

Letters to the Editor

Violence on Campus

A LOOK AT the student that Sidney Hook writes about in his article "Who Is Responsible for Campus Violence" [SR, Apr. 19]: He enters the citadel of learning, and stands in awe of the prospects before him. Once enrolled, he discovers some very disillusioning and frustrating facts. His idealistic aims of peace are shattered by a rude awakening that there is an ROTC program on campus geared to war; that there is a faculty researching and promulgating exercises in bacteriological and chemical warfare; scientists prostituting their skills to unearth ways and means to maim and kill, rather than pursuing paths leading to solutions of the mystery of life; medical research struggling with the problems of preserving and extending life only to have their work neutralized by their opposite-minded colleagues.

By dint of hard work our student has climbed out of his ghetto only to find that the university is planning, not an urban redevelopment, but a luxury gymnasium. Furthermore, the draft may pluck him out of school to sacrifice him in a needless war against a paper enemy that has never harmed him.

"Who Is Responsible for Campus Violence?" Indeed, the Sidney Hooks are.

MAX POSCHIN,
Los Angeles, Calif.

I HAVE BEEN profoundly affected by the incidents following the occupation of University Hall on April 10. Sidney Hook's article, obviously written well before that incident, was to the point, but I would like to add a comment.

Despite the impression we may sometimes give to the students, many of us on the faculty view the college as a family and the buildings as a home. We do not condone a laissez-faire attitude toward infringement of rules in a college any more than we would in our homes. We are well aware of the effect of permissiveness. But we would no more call in the city police if students took over a building (even one containing our personal files) than we would if one of our sons, in a fit of rage and malice, broke into our bedroom and ransacked our desk.

CHARLES A. WHITNEY,
Professor of Astronomy,
Harvard University,
Cambridge, Mass.

SIDNEY HOOK's evaluation of the problem on the college campuses is typical of America's response to critical problems. The real problem with college students is that they realize that they are living in a hypocritical society. It is not simply a matter of a misplaced gym on one campus, a Black Studies Department on another, and military research on a third. It is the general attitude on all campuses which allows these things to go on.

To suppose that the problem is one of law and order reduces it to a level at which

men like Mr. Hook would prefer to deal. Problems of law and order are easy to deal with—more police. As witnessed by the recent events at Harvard, this strategy and ineptness only serve to reinforce the doubts of the uncommitted. If the repressive course is followed, one can only expect the SDS to grow from the newspaper story it is now into a very real threat to America.

ROBERT ALTMAN,
Sophomore,
University of California,
Berkeley, Calif.

IN A WORLD where diversity of function and knowledge makes it not only possible but necessary for each person's education to be different from every other person's, we have institutional requirements that force the grade school lock step to continue through college.

Does Mr. Hook believe that it is desirable for our educational institutions to discard the requirements that force students to put their own educational objectives in mothballs or sometimes permanently to sleep? Does he believe that it is possible to create educational situations that allow the students' sense of relevance to function in the creation of course structures?

When economic necessities force the academic world to cut down the possibility for individuality by creating megaversities, does Hook believe that the loss of identity and educational choice by the student enables that student to negotiate rationally?

Does dormitory life provide the degree of personal freedom that seems to be common sense to the majority of students now entering college? Even Hook agrees that it takes some notable averting of face by administrations to achieve enough freedom to avoid revolution. To a generation that would find it immoral to get married without living together first, such hypocrisy is unacceptable. To a group searching for personal identity societal approval is important, but not so important that they

would accede to a decadent institutional morality.

When one understands the degree of change to which the current student generation is committed, then it becomes obvious that negotiations between administrations and students, using the ground rules advocated by Hook, are not possible.

MARK RYDER,
Professor of Dance,
Goddard College,
Plainfield, Vt.

Stretch, Rump, and Bag

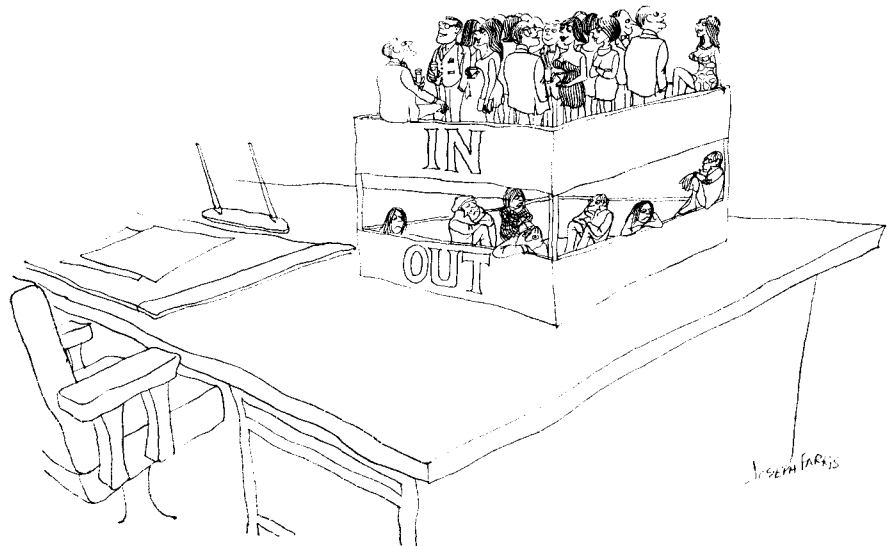
I SHOULD LIKE to carry a little further the issue of rumpled and/or baggy tweeds raised by John Ferris [PHOENIX NEST, March 1].

