
THE CONTINUING CRISIS



• May through June 4, and a brave battle is being waged in our nation's capital. Such honorable gentlemen as the Speaker of the House, the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and the House Democratic leader are defying our debonair President and fighting nip and tuck against his tax cuts. They like their perks. They like the grateful beam in the lowly Americano's eye when they bestow a little lucre into his outstretched palm. They think he remains ignorant of the fact that the aforementioned lucre belonged to him in the first place.

• If our President has his way we shall all be paying slightly higher taxes next year. If the honorable gentlemen have their way we shall be paying vastly higher taxes. In fact if they have their way they will have windfall tax revenues totalling over \$1 trillion a year by 1985. One can buy a lot of votes with \$1 trillion, and with that kind of treasure available one has a very good chance of mystifying the doltish as to the source of the attendant inflation, unemployment, and economic malaise.

• On May 6, the United States boarded up the Libyan Embassy, ordering Colonel Qaddafi's diplomatists to pack up their goats and chickens and assassination paraphernalia and vamoose to the land of the sand and the high-pitched excretion. The U.S. House of Representatives on May 7 voted to give the federal budget the pruning that President Reagan has urged. And at Brown University, Professor Jacob Neusner will be very lucky if he is not charged with child abuse. Professor Neusner published commencement objurgations in the student newspaper that were so abusive toward Brown's graduating seniors that over 50 sniffing seniors were roused to write letters of protest—an astounding show of intellectual vigor for the class. According to one sniveler—an aspiring broadcast student—Professor Neusner “called me a jerk in class. That's his style.” Felicitations to the prof.

• Some 50 members of the Assembly of Yahweh religious sect sold their earthly possessions and gathered at Coney Island on May 25 to await the crack of doom. The historic event was scheduled for 3 p.m. and police with emergency vehicles were standing by. Surprisingly, Yahweh never went to work. Perhaps he was too preoccupied with the absurd spectacle. At any rate, by 8 p.m. the faithful began shuffling back to the pawn shops. The cause of science suffered a painful setback when Mr. George Mills, a computer expert, endeavored to strike the scales of superstition from the eyes of

Greece's fanatical firedancers by scudding barefooted across their sacred coals. Unfortunately he only succeeded in charcoal broiling his feet and in getting badly battered by enraged firedancers who viewed him as a shameless infidel. Nor was scientific rationalism's repete enlarged when Mr. Mills opined his touching belief that a “right mental attitude” would have carried him over the fire intact. And in Trenton, New Jersey city officials responded arctically to the owner of the Reiss clothing store when he presented them with a \$450 bill for damage done when the local fire department extracted from the store's chimney Mr. Glenn Clark, a burglar who had become stuck there in the course of carrying out professional services. Mr. Clark's squawks had gone unnoticed for five days.

• On May 10 M. François Mitterrand, vowing to transform France into the Great Britain of Continental Europe, triumphantly carried the banner of French Socialism to victory over France's equivalent of Jimmy Carter. Mr. Jona Sitohang, the possessor of 15 wives, so frightened his neighbors in a remote Indonesian village by proclaiming himself the spiritual heir of Mr. Charles Manson that the local fuddy-duddies shaved his head and burned his seraglio. Mr. John D. Thompson who last month motored a 47-ton bulldozer through a two and one-half mile residential district of Gillette, Wyoming, has been handed over to the shrinks of the Wyoming State Hospital. And there are hard days ahead for Planned Parenthood in Newport, Tennessee, where a jury ordered Stokely Van Camp to pay \$2,500 to a man who had found a condom in one of the company's cans of pork and beans.

• The Reagan Terror continues to spread. Administration members spoke at dozens of university commencements, there being only a handful of campuses where students and faculty were courageous enough to have the fiends barred. Powerful forces in St. Albans, Vermont have established a committee to revive the pillory. And in Indianapolis, Indiana ex-Senator Birch Bayh notified the National Federation of Democratic Women that Ronald Reagan and the “repressive right” had shown impressive organizational skills in the 1980 election. However, the estimable pol admonished his audience never to imitate the repressive right's “philosophies,” for the “New Right hate groups” such as Moral Majority and Stop ERA “support old fashioned

ideas of sexism, racism, and anti-semitism.” Nonetheless the liberals still have their little victories. On May 12 the New York State Court of Appeals defied the hate groups and ruled that the state could not prohibit the use of children in the portrayal of sexual activities. Then again at Swarthmore College, where Men's Cooperative—a “men's support and discussion group”—observed Blue Jeans Day by inviting students to wear blue jeans in support of homosexuality, three students face expulsion for having burned a pair of blue jeans in protest. In the memorable words of Dean Thomas Blackburn, “the implicit violence of the fire places the act in a category not far from cross burning or the torching of synagogues.” As further provocation the brutes had worn three-piece suits!

• At the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, the educational experience has been imperiled by timorous administrators threatening to end university policy of coeducational toilets. The new policy is “non-negotiable,” the administrators insist, but the campus's young intellectuals are fighting back. They have published a learned bull proclaiming that “shared toilet facilities is a valuable part of the educational experience,” an insight understood by educators for thousands of years. How will the university duplicate the priceless experience if coeducational toilets are banished? Will it offer cassette recordings of members of the opposite sex on the stool? Auditory experiences are only part of the educational benefits available with coeducational toilets. There are also fragrances and visual effects. On May 13 Pope John Paul II was shot in St. Peter's Square causing thousands of America's most sedulous television watchers to complain when bulletins interrupted their soap operas. The government reported that New York and New Jersey accounted for more than half of all wiretaps authorized in the United States, and Mrs. Helen Steiner Rice, the queen of neoconservative culture, died. For 49 years Mrs. Rice had written thousands of religious, inspirational, and greeting poems for the Gibson Greeting Card Company of Cincinnati, Ohio.

