THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

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PC History: Forget the Constitution

BY GREG PARKER

IN A FEW WEEKS, THE UCLA based National Center for History in the Schools (NCH) will release *National Standards – United States History*, a guideline for United States History curriculum in public schools. While the intent of the study is to improve the study of U.S. History, the study is symbolic of the sorry state of public education today.

The National Standards break up U.S. History into 31 standards, best described as what a student should learn about a specific period. Of these 31 standards, they are subgrouped into ten eras of history, ranging from colonial times to the present. But what these standards amount to is historical revisionism, leading the bastions of political correctness further into the classroom.

The NCH, made up of a congressionally–appointed panel of historians, was funded by the Department of Education and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Lynne Cheney, chairman of the NEH when funding for the study was approved, has become perhaps the most outspoken critic of the National Standards study, with an appearance on the *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour* and an op–ed piece bashing the study in the *Wall Street Journal*.

According to Cheney, it is testament to the irrationality of the study that the Constitution does not appear in any of the 31 standards. It does make an appearance in the text surrounding these standards, as do Joseph McCarthy and the Ku Klux Klan, each mentioned separately in 36 different places. The names Thomas Edison, Paul Revere, Albert Einstein and Robert E. Lee, on the other hand, show up a total number of zero times. To Cheney, the National Standards is one of the ultimate representations of political correctness to date. The examples continue: while the wealth of the African kingdom of Mali in the 1500s is triumphed, the wealth of John D. Rockefeller in the late 19th century is criticized as "unethical and immoral." While it is ignorant to say that the United States has a perfect historical record, it is important to remember that like Cheney says in her *Wall Street Journal* article, "on the whole [the U.S. has] ... been a great and good nation."



Lynne Cheney: Fighting Historical Revisionism

The study may seem inconsequential, but Cheney believes otherwise. The Clinton Administration's Goals 2000 Act embodies the National Education Standards and Improvement Council, and if the council approves the U.S. History standards, public classrooms across the nation may be encouraged to adopt the standards in their U.S. History curriculum.

If the National Standards are adopted, and if public school teachers incorporate them into their teachings, the consequences could be very detrimental. Students in grades 5 to 12 are easily swayed. If they learn a skewed version of history, the students could take that as the truth. It is important to remember that younger students are not as developed intellectually as college students; they are less apt to question the views presented, and more likely to accept the views without hesitation.

Gary Nash, a member of the NCH, defends the study. On the October 26 *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*, Nash says that the National Standards were partly based on the idea that certain groups – blacks, Native Americans and women – have been ignored in history books. This might be the case, to some degree, but newer history books have taken this into account. Also, while stressing events of Nash's "ignored" groups, other more important events may not be covered. For example, the study stresses George Washington very little; according to the study it is important, however, to recreate a dialogue between Washington and an Indian leader at the close of the Revolutionary War.

On the same *MacNeil/Lehrer Newshour*, Nash also says, "Let's let the kids out of the prison of facts, the prison of dates, and names and places, and let's let them discuss really important momentous turning points in American history." But Nash inadvertently gives away a key element of the study in the above statement. Getting kids away from "the prison of facts" means history revisionism, where the past is misinterpreted and there are no objective data. While there is no way for history to be completely objective, there are limits to its interpretation; the National Standards push these limits, leading to the politicization of the classroom as well as the continuing demise of public education. MR

ROTC to Sponsor Turkey Shoot

BY ADAM S. BRINKMAN

THE ARMY ROTC PROGRAM at the University of Michigan is once again sponsoring its Annual Turkey Shoot. This year's Turkey Shoot, the fifth in the event's history, will be held at the North Hall Rifle Range from November 15 to 17.

A $1 donation entitles each participant to three shots with a .22 caliber rifle provided on site. The best individual and three person team score (several categories) throughout the entire three–day event will receive special recognition. Overall prizes awarded for marksmanship excellence include: $50 savings bond, Thanksgiving Turkeys, merchandise gift certificates, and pizzas.

Eight hundred students, staff, and faculty participated in last year's Turkey Shoot. When asked about the attendance for this year's event, Lt. Col. Mary J. Sonntag said, "Once again we expect a large turnout for the shoot. I heard many positive comments last year from students firing a rifle for the first time. Most were surprised at how easy and fun it was to shoot at the paper targets. Several students who stopped by the Army Scholarship table applied for and won two and three–year scholarships."

Anyone interested is invited to participate. For additional information call Captain Curt Lapham at 764–2400. MR

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❑ SERPENT'S TOOTH

Residents of Washington D.C. are set to have convicted drug user Marion Barry reclaim the mayor's office of the nation's capitol. Apparently, Barry found a little crack in the system.

In a debate with opponent Mitt Romney, Senator Ted Kennedy said "Mr. Romney, the Kennedys are not in public service to make money." After supporters roared with applause he added, "It's the booze and the babes!"

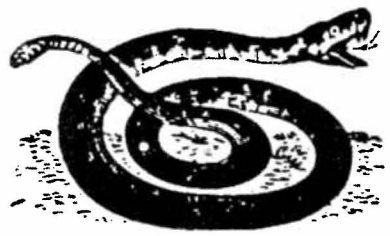
Penthouse magazine has obtained seminude photos of Paula Jones for publication in the January issue. Asked to comment, President Clinton said, "This is nothing but a cheap ploy to get me to renew my subscription."

Agenda, "Ann Arbor's Alternative Newsmonthly" calls itself an "independent, nonaligned" publication. In its recent election issue, the editors endorsed all Democrats, and in races with no Democratic candidates they refused to endorse anyone. "Independent and nonaligned?" How about "staunchly goohead leftist?" There, that sounds much better.

Last month, Newt Gingrich called Democrats "enemies of all normal Americans." We may be mistaken, but we recall the main enemy on *Superfriends* was also named Newt Gingrich.

REM frontman Michael Stipe said that much of the band's earlier material was nonsense. In the December issue of *Vanity Fair* he says: "I hate to break it to them, but, . . . it's just utter nonsense, it's sounds, and it's just utter nonsense, it's sounds, and it doesn't make sense sometimes, and it doesn't have to." Stipe seems to be planning a future career as a political spokesperson.

Penguin Publishers recently released a book called *Revolution X: A Survival Guide for Our Generation.* If you read it, you suck.



TOP TEN THINGS OVERHEARD IN THE NATION'S VOTING BOOTHS YESTERDAY:

10. Wolpe? Never heard of him.
9. Psst! Vote Cuomo or you'll be swimming down the Hudson in concrete shoes.
8. Hey Beavis, you probably voted for Newt. Uh–huh–huh, I said Newt.
7. Mr. North, you don't need to shred the ballot when you're finished.
6. Is that Jimmy Carter feller on the ballot? Gawsh, I shore do like that Jimmy Carter feller.
5. I'll take Richard Simmons in the center square to block.
4. Mr. Barry, there's no smoking in the voting booth. Please put out the crack pipe.
3. Senator Kennedy, I don't care if the curtain is drawn, please put your pants back on.
2. Aw, Hillary please let me vote for Romney, please?
1. Get out the axle grease, Teddy's stuck!

THE MICHIGAN REVIEW

The Campus Affairs Journal of the University of Michigan

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❑ ROVING PHOTOGRAPHER

by Lisa Wagner

Who was your favorite fictional character when you were nine years old?



Miguel Novey
LSA Sophomore
"Transformers, because of the noise they made when they changed."



Josh Corn
LSA Senior
"Grover, because no one was ever sure whether he was purple or blue, and no one could ever tell what kind of creature he was."



Trevor Staples
LSA Senior
"Maid Marion, because she was a fox."



Zeke
Communication Senior
"John Galt, because he is uncompromising and the ultimate hero."

The article titled, "Women Can Stop Rape, Too" in the October 26 issue of the *Review* contained sentences beginning with "During orientation we were lambasted..." and ending with "...frequent feminist male–bashing," that should not have appeared. We apologize for the error.

❑ ESSAY

The GOP: The Other Big Government Party

BY AARON STEELMAN

AS I WRITE THIS ARTICLE, the results of the midterm election are uncertain. Many are predicting, however, that this will be a very good year for the Republicans. Some foresee that they will take control of one or both houses of the Congress, while others are a bit skeptical about such a prediction and think that Republican gains will be more modest. Yet, all agree, even Bill Clinton and his staff, that the next Congress will be more Republican than the current and that there will be more Republican governors next year than there are now.

What does this really mean? Will the election of more Republicans really take the country in a different direction, and will this direction be a positive one? The answer to this question depends on what one views the proper role of government to be.

For those who advocate a more interventionist state that sees no boundary to what it should do, the answer to this question is yes. For those who are wary of increasing the size of government and think that if the state has any legitimate role at all it is to protect the rights and property of its citizens and nothing more, then the answer is an emphatic no. The future of this country is going to be increasingly statist, regardless of the gains Republicans make.

