opitz, S. E. Parker, Sylvester Petro, Ralph Raico,

Donald I. Rogers, George H. Smith, Jarrett B. Wollstein and many others.

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Libertarian Review

410 First Street, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20003

Knowledge Fiction— (Continued from page 9)

for humanity to break from its crowded home and spread out through the Galaxy. All kinds of cliques and sects, parties and utopias (if that is a word) suddenly have the opportunity to pursue their convictions on empty, welcoming worlds; and actually, Mother Earth is kind of glad to get rid of them. It is now 400 years later, and Mother Earth has decided to spread her protective wing over her children—that is to say, to establish an exploitative empire. How she fares, in the form of a mile-long space ship armed to the follicles and carrying soldiers, spacemen, and an ambassadorial staff, makes for hilarious and sharply pointed adventure. Of especial note is their final visit (which first appeared as the novellette "And Then There Were None") to a planet which has achieved a viable culture without the use of money—or government. It's worth thinking about.

The real master of this sort of thing was the late C. M. Kornbluth. With a bitterness and perennial fury unmatched anywhere until the advent of Barry Malzberg (watch out for that one; he burns) Kornbluth turned a jaundiced eye on all about him and never tried to conceal his disgust at the absurd conclusions to which he reduced them. His *The Marching Morons*, a short story, does a statistical projection of the dilution of intelligence in the gene pool by masses of fecund dumb-dumbs, while intelligent people intelligently reduce their birth rate. He takes us to a near future in which a tiny minority of smarts slave to protect a world of morons against themselves—a detestable, frightening, and uncomfortably probable future. In *The Syndic*, written more than two decades ago, he posits a world in which governments have collapsed under the weight of their own red tape and bureaucracy, and in which the Mob presides over an essentially anarcho-libertarian America. But then the rag-tag remnants of the exiled U.S. government reassert them-

selves—dooming the laissez faire society, for any vigorous attempt to defend it would make it no longer worth defending.

There is so very much more to be said about sf—sf on television, in the movies, and sf overseas, where it thrives. The most widely-read sf writer in the world is not Heinlein nor Bradbury nor Arthur C. Clarke, but Poland's Stanislaw Lem. Sf is highly favored in the USSR, and I strongly recommend *The Invincible* and *Hard to be a God*. These novels are written by brothers Boris and Arkady Strugatski, and the latter is one of the finest books of any kind I have ever read. There are sf publishers in Scandinavia, Italy, France, Yugoslavia, Argentina, and Brazil; in Japan, where it is hugely popular, and of course in England and Australia (which is at this moment hosting the World Science Fiction Convention). The only sf section of a national writers' union in the world is in Hungary. And a thing worth consideration is that a great many movers and shakers, super-thinkers and advanced technologists, as well as someone in almost every engineer's booth in almost every broadcasting studio, are sf enthusiasts. It was, until peace broke out, concealed from German intelligence that the largest block of subscriptions to *Astounding Science Fiction* during the war was at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; the second largest was at Hanford, Washington. Astronomer Carl Sagan is certainly enamored of the field; so is Marvin Minsky, head of the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at M.I.T., whose staff of some 80 bright people is on the verge of producing a machine that can think. Little wonder that Academia has discovered sf and made it respectable; it no longer must, like pre-Mendelssohn musicians, go in by the servants' entrance, but has become a mother-lode of high-yield ore for the publish-or-perish fraternity. More than anything else, sf affords the only known pill against future shock. Drenched in extrapolations and alternatives, in disasters and survivals and alien ways of thought, sf people are resistant or immune to the tumbling panic of accelerating current events. REVIEWED BY THEODORE STURGEON

AN AFTERWORD FROM

To Each His Own Neighborhood

I was so mollified by Karl Hess' spirited review of Kotler's *Neighborhood Government* [LR, April] that I have almost forgiven Hess for the Victorian slur in *Dear America*. ("On the right there is an almost universal saturation with booze and promiscuity.") There has long been a latent tradition of distrust toward centralization in this country—a sentiment which the Libertarian Party would be wise to exploit. With something like 70% of the U.S. population on 2% of the land, there is ample room for great diversity among communities, expanding the individual's range of choice. That way, Karl can set up a town for those on the left who are, as he says, "good and kind and pure of heart." And us right-wingers can leave his town, and go on "brown-nosing and self-seeking," which can be fun too.