I reject with indignation the slanderous story of the British earl who had his tweeds rumpled by his butler. British earls' tweeds are traditionally handed down from father to son, and any necessary rumpling or bagging would have been carried out centuries ago. If any present-day earl were to buy new tweeds he would probably have his gamekeeper break them in for the first few years.

A last word on a variety of tweeds not mentioned by Mr. Ferris—the Irish Thornproof. I once bought a magnificently hairy set of these, almost entirely because of the seductiveness of the name. After some days, I came to the conclusion that my tweeds were thornproof because they were made of thorns, woven with the points inward. I suspect that the theory was that once you had got used to wearing the tweeds, no thorns in existence would make any impression on your skin.

It is quite true that tweeds are virtually indestructible. I still have my Irish Thornproof jacket, now suitably baggy and rumpled, and with leather patches on the elbows and leather strips round the cuffs, a refinement of chic not mentioned by Mr. Ferris. I am sure it is still proof against thorns, though I never got round to trying it out in the field. Anyway, I am pleased to say I am now proof against my Thornproof.

RON FARQUHAR,
San Francisco, Calif.



Poe and the British Magazine Tradition

By MICHAEL ALLEN. "One of the few studies written during the past ten years that really says something new about Poe. I had always suspected that Poe had borrowed a great deal from the British quarterlies, but I never realized how deeply indebted he was."—DANIEL AARON, Smith College \$6.50

Picasso's Guernica

By SIR ANTHONY BLUNT. This profusely illustrated book traces with meticulous care the growth of Picasso's famous painting. Wide use is made of the forty-five preliminary sketches and seven photographs showing stages in the picture's development. Sir Anthony places *Guernica* within the context of Picasso's other work and explores the meaning of the many symbols. 60 illustrations.

Cloth, \$3.75. Paper, \$1.75

The Passages of Thought

PSYCHOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION IN
THE AMERICAN NOVEL, 1870-1900

By GORDON O. TAYLOR. "Taylor discusses psychological process in fiction more intelligently, with more relevance to what's offered as a reading experience, with more historical acuteness than anyone who has so far investigated this subject... beautifully written, clear, careful, and disciplined."

—RICHARD POIRIER, Rutgers University. \$5.00

Reform in Detroit

HAZEN S. PINGREE AND URBAN POLITICS

By MELVIN G. HOLLI. "A first-rate work that makes a provocative contribution to the understanding and evaluation of the municipal reform effort of the 1890's and especially of the pioneering activities of Hazen Pingree as a proponent of social rather than structural reform."—BAYRD STILL, New York University. (*Urban Life in America series*.)

\$7.50

A History of Russia

SECOND EDITION

By NICHOLAS V. RIASANOVSKY. An impressive survey of Russian history, from early times to the present, Professor Riasanovsky's study has won praise for its distinguished scholarship, its balanced coverage, and its attractive presentation. In the new edition the author has brought the narrative fully up to date, reflecting findings of significant modern research. 32 pages of illustrations, 30 maps. \$13.50

The Myth of Independence

By ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO. With the vigor and vision of one who is an academic and an intellectual, as well as a practical politician, Mr. Bhutto traces the course of Pakistan's relations with India, the United States, the Soviet Union, China, and many smaller nations. Of special interest are the author's discussion of Pakistan's relations with the United States and his strong criticism of U.S. policy in Asia.