The Republican Party — despite the loud claims to the contrary by left–liberals, who constantly decry Republicans as being cold–hearted bastards who will stop short at nothing to fight the growth of "compassionate" governmental programs, and Republicans' themselves, who emphatically assert that they and their party are fighting for limited government and individual responsibility — is, and has been for some time, a party of big government.

Sure, despite the terrible position most Republicans take on civil liberties issues, Republicans are better than most of their Democratic colleagues on the question of what government should do. Yet this really isn't anything to be excited about. The Democratic Party, as witnessed by the fact that Bill Clinton is considered to be a moderate or conservative Democrat, is fundamentally controlled by the left. The radical left began to infiltrate the Democratic Party in the 1930s when a young FDR captured their hearts and they have remained there ever since. For the Republican Party to say that they are better than the Democratic Party is like U–M President James Duderstadt saying he is better than Adolf Hitler; sure, Duderstadt is better than Hitler, but then again it's pretty hard to be worse than Adolf Hitler.

The question one should ask instead is, "Is either of them any good?" Whether one compares James Duderstadt and Adolf Hitler or the Republicans and the Democrats, the answer is clearly no. And this election season, as well as the recent performance of the GOP proves it.

Take the issue of Social Security, for example. We have been witness to some rather remarkable rhetoric regarding this issue. The president is stumping on the position that one should vote for candidates of his party because those nasty Republicans want to cut the benefits of those receiving Social Security, while he only wants to increase the taxes on the benefits so that he can take this money and pursue more redistributionist policies. At the same time, Republicans, led by Newt Gingrich, are out in force claiming just the opposite; that they would never even consider cutting Social Security, let alone abolishing it, and that it is the Democrats who are talking about cutting benefits. I have a revelation for you Newt: cutting Social Security benefits *is* cutting the size of government. This is what *you* are supposed to be for, not what the Democrats are supposed to advocate.

Another issue that exemplifies the Republicans' cozy relationship with big government is the recent health care debate. While the Republicans were right to oppose the Clinton plan, which would have been essentially a complete takeover of the health care industry by the federal government, the proposals they made instead were nearly as bad.

Consider the Nickles–Stearns proposal, which was originally adopted as *the* Republican plan. Among other things, the Nickles–Stearns plan included individual mandates; in other words it would be against the law for people to choose to not buy health care under such a plan. Now, one may argue that this is better than mandating employers to provide health care for their employees, but to say that it is a truly free–market plan that is consistent with individual freedom is completely ludicrous. In fact, the proposal could have been challenged on a myriad of constitutional grounds, not the least of which is that it is in opposition to the first amendment's protection of freedom of religion. It is quite possible that if such a plan would have been implemented, the government may have taken Christian Scientists to court for not buying health care. Would this have really been a victory for individual liberty?

And in the one area that Republicans have been rather good lately, foreign policy, where they have opposed Clinton's imperialist policies towards Haiti, their position smacks of hypocrisy. It was only a mere four years ago that nearly all elected Republicans supported George Bush's hasty decision to fight a war against Iraq, and to "liberate the people of Kuwait." And it was less than two years ago that Republicans were gung–ho to send American troops to Somalia on "a humanitarian mission," a mission that was so humanitarian that it resulted in the deaths of numerous American soldiers and hundreds of Somalis. Republicans have made it clear that they will oppose military interventionism, and the ensuing increase in the size of the state that inevitably results, only when it is politically viable for them to do so; that is when a Democrat holds the presidency.

Republicans talk a good game once in a while. Indeed, Ronald Reagan's rhetoric was probably the most anti–statist of any president's since Jefferson. Yet, Reagan came through on essentially only one of his major promises — to cut marginal tax rates. His pledge to eliminate the Departments of Energy and Education went unfulfilled, as did his promise to cut a myriad of entitlement programs. Despite the fact that the Republicans controlled the Senate for six of Reagan's eight years and that Reagan had a working majority in the House for virtually the entire time he was president, the growth of government continued to spiral out of control during Reagan's two terms. If there was ever a chance for the Republicans to seriously roll back the size of government it was during the 1980s. But it didn't happen then and it will not happen next year, regardless of how well the Republicans do in the mid–term elections. MR

Aaron Steelman is a junior in economics and publisher emeritus of the Review.

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❑ FROM SUITE ONE

Privatize the U–M

SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1817, THE UNIVERSITY OF Michigan has stood prominently in the realm of public higher education. Many consider the U–M to be one of the finest public universities in the nation. The fact that the U–M has functioned as a public university, however, has been a hindrance not only to students, but to the people of the state of Michigan. To alleviate these problems, privatization of the U–M is necessary.

Perhaps the most compelling reason to privatize the U–M is one that many overlook. It concerns the illegitimacy of public education. As a public institution, the U–M obtains a significant amount of support from the people of Michigan. One must remember that this support is not comprised of voluntary donations; it is revenue confiscated by the state through mandatory taxation. Thus, individuals do not have the freedom to choose whether or not to financially support the U–M; the state forces them to do so, regardless of whether or not they use the U–M's services. In a free society, individuals must have the liberty to allocate their resources and property as they see fit, as long as these actions do not infringe upon the rights of others. Privatization of the U–M would save Michigan taxpayers money; more importantly, it would give the Michigan people a greater degree of freedom.

The fundamental problems with public education extend well beyond financial and taxation concerns. With education under the domain of the state, the student receives curricula that is regulated or determined by the government. This gives the state an opportunity to influence the ideas presented to individual students. Such a scenario can be potentially dangerous to a free society; as the Founding Fathers asserted, a free society can only exist under a government strictly limited in its influence. Thus, public education is contrary to a free society and the principle of liberty.

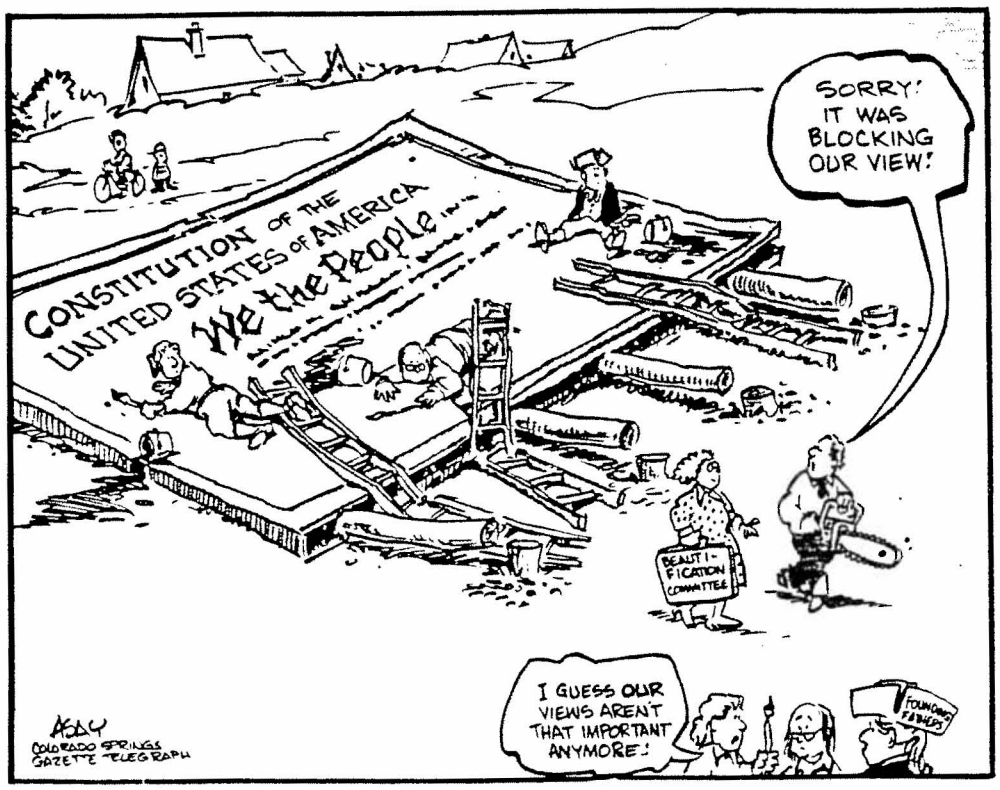
Other reasons, less broad and more unique to the U–M, do exist for privatization. One of the most important concerns the academic standards and reputation of this institution. According to the 1995 edition of *U.S. News and World Report's America's Best Colleges*, the U–M ranked as the 21st best institution in the nation. Yet the U–M also ranked 41st in student selectivity. Perhaps this relatively low ranking in selectivity is a result of its public status. Due to the fact that Michigan taxpayers provide financial support, the U–M must enroll a high number of in–state students. Consequently, admission standards for in–state students are lower than those for out–of–state applicants. Through privatization, the U–M would be able to seek the best students in the world, and not have to accept in–staters because of financial support. This will result in not only a more qualified student body, but also a better academic reputation for the U–M.