ALAN REYNOLDS
Contributing Editor
National Review, Reason
New York, N.Y.

I was interested to read Karl Hess' review of Kotler's *Neighborhood Government* in the April *Libertarian Review*. I agree with him that the best prospects for the future lie in small, independent social units—if only because the general availability of nuclear weapons will make anything large an inviting target for extortion, and in any case larger political units have historically required the threat of force by a central authority to hold them together, a threat that isn't too credible when those threatened have nuclear weapons.

Letters from readers are welcome. Although only a selection can be published and none can be individually acknowledged, each will receive editorial consideration and may be passed on to reviewers and authors. Letters submitted for publication should be brief, typed, double spaced, and sent to LR, 410 First Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003.

However, I don't like the way he skirts the question of opting out. He contrasts his view of "social life" based on the "centrality of location" with the view of those who "retreat to their tax shelters or their distant suburbs." But of course the question "To organize or not to organize?" is independent of the question "To retreat or not to retreat?"; it is entirely possible to live in social isolation in the heart of a city, or to enjoy a tightly-integrated social structure in a rural area, tax haven or new country. I would enjoy hearing Hess' views specifically on the question of retreating.

To focus his thinking on this subject, [I suggest he] consider an analogy from Nazi Europe. Which Jews were more to be emulated: those of the Warsaw ghetto who faced the Reich with the "dilemma of when to smash local freedom" even though there was "not... much hope" of success—or those like my father, who saw what was coming, got out of Germany in 1936, and did his best to convince others to do so and helped make the necessary arrangements right up to the outbreak of hostilities? Admittedly, the people of the Warsaw ghetto are much more romantic figures, and there will be few monuments erected in honor of those like my father, but I for one am damn glad he chose to "surrender to the demons of historical inevitability and retreat...."

I also have reservations about Hess' participatory concept of local government. Most people who have been dragged to a tenants' association or PTA meeting would not be overjoyed at the thought that major decisions affecting their lives depended on the acts of such outfits. Hess has been involved in enough organizations, I'm sure, to know that even under "one-man-one-vote," the shots are called by those who put in the hours of behind-the-scenes spadework framing proposals, knocking on doors, etc. This is all very good for political animals like Hess who derive intrinsic satisfaction from this sort of activity. But those of us who have other hobbies might, I think, be more attracted by something on the lines, say, of Spencer MacAllum's "proprietary communities," which are administered by professionals for (or against) whom residents vote

with their pocketbooks by their choice of where to reside.

ERWIN S. STRAUSS
Silver Spring, Md.

"The Most Perceptive Review"

Many, many thanks for featuring Professor Petro's review of my book [*The Hundred Million Dollar Pay-off*] in your April issue. It was the most perceptive review the book has received to date.

DOUGLAS CADDY
Washington, D.C.

A Little Elucidation, Please

Would Professor Petro please explain what he means by [in his review of *The Hundred Million Dollar Pay-off*] "... what the big unions... did to Nixon and his cohorts just last year..." that shouldn't have been done—albeit less messily? And since when are unions "competing gangs"? I'd call them a cartel, which is, by definition a "reciprocally larcenous aggregate"....

BRIAN J. MONAHAN
Wichita, Kansas

Professor Petro?—KTP

Compulsory Unionism and Freedom of Contract

... In his review of *The Hundred Million Dollar Pay-off* Professor Petro appears to be questioning the constitutionality of compulsory unionism agreements.... Compulsory unionism agreements are simply the exercise of freedom of contract. But if the freedom to bargain or not bargain were granted, labor unions would not have the coercive power they now have.

Also, the solution is not to place restrictions upon political activities of labor unions. This is simply the common practice of using a coercive government