\$7.00

Oxford



Social Change and History

ASPECTS OF THE WESTERN THEORY
OF DEVELOPMENT

By ROBERT A. NISBET

A penetrating account of social theory and great social thinkers, from Heraclitus and Aristotle to Comte and Marx, Durkheim and Weber. A sociologist exploring history, Dr. Nisbet treats the idea of social development within the whole range of Western culture rather than as a nineteenth-century phenomenon. He concludes with a critique of contemporary sociological thought. \$6.75

Terror and Resistance

A STUDY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE

By E. V. WALTER

A pioneering work in an almost uncharted area of political idea and practice, Mr. Walter's book explores the paradox of political terror and explains why a terroristic government destroys part of a community in order to control the rest. "A very considerable contribution to an understanding of one of the dominant problems of our time at home and abroad... I recommend it especially to all who hold positions of authority."—JOHN R. SEELEY, Dean, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions \$8.50

History

THE LAST THINGS BEFORE THE LAST

By SIEGFRIED KRACAUER

Concerned with history's affinity to science, to the arts, and in particular to philosophy, Dr. Kracauer's lucid and searching discussion deals with such large questions as the nature of historical reality, the relation between past and present, and historical time. His aim is to bring out the nature of history as an "intermediary area," beyond the level of mere fact or opinion, yet inherently provisional. \$7.50

At all bookstores

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS New York

In the Mind of Nabokov

The Russian novelist voyages madly through Time with *Lolita's* cerebral young successors—a precocious, incestuous pair.

FOR SOME weeks now I have been traveling and floundering in the mind of that American genius, Vladimir Vladimirovitch Nabokov, which (not who) is the dominating and most interesting character in his new novel, *Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle* (McGraw-Hill, 589 pp., \$8.95). Since *Ada* cannot be confidently explained *in toto* even after several readings, and should not be explained away even when one begins to find some explanations, I can only begin this travel report from the mind of our esteemed Vladimir Vladimirovitch by stating a) that *Ada* is not so much “difficult” as wildly slippery, deceptive, a great tease of a book; b) that it is preposterously erudite, showy and omniscient; c) that it is enchanting even when one is helplessly skidding down VV’s linguistic roller coasters. Despite everything, ours is “an age of fiction,” for Nabokov lives. Not only is *Ada* a novel that is being written by the hero in the form of his memoir (with intimate annotations by his lifelong love, who is also his mistress and his sister), but it also parodies many celebrated novels and the art of storytelling to the point of becoming a mock treatise on fiction as well as a mad voyage into Time, which for Nabokov is always time past and never the future so beloved of utopians and technologists.

Nabokov is seventy years old this year, and he hurriedly left Russia just half a century ago to live in England, Germany, France and (after 1940) the United States. Ever since the success of *Lolita* freed him from teaching at Cornell to live in Switzerland, he has had ample opportunity to review in depth a life that even years ago, when he was an impecunious émigré giving English lessons in Berlin, a sometime tennis coach and the proudest of all Russian writers outside Russia, must have seemed to his intensely personal view utterly extraordinary. It is in fact a life unparalleled by those other modern novelists who, even when like Joyce they were voluntary exiles, would always continue to write in their native language. In any event, Nabokov sees other novelists as middle-class types lifting themselves above humdrum beginnings only by the unnatural exertion of their intellectual will, and so are the victims of “ideas,” like those third-raters Balzac, Dostoevsky, Mann, Conrad, Lawrence, Faulkner, etc., etc.

Nabokov, by contrast, has described his own upbringing in St. Petersburg and on the Nabokov country estate as princely and enchanted, a loving saturation in nature, in botany and entomology, in languages, in chess, and in a family that would always be remembered as a separate world, the best of all possible worlds. The Nabokovs were noble, supremely rich, yet the father was also a courageous Russian liberal, a newspaper publisher and jurist who in 1922 was to die in Berlin at the hands of Russian fascists. The young Nabokov grew up on an estate for whose



SR: BOOKS

Book Review Editor: ROCHELLE GIRSON

-
- 27 “*Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle*,” by Vladimir Nabokov (Fiction)
 - 29 Book Forum: Letters from Readers
 - 30 Literary Horizons: Granville Hicks reviews “*Mystery and Manners*,” by Flannery O’Connor, edited by Sally and Robert Fitzgerald
 - 31 The Publishing Scene, by David Dempsey, who sees the surfacing of the underground book.
 - 32 “*Pictures of Fidelman*,” by Bernard Malamud (Fiction)
 - 34 “*Without a City Wall*,” by Melvyn Bragg (Fiction)
 - 36 “*My Son’s Father*,” by Dom Moraes
 - 51 “*Early Doors: My Life and the Theatre*,” by Philip Burton
 - 52 “*A New Foreign Policy for the United States*,” by Hans J. Morgenthau; “*End of an Illusion*,” by James Avery Joyce
 - 52 “*Mission to the Moon: A Critical Examination of NASA and the Space Program*,” by Erlend A. Kennan and Edmund H. Harvey, Jr.
 - 53 *Children’s Books for Spring*, by Zena Sutherland
 - 64 “*The Last Years of the Church*,” by David Poling; “*Goodbye, Jehovah*,” by William Robert Miller; “*The Search for a Usable Future*,” by Martin E. Marty
-