Privatizing the U–M will remove the stigmas that public universities often carry. Many tend to associate private institutions with academic excellence, for these are the schools that must compete to survive. The Ivy League schools are perfect examples of this; these are the colleges and universities that have survived for centuries, due in part to their ability to adapt to current academic demands. In this regard, a private institution — one that is responsible only to itself and its students — has more academic options than a public school — one that is responsible to the state. A private U–M will no longer be a part of the "public Ivies"; it may be a part of, or at least comparable to, the Ivies themselves.

One may indicate various drawbacks to privatization, including possible increases in tuition and a difficulty in functioning independent of the state. It is quite probable that tuition will increase with privatization, but it will eventually stabilize to the current market price of a college education. This change will affect out–of–state students little, for their tuition costs are nearly consistent with those of a private institution. In–state tuition will rise rather dramatically, but it will simply match the costs of other prominent universities. The aforementioned benefits of privatization certainly outweigh these costs.

The U–M must be more self–sufficient without financial aid from the state. This may at first appear to be a problem, but if the last several years are any indication, it is not that large of an obstacle. According to Thomas Kinnear, interim vice–president for development, donations to the Campaign for Michigan fundraising drive have now exceeded $700 million. Though this campaign is for a specific purpose, it indicates that U–M alumni are willing to contribute to benefit this institution. There is no reason to believe that this will change with privatization. Donations may even increase, for the alumni will play a more important role in sustaining the U–M.

Throughout its one and a half centuries of existence, the U–M has served students well, providing them a quality education as well as preparation for careers. With privatization, the U–M will more effectively serve this role. **MR**



❑ COMMENTARY

Judge's Decision Attacks Property Rights

RECENTLY, A U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE IN CHICAGO ORDERED A family to sell their house and move out, as punishment for harassing a Puerto Rican family next door. This decision is a massive violation of property rights and shows a complete disrespect for the Constitution.

John and Marie Kraft were ordered to sell their home of 20 years by Judge Ann Williams. The Krafts were being sued for $10 million by next–door neighbors Isidor and Minerva Ramos, both of whom are of Puerto Rican descent, for harassing them with threats and racial insults. The order to sell their house was agreed to by lawyers on both sides. The Krafts deny the allegations, but are too poor to afford an appeal and will comply with the order.

This unprecedented decision is an example of a judge who has drastically overstepped her bounds and misinterpreted the Constitution. The Fifth Amendment to the Constitution states that "No person shall be ... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." Yet, this is exactly what this decision does. The Krafts have not been convicted, nor even accused, of any crime. They have simply been accused of harassment in a civil lawsuit.

Some of the alleged harassment by the Krafts includes referring to the Ramos's as the "rainbow family" and arranging for men on motorcycles to stop in front of the Ramos's house and discuss which way it would fall if it were to burn down. These allegations were never proven and the Krafts never physically assaulted or harmed the Ramos family in any way; yet, they are being forced by a misguided judge to sell their house within 120 days or have it auctioned off. With this decision, the judge has placed the burden of proof on the accused instead of the accusor. Thus, she has rejected one of the most basic standards of American jurisprudence — that all people are innocent until proven guilty. Consequently, the Kraft must relinquish their home simply because they were accused of harassment.

The violation of property rights by the government is not a rare occurrence. The Environmental Protection Agency and the Drug Enforcement Agency are seemingly exempt from the Fifth Amendment. Yet, this particular case of judicial irresponsibility is unprecedented and disturbing because of its implications for all property owners. Now that a precedent has been set, it becomes even easier for the government to tell one exactly what to do with one's own property, even though one may not have committed a crime.

Property rights are essential to freedom and liberty. This reprehensible decision is the most recent and insidious step in the continuing process of the government abridging our rights. If we are to maintain any freedom at all, this process of ignoring rights must be stopped; a good place to start would be to reverse this deplorable decision. **MR**

—Nate Jamison

ESSAY

A Winter of My Discontent

BY DEAN BAKOPOULOS

LAST WINTER MY LIPS FELL off. I mean it, they came clean off, crumbled into dust like Howard Wolpe's campaign. It wasn't the result of leprosy or some other dreadful plague; it was cold, real damn cold. Last winter was one of the coldest to ever plow through Michigan, and, unfortunately, the mercury is dropping again. It's simply a matter of time before Michiganders grapple with the devastating effects of Michigan winters. Upon the first sight of snow, many people will go outdoors, make snowmen, and have snowball fights. You'll hum Christmas carols as snow flakes collect in your hair, and you'll curse violently as the windchill plummets below zero and you lose one or more of your appendages due to frostbite. Before you plunge into the world of winter, here are some helpful hints.

As a lifelong Michiganian, I've developed a guide for out–of–state students as they attempt to experience, enjoy, and survive the steadily approaching winter.

Staying Healthy: In the frigid months, staying healthy will be an increasing challenge. It's best to eat something nourishing, warm, and high in Vitamin C. I suggest a bowl of Froot Loops doused in brandy. As for staying physically active, you'll probably be wearing 18 pounds of clothes when you go out, so I suggest getting real fat.

Keeping Warm: There is scientific evidence that says the best way to keep warm is several light layers of clothing instead of one thick, heavy layer. There is also scientific evidence that says not being able to get undressed quick enough leads to people wetting themselves. You can decide beteween the two.

Attitude is Everything: Many people feel that depression is a bigger problem during the winter months, because of the sunless skies, the drab colors, and the howling winds. You can use this to your advantage, however. If you don't like your roommate, add to the melancholy by dressing in black, playing the Smiths and Pink Floyd continuously, and leaving plenty of sharp objects and makeshift nooses strewn about the room. On the other hand, if you start feeling depressed, I refer you back to the brandy in the third paragraph.

Wintertime Fun: The "Winter Wonderland" is loaded with chilly activities. If you enjoy the idea of falling down mountains with your legs starpped to small boats at speeds exceeding 60 miles per hour, you're an idiot. You would also enjoy skiing. If you don't find that appealing, try the age old pasttime of sledding. Sledding is essentially like skiing except you are on your rump.

Warm Getaways: When spring break rolls around you should think about getting away and heading someplace warm, like Florida, Hawaii, or the vents outside of the Dentistry Building and East Quad.

Wintertime Warnings: There are many precautions that Michigan natives take in order to survive the winter. First, all of us stock up on canned goods, just in case you are snowed in for weeks at a time. In Ann Arbor, this is an unnecessary step to take. Just have a Dinersty menu handy.

Also, Michigan is home to a plethora of wild animals. In the wintertime months, these animals get hungry as food is scarce. Sometimes bears wander into the Diag and eat people.

Finally, Michiganders get dumber as temperatures lower. This explains those silly hats with ear flaps, and expressions like "Cold enough fer ya?" If someone asks you this, an adequate response is, "No, it's not. It'd be cold enough for me if idiots like you would be dying of hypothermia.

If you grew up in a warm climate, don't believe all that stuff about Winter Wonderlands — there's no such thing. Winters in the midwest consist of slipping on icy sidewalks, getting your tongue stuck on metal surfaces, and feeling your eyelids freeze as you make your way to the MLB at eight in the morning. Winters consist of going weeks without seeing the sun, falling into depression, and slipping into a cold–induced hypothermic coma. Have fun. **MR**

Dean Bakopoulos is a sophomore in English and assistant editor of the Review.

FROM OUR READERS

Reader questions diversity article

To the Editor:

This letter is in regard to the article in the October 12, 1994 issue titled "U–M's Misguided Diversity" written by Amin Panjwani.

I agree with the quote of Molefi Asante, chair of Temple University's Department of African American Studies, which criticizes token classes in race and ethnicity as the sole means of representing multiculturalism at the university: "Trying to infuse multiculturalism into the curricula of American colleges and universities simply by adding courses on minority groups or requiring students to study the works of minority scholars does not work." You agreed as well, and you offered a criticism, "The U–M can learn a lot from Asante. How could this school be so far behind?" What is missing from your criticism is a suggestion of how the university can catch up with the times.

You postulate that RAs do not receive multicultural training. Did you investigate this claim? What did you find out? What are your suggestions for training RAs?

You said that an all–white university is a horrifying thought. Would an all–black university also be horrifying to you? What would your ideal university be like?

One of the things that makes us human is our capacity to make choices. It is possible to de–humanize people by taking this ability away (this is evident in our prisons). We cannot seriously think that we can make people see things the way we do, unless we resort to brainwashing. The best we can hope for is to influence them with our morals and values. Perhaps that is why the race or ethnicity requirement exists.

For you to complain that the university does not address the "real concerns of multiculturalism" without telling us what these real concerns are, is foolish. So, Amin Panjwani, what are the real concerns of multiculturalism?

Marie Nebel

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❑ ESSAY

The Clinton Chronicles

BY MEGHAN ROEKLE

THE CLINTON CHRONicles, a video that has been said to be both crude and sensationalistic, is as The *Economist* says, "true, nevertheless." The *Clinton Chronicles* (CC) focuses on the criminal activities of President Bill Clinton, giving coherency to a variety of familiar accusations. The "religious right" has pegged Clinton as the anti–Christ, Rush Limbaugh's hate campaign is centered on him, and liberals, flaming or not, are bound to call him a charming, down–to–earth kind of guy. To the people who can see through Bill Clinton's lies, that charm is the seediest trait that he portrays.

The Clinton Chronicles is a ninety minute video that begins with a disclaimer stating that "all information on this video is documented and true." Ten years of dirty politics are laid out in the video, with each allegation backed up by printed articles and personal interviews from the people who were negatively affected by Bill Clinton's maneuvering.

The CC parallels the media stories you've heard, delving deeper into the roots of the problems, seeing a progressive fermentation of honesty. Beginning with Bill Clinton's 126 tax hikes in Arkansas, and ending with a cover–up of Vince Foster's death, the CC video shows how Clinton was never able to grasp a political morality based on virtue and servitude.

The center of power for Clinton was the Arkansas Democratic Finance Authority (ADFA), where Clinton used this state -run institution to further his own candidacy and networking. This networking built the power structures that later advanced him into the presidency. Larry Nichols, the organizer of CC, was ADFA's Director of Marketing, and the first voice to speak out against the dirty politics in ADFA. Nichols tells of the many loan documents he found in the ADFA office files, each file representing a loan that was issued by ADFA to a business. The businesses were all campaign contributors, and the borrowed money was never paid back.

Hillary Clinton's Rose law firm had been giving out the loans, expecting nothing in return. That is, the Clintons needed to let go of $50,000 chunks of cash because of its illegitimate source: drug payments. The CC video lays out a system of cocaine smuggling and distribution, recently supported by Terry Reed, one of the pilots at the Mena Airport, were the smuggling supposedly took place, in his appearance on Primetime Live. *Time* magazine did a complete smear campaign on Reed, and his television confession of the drug smuggling has not been aired.

Behind much of the cocaine cover up was Parcometer, the business epicenter for the cocaine smuggling. Loans from Rose were signed to Parcometer, while ADFA gave them $2.5 million dollars for expansion. The $2.5 million, however, used for Mena drug smuggling.

Although the video seems to jump to conclusions about Clinton's rampant cocaine use, the networking aspect rings true. The cozy, intricate relationships of Rose, ADFA, Parcometer, and the Mena planes has been backed up time and again. Doug Myers, in a recent journal article, laid out on the business aspect of Mena: as the cocaine came in, rifles went out. The Associated Press has found logs of phone calls from ADFA to the Nicaraguan leaders, the confused pilots having given the Contras old Vietnamese guns at very low costs, while Parcometer held the receiver housings, and ADFA got the money.

By keeping the circle of power running in Arkansas, Bill Clinton gained power and friends. His friends, however, being as power hungry as he was, were to get him into trouble. Dan Lasater, Clinton's former Director of Finance, was eventually arrested for cocaine use, causing people to question Clinton's candidness. Lasater was a key player in ADFA's organization of state bond loans and in the marketing of Bill Clinton's government. A *Newsweek* article this year stated that Clinton had bobbled the state officials to win bond business for Lasater, for he was getting over half of the bond sales set up by the state, with the help of Rose law firm.

In the January issue of *Newsweek*, Clinton's ignorance of Lasater's drug use is put into question. The evidence shows that although Lasater was the target for a police drug probe in 1985, he continued to get bond business from state agencies, specifically the Arkansas State Police.

After Lasater's release, Clinton needed a new and clean financier. Jack Stephens, a stockholder in Worthen Bank, was to take over the dirty work, advancing, as the video states, the exact amount of cash to the presidential campaign that was to have gone to student loans in Arkansas universities.

Worthen Bank became the new center for the Clintons' money maneuvering before and after the election. Before the election, there was the Whitewater scandal, kept secret amongst the files that were to eventually be burned at Worthen Bank.

Much of the reason why the truth is hard to come by is our sensationalistic media. We see the President playing the saxophone and doing the twist at Chelsea's birthday party, while his accusers get smacked in the face. When Larry Nichols decided to come out with the truth about Bill Clinton, including the women he had been with, Nichols was severely attacked by the media: every week he was associated with a new scandal. A retraction would be printed six to eight weeks later, but Nichols had already been pegged as a liar.

The CC video relates the story of Gary Johnson, Larry Nichols' lawyer, Genifer Flowers' place of residence, and had several incriminating videotapes from his security cameras. Though the videos make clear Bill Clinton's guilt, Johnson was leery about releasing them. Eventually, they were forcefully stolen, Johnson being, as the *Economist* says, "beaten up so badly that he had to have a ruptured spleen removed."

The video also interviews Paula Jones, probably the woman most attacked by the media. The President had a token comment for Mrs. Jones and her accusations, "I'm not gonna dignify this by a comment." The *Economist* printed some scary facts about the Jones case, telling how Kathy Ferguson, the wife of Danny Ferguson, an Arkansas state trooper, and co–defendant in Jones's sexual–harassment suit, was found dead in Sherwood, Arkansas. The death was labeled a suicide. Bill Shelton, an Arkansas police officer was also found dead, on Ferguson's grave, with a suicide note beside him.

Clinton's security men were also telling stories of their many sexual liaison cover–ups for the ex–governor. The CC video tells how five of Clinton's former bodyguards substantiated Larry Nichols' claims about the sex scandals, backed by a plethora of *Newsweek* articles,but the men were pegged with an arbitrary insurance fraud suit.

The most shocking aspect of the CC video is the interview with Gary Parks, the son of Jerry Parks, who was Clinton's own private investigator and previous head of security. Mr. Parks tells how his father was murdered in 1993 in Little Rock. Jerry Parks had kept a complete file of Clinton's infidelity, including pictures, dates, and places. Although the death was ruled a suicide, Parks' house was ransacked for the files, leaving nothing. In a July issue of The *Economist*, the same occurrences are related verbatim, saying that Parks was killed when "several bullets were pumped into him on a street corner."

The *Clinton Chronicles* sparked my interest to find the truth, but there is much information out there without a comprehensive structure of matching evidence. Keep this in mind: the office of the Secretary of State keeps the files from all past president's campaign contributors. That is, except Bill Clinton's. On the CC video, Congressman Bill Dannemeyer asks the public to push for a congressional hearing against President Clinton, for there is enough evidence to impeach him. This may be the appropri-



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❑ SATIRE

Oppression Via White Socks

BY MOHAN KRISHNAN

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, colleges and universities are refining the ways in which they choose their faculty members. Northeastern University has even gone as far as to actively recruit gays and lesbians. Meanwhile President Duderstadt is honing his "Michigan Agenda for Women," which will make sure that women, especially women of color, are recruited into U–M faculty. With all these new criteria for selecting our professors, I thought I would throw in a few of my own, as a way to help out our already overworked administration.

• Applicants should be sorted by the color socks they wear. White socks suggest conformity; these people will only resist the move towards diversity, and besides, it shows that they are racist. Dark socks, especially mismatched ones, show how these individuals will treat students: they will try to see all the students as the same, and just shove them all in the great dresser drawer of life. We cannot have that at this university! Red socks are good, as they display openly the fact that all of our worldly goods were made with the blood of the proletariat. No socks are the best of all, because this shows an individual who is capable of casting off the unreasonable requirement society makes and of living his own life.

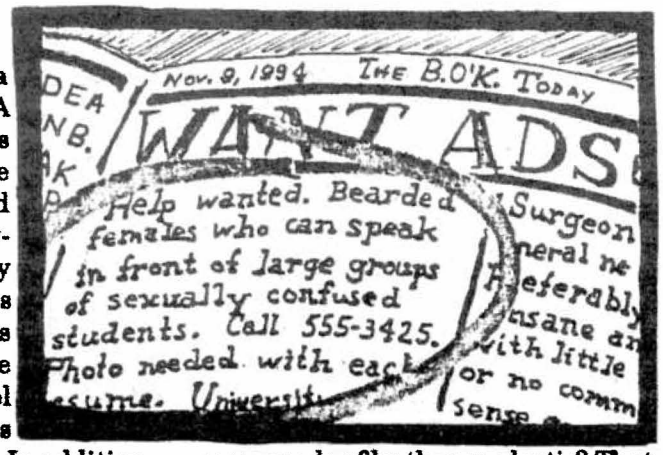
• There should be more bearded professors at the University, especially bearded female professors. These people are facially discriminated.

• We should promote more left–handed professors. These bright individuals (who are often overlooked because they trail their hand against the chalkboard as they write, leaving a mess) deserve to be given special priority in the selection process. Left–handers have always been looked upon as unusual and evil — even our word sinister comes from a word which meant left! And if nothing else, we all know which political extreme we want in our faculty.

• Applicants who lack the ability to curl their tongue into a cylinder or who have unusual earlobes should be actively recruited. Also, the number with belly buttons that stick out, and this ratio should be compared to the populace at large. These people may well be unfairly treated due to their genetic history. Close attention should also be paid to applicants who have monobrows. There just aren't enough of them on staff.

• Hair length should be a valid consideration. A community of professors where all the men have short, crisp hair cuts and all the women long, flowing ones is a community where tyranny reigns unchecked. No students should turn away from the U–M because they feel their unusual hair styles are unappreciated here. In addition, students who dye their hair blue or green or purple should have role models among their teachers. We cannot help our youngsters mature if we do not understand them!

• Among faculty who carry backpacks, it should be duly noted upon which shoulder they sling them. It is a well–known fact that which shoulder you wear your pack on signifies many things about your personal life. Are these things the University does not have enough of? Among applicants who prefer briefcases, are these briefcases made of leather or plastic? That is, do these people promote the raping of mother nature to satisfy their needs for style, or do they believe in poisoning the earth and robbing natural resources to convenience themselves?



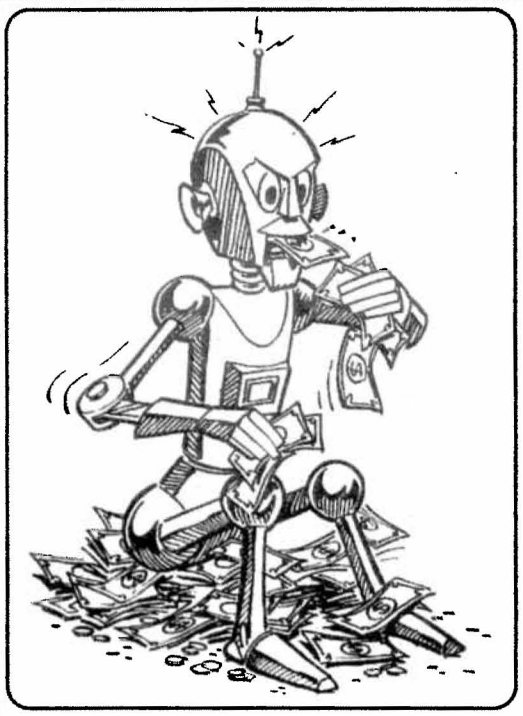
I realize that there are many items on this list. In order to accommodate them all (and I feel they are that important) it might become necessary to remove other elements from the application process. For instance, does it really matter where an applicant was educated? We should really look at how they will help our University grow socially and politically. If they don't know gas dynamics, so what? Who the heck really does? We can provide them with speech writers and a Teleprompter.

In fact, what is the whole point in a PhD? What does PhD even stand for? Are we going to listen to a piece of paper or are we going to look at more important things, like what music applicants enjoy most? While we are on the topic, why are high–school dropouts so under–represented in our faculty? I think it is because we are frightened by their choice of attire. We have a strong prejudice against people who wear sweat pants every day of the year and still wear Detroit Tigers T–shirts.

By enacting my suggestions, the University can be ensured that it will continue its high standards of opening minds to different viewpoints. MR

Mohan Krishnan wears white socks and black shoes. This must mean he believes in racial integration.

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❑ ESSAY

Abolish the Smoking Policy ...

BY LISA WAGNER

WINTER IS QUICKLY becoming a dreaded time of year for me. As the University of Michigan smoking policy becomes tougher, I and other smokers must face the bitter cold to achieve our release with a cigarette.

Smokers are under siege. We are becoming a minority among a growing number of angry ex–smokers. It seems a prerequisite to social acceptance to not smoke; smoking is definitely not politically correct. This is probably why I do it. Admittedly, however, smokers must adhere to various unwritten responsibilities. I feel unfortunate to be a smoker at this time.

I realize that cigarette smoke is not only offensive, but potentially dangerous to the lungs of people nearby. Tobacco aficionados enjoying their puffs should realize their responsibility to those around them. However, it is still a legal right to smoke. No one, (except, it seems, the University Administration) can take this away from us. Those of us whom this policy directly affects are addicts; those who are subservient to nicotine, but enjoy it nonetheless.

Now, the U–M Administration has enacted a smoking policy to try and curb our enjoyment. The new policy states that it applies to all faculty, staff, students and visitors. So why do the smoking habits of professors take precedence over those of lowly students? There are many professors and University employees who smoke in their offices. They are breaking the policy and not suffering any consequences.



According to this policy, "Smoking is prohibited in all University facilities including University vehicles: "Smoking will be permitted for controlled research, educational or religious ceremonial purposes, with prior approval of the Dean or Director responsible for the facility." This means that when December rolls around there will be many cold souls in down jackets huddled together to ward off Old Man Winter while they are forced outside to smoke.

You nonsmokers may say, "Tough, so quit!" Well, perhaps we are just not ready to. I propose that the University redesign the Smoking Policy to include a smoking lounge in every major building. Don't treat us like unworthy mutts and kick us outside.

In the state of Michigan anyone over the age of eighteen is able to purchase and use tobacco. The University is a state–funded public institution and should not have the right to override state laws. The administration, in instituting this smoking policy, has rendered the authority of the State of Michigan obsolete. So before we are stripped of all rights, let us sit around in our cubbyholes and watch each other color our lungs black. This should actually please nonsmokers because it will speed up the extinction process of the smoking population. We will be out of your hair forever! What a bonus! But if we are faced with freezing in the Michigan gusts we will either lengthen the window of time between cigarette breaks, or simply (in all likelihood) smoke in the bathroom just like in high school. Remember those days when it was so obnoxious to enter a smoke–filled bathroom? Sometimes it was enough to make one choke. Nonetheless, I will lend any Administration member my fog glasses in feigned sympathy. And I'll rattle my charred lungs in a loud chuckle. I'll make everyone regret that there are no smoking lounges.

Sometimes I think that maybe there is something to this nonsmoking thing. Ah well, I'll ponder it while I puff away on a frost–encrusted bench this winter.

The fascist University should acknowledge our right to smoke and rewrite the smoking policy. Give us our closet in each University building and we'll be satisfied to continue killing ourselves in peace. Thank you. MR

Lisa Wagner is a sophomore in political science and the photographer of the Review.

... and the Alcohol Policy, too.

BY GENE KRASS

STUDENTS AT THE University of Michigan must be having too much fun, since another new policy has been thrust upon them. The Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of Michigan, the source of the Statement of Student Rights and Responsibilities (the Code) and the Policy for Scheduled Use of the University of Michigan Designated Outdoor Common Areas (the Diag Policy), has come up with another way to define and regulate the rights of students. Enter the Student Policy on Alcohol and Other Drugs. As I pondered this policy over a sparkling glass of wine and a smoking crack pipe, I could not even keep track of its many flaws.

One obvious flaw has to do with the fact that students drink. They always have; they always will. The policy admits this by giving the statistic that 20–25 percent of college students have reported health or academic problems as a result of alcohol or other drugs. This does not include those who may drink but have not had such problems. One of the goals of this policy is to "develop, affirm, maintain and modify community–wide, behavioral norms." Well, if apparently so many students drink, then, the norm has already been defined, proving the policy unnecessary.

Another flaw involves the section entitled "Values with Regard to Student Organizations." While the policy does not specifically prohibit alcohol at functions sponsored by organizations, it states that "alcohol beverages should not be purchased with organization funds nor with the contributions of individual members," and that "it should not be served from common or self–serve containers." The typical rules about underage drinking, of course, also apply. This sounds a little like Singapore, where one may chew gum, but not buy, sell, manufacture, or import it. If the University wishes to ban alcohol from organization–sponsored functions, it should just say so without the usual verbal gymnastics.

The sanctions for violating the Alcohol Policy are no picnic either, because any violators will be tried under the Code. This is the same Code that does not allow students the benefit of complete legal representation, is somehow valid anywhere within 30 miles of campus, and does not protect against double jeopardy. This Code merits separate and longer essays than this one.

Another problem with this new Alcohol Policy is that no one has ever heard of it. Before the Code and the Diag Policy were implemented the students were warned beforehand through coverage of these policies in the *Michigan Daily* and the *Michigan Review*. This Alcohol Policy was not, to the best of my knowledge, discussed anywhere. The lone, remote hint was a $50,000 study that revealed (surprise, surprise) that students on campus drink. Not only was there little (if any) student input, as with the other aforementioned policies, but the small number of students on campus during the summer, when the policy was implemented, would have made input virtually impossible.

Finally, even though this policy exists at the university level, there are two larger issues that must be mentioned. One involves the flawed attitude towards alcohol in Michigan and the rest of the United States. There exists a multitude of valid arguments that alcohol should not be stigmatized and regulated to the point that it is. The usual Prohibition–didn't–work and no–other–civilized–European–country–has–a–drinking–age arguments are only two of them. Another is the fact that regulating people as a whole rather than individuals is a blatant denial of people's rights to act as they please, accepting responsibility for any damages their actions may cause. Most Americans probably recognize this already. All it would take to change the national approach to alcohol is for those who feel that since it's so easy to obtain that changing the laws would not matter to realize that it does indeed matter, and to act accordingly.

The second larger issue involves the fact that, according to federal guidelines, the University is required to have some kind of policy regulating alcohol and other drugs in order to receive federal funding. I fail to see this as an excuse for the policy itself. Either the federal government should stay out of people's private lives, or the University should be privatized and quit letting the federal government tell it what to do. There are other ways to get around having this Alcohol Policy, which has to go, and quickly. MR

Gene Krass is a junior in English and psychology and an assistant editor of the Review.

❑ MOVIE REVIEW

Life From Death

BY ERIC LARSON

"THE SCENERY WAS good, the costumes were good, uh..." The only compliments to be heard after Mary Shelley's Frankenstein had little to do with the story or the acting. Kenneth Branagh and Robert DeNiro were the only bright stars in this dim movie and each played melodramatic roles in a gigantic battle of "woe is me." The plot drifted and faded as Victor Frankenstein, played by Branagh, chased and was chased by his horrific creation played by DeNiro.

Frankenstein
Based on the novel by Mary Shelley
Directed by Kenneth Branagh

Victor was a young lad obsessed with knowledge, especially with the various means of harnessing energy. After the traumatic death of his mother during his younger brother's birth, Frankenstein vowed to become a doctor who would never let another face the death of a loved one (with thunder and lightning in the background, of course). Victor left for medical school, leaving his orphaned sister whom he was to marry upon his return to Geneva.

At the German medical school, Victor met Henry who would be his friend for life but added nothing to the movie except to warn him of cholera. While in school, Victor met Professor Walgren who came very close to reanimating men. His warnings fell on deaf ears as Victor attempted to reanimate a body with the professor's brilliant brain after his death. Despite warnings of cholera, Victor is driven to recreate life and to "end suffering and sickness for mankind."

During the maddening scene of creating the beast, Victor dumps thousands of electric moray eels into a vat of amniotic fluid with the body. Fortunately, the electric eel vendor in the streets of Inglestodt happened to have just enough eels for sale and Victor managed to acquire over a hundred gallons of amniotic fluid from the birthing women in town in three days.

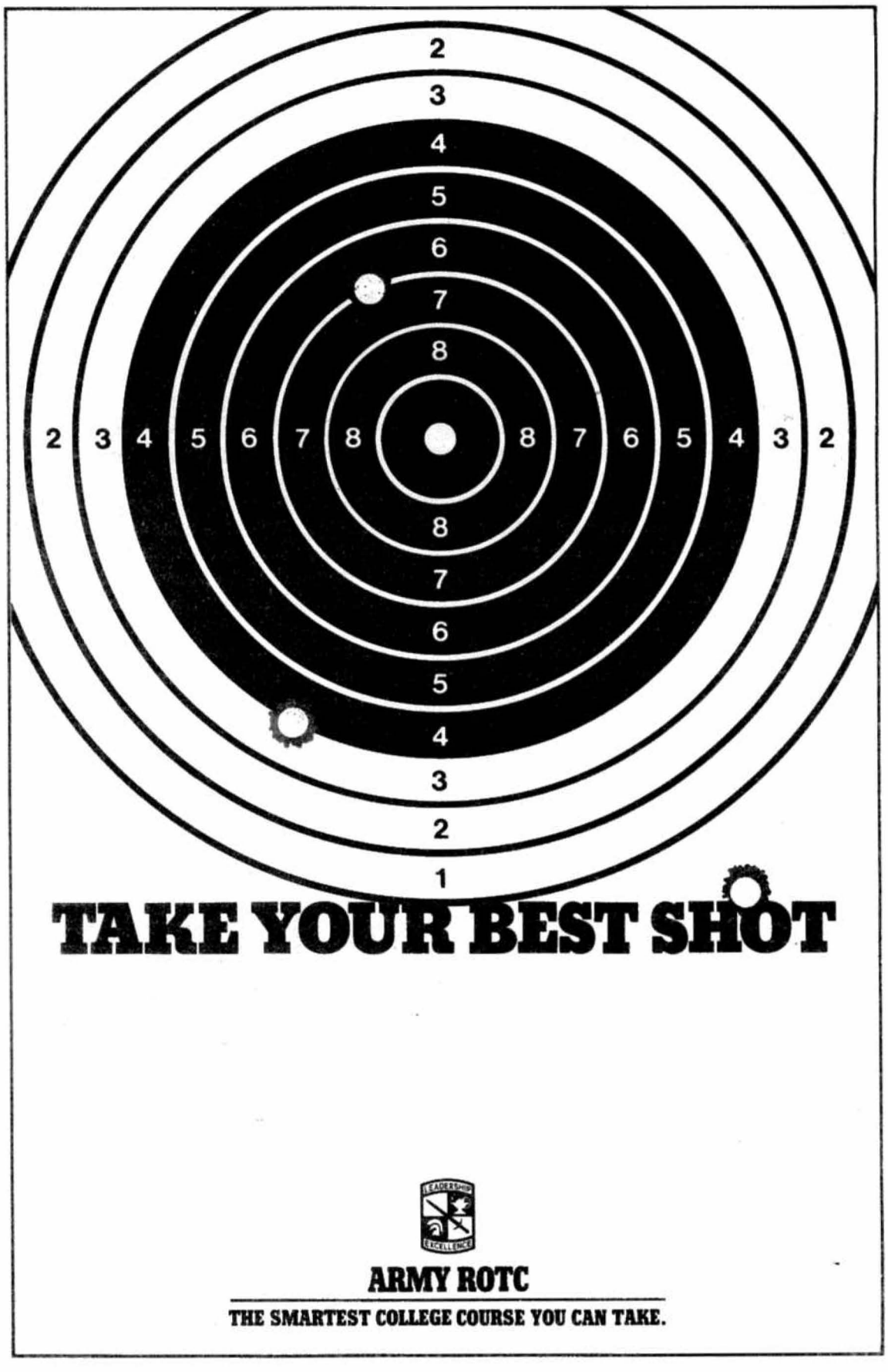
The first scene with the monster consists of Branagh and DeNiro rolling, slipping, and sliding naked in amniotic fluid. Unfortunately, that was the last scene which made any sense or connected with anything resembling a plot. The movie ends with the two meeting occasionally, fighting, then running away only to be buried together at sea at the North Pole.

The theme centered on the ethics of science and the role of doctors in society. Are doctors supposed to relieve pain and suffering or is their mission to sustain life by any means possible? The movie contends that no man should act as God, shown by its scene with Victor confessing to Elizabeth while juxtaposed with a crucifix. Indeed, the movie repeatedly made references to the limits of medicine and the folly of man for pursuing the end of suffering, disease, and knowledge.

In fact, the movie expressed its wishes for all men to lay down their arms, shatter their test tubes, burn their books, and head for the trees where they could live in peace again with the apes. Knowledge is evil, and only science brings sheer terror and misery. Apparently, the bubonic plague was a happy time as was life with grossly spoiled food and widespread filth.

Captain Dalton, who is obsessed with reaching the North Pole, meets Victor before his death and hears his tale. Upon seeing the creation, Dalton reconsiders his motives for reaching the North Pole and decides to return home instead of continue the voyage. This symbolic slap in the face assumes that if the scientific community only looked at what it is doing, it would cease and write poetry and sing childrens' songs instead.

The movie's sickening anti-scientific theme is not only revolting, but also poorly acted and written. After the intriguing Dracula, this film was a gigantic disappointment. Save your money and rent *Ishtar*. MR



❑ BOOK REVIEW

The Decline of Western Civilization

BY DEAN BAKOPOULOS

ANARCHY IS COMING SOON to a humanities classroom near you. So says esteemed Yale professor and renowned literary critic Harold Bloom in his new book, *The Western Canon*. From the first page, Bloom asserts that the politicization of the humanities is unleashing "mere anarchy upon what used to be called the learned world." Upon reading further, any ardent lover of literature will find reasons to be disturbed at the growing trend in literary studies, a trend Bloom mournfully deplores.

The Western Canon
Harold Bloom
Harcourt Brace and Company
Hardcover, 1994, 578 pages
$23.00

Despite its alarming first and last chapters, which Bloom considers "elegies" for the great canonical works of Western literature, *The Western Canon* is a passionate look into literature by one of the top literary scholars of our time. Bloom takes the lover of literature on a journey through some of the greatest writers of Western culture, and manages to do so in an entertaining manner.

Bloom examines the literary impact of 26 of the most influential writers in history. Central to his examination is the influence of Shakespeare, who Bloom considers the "Center of the Canon." Shakespeare "had no precursor in the creation of character" and "has left no one after him untouched by his ways of representing human nature." Bloom also sings high praises for Cervantes, the literary genius behind *Don Quixote:* "All novels since *Don Quixote* rewrite Cervante's universal masterpiece even when they are quite unaware of it." It is insights and declarations like these which make *The Western Canon* a truly enjoyable experience for lovers of literature.

Dean Bakopoulos is a sophomore in English and an assistant editor of the Review. *He likes books.*

Also in this work, Bloom explores other canonical writers such as Tolstoy and Austen, Freud and Joyce. Central to each writer's admission to the canon are strangeness and originality, with a considerable amount of attention placed on literary influence. Bloom makes his judgement's solely on his individual beliefs which makes his work all the more appealing. To satisfy those bemoaning the exclusion of their favorite writers, Bloom adds an appendix that lists the canonical books of the ages. Present in the appendix are many figures left out of the elite group of 26 writers from Plato to Chekhov, from Toni Morrison to Raymond Carver, and from William Faulkner to Mario Vargas Llosa.

Many current students of literature will look at the list of canonical writers and wonder why they have read so few of them. Bloom blames this on what he calls the growing "School of Resentment": a collection of feminists, Marxists, multiculturalists, and New Historicists who have recently assailed the world of university English departments. Bloom asserts that "students of literature have become amateur political scientists, uninformed sociologists, incompetent anthropologists, mediocre philosophers, and over–determined historians." Why? Because of a movement in English departments to incorporate social problems and solutions into the study of literature. Hence, canonical books are inched out of the classrooms in favor of books with a liberal social value: "the teaching of poems, plays, stories, and novels is now supplanted by cheerleading for various social and political crusades."

For Bloom, canonical books are those that meet "severely artistic criteria." The problem is many of the books read in English departments around the country do not meet these criteria. Bloom does not believe that literature is meant to be a study of social problems. Yet, the leftists of academia label anyone who teaches or studies the world of the "Dead White Males" a bigot.

A key example of this liberal bullying is Maya Angelou's inaugural poem written for Clinton's inaguaration. Promptly after Angelou read her work, it was hailed by the *New York Times* editorial page as "a work of Whitmanian magnitude." This critical acclaim was inevitable according to Bloom, who says "The unhappy truth is that we cannot help ourselves; we can resist up to a point, but past that point even our own universities would be compelled to indict us as racists and sexists."

Academics try to make room in the Canon for books that do not match the greatness of their predecessors, simply because of the author's race, gender, or social condition. In this manner, true literature falls under the shadow of lesser works with some social message or some exposition of inequality. The casualties are students who do not possess a complete education. Bloom boldly decries this change in curriculum: "Whatever the Western Canon is, it is not a program for social salvation."

Bloom cannot see how literature could be construed as such in the first place. Primarily, reading is a solitary activity that one applies to his own life, not to the betterment of society. "The idea that you benefit the insulted and injured by reading someone of their own origins rather than reading Shakespeare is one of the oddest illusions ever promoted by or in our schools," Bloom claims.

But the erosion of standards continues with professors obsessed with trendy political correctness, multiculturalism, and feminism. According to Bloom there are two ways of judging a work's canonical value: the true way and the current way. The true way is, "unless it demands rereading the work does not qualify." The new method of evaluation "is simple, clear, and wonderfully conducive to social change; it must not and

bution to societal progress is its generosity in offering itself up for rapid ingestion and discarding."

In light of Bloom's depiction of the current state of literary studies, it is not surprising that he concludes his book with a pessimistic viewpoint about the future of the humanities. He says, "I have very little confidence that literary education will survive its current malaise ... Finding myself now surrounded by professors of hip–hop; by clones of Gallo–Germanic theory; by ideologues of gender and various sexual persuasions; by multiculturalists unlimited, I realize that the Balkanization of literary studies is irreversible."

Bloom's criticisms should not be taken as a politically conservative attack on the values of the left. While the Old Right may favor the preservation of the Western Canon because they claim it encompasses the moral foundation of civilization, Bloom calls this theory the "silliest" way of defending the Western Canon. The Western Canon does not have any set moral boundaries, any more than it possesses political ones. Bloom is not decrying the politics of the left nor of the right; instead he bemoans the politicization of the art of literature.

If the highly respected literary critic Bloom sees a crisis in the study of literature, then there must be some merit to this claim. Indeed, some of Bloom's scenarios are already in place here at the U–M. For example, all LSA students are required to take a Race or Ethnicity course, but many of them graduate without ever reading a Shakespearean tragedy. All English majors are forced to study "New Traditions" literature, but fail to study the great authors like Tolstoy, Balzac, and Cervantes. Finally, many students pass through American literature courses without ever reading a book by Faulkner or Hemingway. It is time for universities to stop worrying about political correctness and begin to study literature as an art form, as a universal portrayal of the human experience, and as a common unifying thread among all people. True literature is universal and unites human beings regardless of race, gender, or creed. It unites us by weaving among all men and women the universal threads of sorrow and joy, life and death, love and hate. As C.S. Lewis said, "We read so we know that we are not alone." Literature does not need to celebrate multiculturalism, feminism, liberalism, or conservatism; it already unifies all people by celebrating the common experience of

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❑ BOOK REVIEW

Public Schools Should Be Abolished

BY AARON STEELMAN

MOST PEOPLE NOW believe that the public schools are doing a poor job at educating students. From declining SAT scores to high dropout rates, the evidence that public schools are not performing adequately, let alone well, is mounting. And surprisingly,

Seperating School and State
Sheldon Richman
Future of Freedom Foundation
Paperback, 1994, 118 pages
$14.95

there is agreement on this point from both the left and the right.

The left claims that the reason the schools are performing so terribly is that the funding for them is not what it should be; that the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on government schools each year are not sufficient. The right also believes that the current funding is insufficient. Yet, at least some on the right are willing to concede that there may be more serious problems with the public schools than just insufficient funding. Thus they advocate such programs as charter schools and voucher programs, both of which would be administered by either federal or local government.

But ultimately, as on so many other issues, the left and right converge. They both see the answer to the problem of the public schools as being more government. Their disagreements are simply over to what degree should funding for public schools increase; the left would like to see a much larger role for the state in education while the right would like to see a moderately larger role. Never does either group entertain the idea that it is the government's presence itself that is causing the problems with the schools; that the idea of having public schools is a bad one.

In *Seperating School and State*, Sheldon Richman deviates sharply from the rhetoric of both the left and the right. He argues that one should not be surprised by the way the public schools are performing. From their inception, Richman contends, government-funded schools were a bad idea, and that the results of such an idea were predictable nearly 150 years ago, when the first government schools in the United States were established. In short, Richman argues that the public schools are doing precisely what they were designed to do.

Richman traces the history of government schools, beginning in 1850 when the Commonwealth of Massachussetts became the first state in the union to institute compulsory schooling, in an attempt to reach a conclusion as to why public schools were created.

While it has been argued that public schools were implemented in response to a supposed market failure, Richman finds substantial evidence to the contrary. Indeed, he states, "Data show that from 1650 to 1795, male literacy climbed from 60 to 90 percent; female literacy went from 30 to 45 percent. Between 1800 and 1840, literacy in the North rose from 75 percent to between 91 and 97 percent. And in the South during the same span, the rate grew from 50–60 percent to 81 percent. [S]enator Edward M. Kennedy's office issued a paper not long ago that the literacy rate in Massachusetts has never been as high as it was before compulsory schooling was instituted."

What then, if not in response to failures of the private sector, was the reason behind the creation of public schools? Richman contends that the public schools were created largely to serve as a propagandist tool of the state, writing that, "The aim of the public schools at the macro, or social, level was the creation of a homogeneous, national, Protestant culture: the Americanization and Protestantization of the disparate groups that made up the United States. At the micro, or individual, level the aim was the creation of the Good Citizen, someone who trusted and deferred to government in all areas it claimed as its own." Thus, Richman contends that not only were the ideas behind the creation of public schools suspect, but that the intentions of the architects of government schooling were as well.

Drawing upon empirical evidence, as well as providing a rights based argument, it is Richman's thesis that public schools should not be reformed, but should be abolished.

Indeed, he argues that implementing school voucher programs may well provide worse results than the system currently in place. While there are schools that are solely private now and do not receive any funding whatsoever from the government and thus are not regulated to the degree that public schools are, it is unlikely that under a voucher system there would be any private schools at all; that with the acceptance of the vouchers, the private schools would be effectively taken over by the government, and with this, the one system of education that is working in this country right now would be ended. This is too large a risk to face.

Besides, Richman argues, even if voucher programs could be effectively implemented, it would not solve the more serious problem in this country regarding education — namely the mentality that government should be involving itself in education. "Public education is objectionable in principle and necessarily inferior to a free–education market. If we could get better churches through subsidies, would that be reason to repeal the First Amendment," asks Richman.

How would people pay for education if it wasn't "provided" by the government? This is an important question for advocates of free–market schools to address. For too long, libertarians have cut themselves off from policy discussions, thinking that it should be self–evident as to why a free society would benefit all. And not surprisingly, libertarians have won few policy battles.

Richman recognizes this problem and confronts the question of how private schools could be afforded by prdinary people, destroying the myth that under a completely private system only the rich would be able to afford an education for their children.

He states, "It is clear what needs to be done. For a start, all school taxes should be abolished. Multipurpose taxes — property, sales and income taxes — should be reduced at least by the amount that currently goes to education. If other taxes cannot be done away with right away, they should be slashed drastically and soon. The personal income tax should be the first slated for repeal. Most people could afford a good education for their children if government at all levels were not taking 40 percent of their income."

Richman has written a truly engaging and original book on a topic that libertarians must address. For all those who believe that schooling is too important to be left up to the free market, it would be a healthy dose of good sense and reason. And for those who are already on his side, it would be a valuable guidebook on how to improve American education. MR

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❑ MUSIC

Interview With a Cranberry

BY DREW PETERS

"WE HAD BEEN TOURing around a lot, not paying attention to anything that was going on. Then we returned home to Ireland for Christmas and we were all over the news...it was a bit of a freak out. We calmed down after awhile and didn't take it too seriously. I don't think anything would faze us right now, if anything, it is just embarrassing. People come up to you in the street and say, 'aren't you in the cranberries?' We want to be heard and not seen. If people ignored us it would be great."

the cranberries
No Need to Argue
Island

So drummer Feargal Lawler epitomizes the cranberries' humble attitude towards the overwhelming double platinum success of their debut *Everybody Else Is Doing It So Why Can't We?*

Surprisingly, when Lawler formed what was then The Cranberry Saw Us with guitarist Noel Hogan and bassist Mike Hogan four years ago, they were lacking the prominent and unmistakable vocals of Dolores O'Riordan.

"It was a different band, really," Lawler relates, "the three of us had just learned our instruments and we had a friend who had some songs he wanted to play. We did that for a few months but it wasn't really what we wanted. He left, Dolores joined, and we clicked right away."

Dolores, who had been singing in church choirs and pubs since the age of five, helped to shuffle the band into local fame, and they released a cassette only single of "Nothing Left At All." Soon after that came *Everybody Else* on Island Records, giving the press another band to unwisely compare to the Sundays.



the cranberries: Mike Hogan, Dolores O'Riordan, Feargal Lawlor and Noel Hogan

"When we started off, everyone said, 'three guys and a girl? They sound like the Sundays.' We do like the Sundays, their first album was good...but the songs all sound the same. At this stage we don't even care anymore, people know us for who we are."

With their sophomore album *No Need To Argue*, the cranberries continue to craft honest and beautiful music, accented by the dynamic, songbird vocals of O'Riordan. However, the cranberries have taken their sound in harder and dreamier directions.

"(*Everybody Else*) shows us at that period, the first two years of the cranberries. It captures what we were like then. That's my idea for an album; to capture that period of time. Those first two years were a learning experience for us, we went through a lot of difficulties before recording the album. We had some managerial problems that I can't go into but, in the end, it was a good thing for us. We learned to stand up for ourselves and it brought us together as a band. That's captured on the album."

"However, the songwriting is a lot better now. We have been growing up, seeing a lot of different things while touring. The new album is definitely more mature, and we have experimented with different sounds, especially guitar. That's the good thing about the studio, you get to play a lot with everything, try to get the song to evolve to what it is in your head."

These evolutions go from the wallowing piano of "Empty" to the rougher guitars of "Zombie," described by Lawler as "angry, sort of in your face... especially for us."

And what about the couch that has appeared almost a dozen times in cranberries releases? Lawler explains, "On the first album we had the couch because the art director had thought of it. We were really lazy so he had us sit down, relax, and pretend the camera wasn't there. The photos turned out well, so for the second album we did it again. We thought it was a good idea and a really nice couch. Unfortunately they wouldn't let us buy it." MR

Alas, the cranberries will perform with MC 900 Ft Jesus and the Gigilo Aunts at the State Theatre on Thursday, November 10.

Cool Cat Groovin' Jazz Releases

BY GREG PARKER

HIS FIRST SOLO ALBUM IN nearly 40 years, **Dave Brubeck**'s *Just You, Just Me* (Telarc) is a more intimate effort from the pianist. The master recreates "Strange Meadowlark," from the classic *Time Out* album of 1959, and revives his Great Depression era childhood with "Variations on Brother Can You Spare a Dime." Brubeck, not exactly a spring chicken, exhibits youthful exuberance in his latest album but never forgets his trademark polyrythms or polytones.

Teodross Avery might not be a household name yet, but like Roy Hargrove, he represents the future of jazz. **The Teodorss Avery Quartet**'s *In Other Words* (GRP), with guest appearance by Hargrove, is an exceptional venture into traditional jazz. While Avery's label, GRP, is known for its extensive fusion recordings, *In Other Words* embraces a straight-ahead style that a young Avery (21) plays with ease. Avery is not out of his league living up to the next generation of jazz musicians, and along with Hargrove, Joshua Redman and others won't disappoint.

GRP All-Star **Michael Brecker** makes two noteworthy appearances this month with his collaboration in *Twin Tenors* (RCA) and also with his brother Randy in the **Brecker Brothers**' *out of the loop* (GRP). Aptly named *Twin Tenors*, with fellow tenor-man Bob Mitzner, drummer Peter Erskine and others, is described as a dedication to "the heroes of the saxophone." John Coltrane's "Giant Steps" is covered as well as Coleman Hawkins' "Body and Soul," but while the dedication is very flattering the tenor-men do not live up to the performances of their contemporaries. The Brecker Brothers' *out of time* is much more memorable. Having played with Parliament and Blood, Sweat and Tears in the seventies, the Breckers have also popped up on hundreds of fusion recordings and helped evolve jazz fusion to the state it is today. Their roots in funk are not forgotten, and Michael's use of the electronic wind instrument (EWI) has tapered down, so Brecker traditionalists will not be disappointed. The Breckers have not sold out, and are back in full force.

For those sick of mainstream crooner Harry Connick, Jr., **John Pizzarelli** is a breath of fresh air. Not the traditional jazz pianist/vocalist combo, Pizzarelli mixes his voice with guitar and a back-up band to create *New Standards* (RCA). Pizzarelli's style might be more pop than anything else, but he mixes this with 50s jazz influences for a Les Paul meets Frank Sinatra sound. Though Pizzarelli's vocals might overshadow his guitar playing at times, the latter certainly leaves nothing to be desired.

Those familiar with James Brown and Funkadelic will recognize **Maceo Parker**. Parker, who with Brown, George Clinton and even pop prototype Rod Stewart, has made quite a name for himself in funk, rock and even jazz circles. His latest solo album, *Southern Exposure* (RCA), is an outstanding collaboration of Parker's genres. From funk to blues to Dixieland, Parker and his mates, including members of James Brown's band, make a seamless transition to each style; though diverse, this compilation still retains fluidity. Most notably, Southern Exposure shows Parker's soul — he plays with a passion few can emulate.

Arguably the most trendy album of the year, the Benedictine Monks' *Chant* took the world by storm. *Chant* still remains high on the Billboard Classical chart and has monopolized mainstream attention, leaving similar — and even better — efforts unnoticed. **Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble**'s *Officium* (ECM) is one of these efforts, yet to be discovered by the mainstream. *Officium* is not completely like *Chant*, mixing saxophone with vocals to form a product resembling what a Baltimore Sun reviewer called "Kenny G meets *Chant*." Nevertheless, Jan Garbarek, one of Europe's finest modern jazz saxophonists, and the Hilliard Ensemble, four male voices (sampled in Enigma's first album), have juxtaposed the contemporary expression of the horn with the traditional vocal arrangements. While not as popular as *Chant*, *Officium* is much more original and memorable. Plus, every Joe Sixpack already has *Chant*. MR