• Finally, in an act eloquently illustrative of the sheer gasconade into which the New Politics has devolved, 5,000 demonstrators appeared at the Lincoln Monument on May 25 to protest the killings of 30 children in Atlanta. T-shirts, buttons, and ribbons were on sale but no one had a good word for capital punishment. —RET

THE AMERICAN SPECTATOR.

Editor-in-Chief:

R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Publisher:

Ronald E. Burr

Business Staff

Business Manager:

Susan C. France

Circulation Manager:

Kathryn L. Baker

Subscription Manager:

David Baril

Business Office Secretary:

Linda S. Calkins

Staff:

Ann Moore Gutiérrez

Elisabeth Regina O'Lessker

Editorial Staff

Managing Editor:

Wladyslaw Pleszczynski

Production Manager:

Jan Hoffman Sharkey

Assistant Managing Editor:

Andy Stark

Research Director:

Paul H. Vivian

Executive Secretary:

Lou Ann Sabatier

Editorial Intern:

Richard Starr

Senior Editors:

A. Lawrence Chickering

Adam Meyerson

Karl O'Lessker

Art Advisor:

Sheila Wolfe

Washington Editor:

Tom Bethell

New York Editor:

Whit Stillman

Americana Editor:

Joseph P. Duggan

Chief Saloon Correspondent:

Douglas Bartholomew

Contributors:

Aram Bakshian, Jr.,

Christopher C. DeMuth, Terry Eastland,

Jerry Gerde, K.E. Grubbs, Jr.,

Neil Howe, Roger Kaplan,

A. James McAdams III, Robert McTiernan,

William H. Nolte, Terry O'Rourke,

John Podhoretz, Alan Reynolds,

Benjamin Stein

Legal Counsel:

Solitary, Poor, Nasty, Brutish & Short

The American Spectator was founded in 1924 by George Nathan and Truman Newberry over a cheap domestic ale in McSorley's Old Ale House. In 1967 the Saturday Evening Club took it over, rechristening it *The Alternative: An American Spectator*; but by November 1977 the word "alternative" had acquired such an esoteric fragrance that in order to discourage unsolicited manuscripts from florists, beauticians, and other creative types the Club reverted to the magazine's original name. *The American Spectator* is now published monthly at 102 West Sixth Street, Bloomington, Indiana. Second class postage paid at Bloomington, Indiana, and additional mailing offices.

A one-year subscription (12 issues) costs \$15, outside the United States \$19. Foreign air mail rates sent on request. All correspondence (manuscripts, subscriptions, threatening letters, federal grants, etc.) should be sent to *The American Spectator*, P.O. Box 1969, Bloomington, Indiana 47402, (812) 334-2715; New York office, (212) 724-3799. Unsolicited manuscripts must be accompanied by self-addressed stamped envelopes. ISSN 0148-8414.

Published remarkably without regard to sex, life-style, race, color, creed, physical handicap, or national origin.

Copyright © *The American Spectator* 1981.

Volume 14, Number 7, July, 1981.

C O N T E N T S

The Main Event:

William Shawcross vs. Peter Rodman

Shawcross Swipes Again William Shawcross 7
In hot pursuit of Peter Rodman.

Rodman Responds..... Peter W. Rodman 14
Sideshow: Still fraudulent after all these words.

Michel Foucault and the Pullulations of Power Don Herzog 17
Power is all around, no need to waste it.

DEPARTMENTS

The Continuing Crisis.....	2
Editorial / Journalism Amongst the Elks R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.	4
Capitol Ideas / The Bloomsbury Savings & Loan..... Tom Bethell	5
Presswatch / I'll Be Lying at State..... Michael Ledeen	20
The Great American Saloon Series / New Albion	
..... Douglas Bartholomew	21
Spectator's Journal / A Farewell to <i>Bras</i> Roger Kaplan	24
The Talkies / Aristides Goes to the Movies John Podhoretz	25
Current Wisdom	Assorted Jackasses 34
An American House of Lords.....	34
Correspondence.....	36

BOOK REVIEWS

<i>Explaining America: The Federalist</i> , by Garry Wills	
..... Herman Belz	26
<i>The Court Years 1939-1975: The Autobiography of William O. Douglas</i> , by William O. Douglas	Maurice J. Holland 30
<i>Roll Call: One Year in the United States Senate</i> , by Senator William S. Cohen	Fred Barnes 33

PAID CIRCULATION THIS ISSUE OVER 36,000

EDITORIAL



JOURNALISM AMONGST THE ELKS

by R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.

Just days before the dastardly Miss Janet Cooke and the *Washington Post* bespattered the elegant gray robes of the fourth estate by hoodwinking a hapless Pulitzer Prize Advisory Board, there appeared a swell piece about bogus news stories in the *Wall Street Journal*. It is perhaps tasteless of me to mention this, but the piece concluded that journalistic hoaxes are rare today because journalists are so "serious."

Actually, it is because they are so absurdly serious that bogus news stories appear all the time. Moreover, if these news stories accord with the pious predilections of other journalists they take on a life of veritable immortality. Who doubts that despite Janet Cooke's downfall there remain earnest Americans solemnly believing that there really is a little black boy gripped by a \$50-a-day heroin habit somewhere?

Many journalists consider themselves adepts in the wonder of social science, a pretension that rattles their vision. Thus when they report news stories they are bowed down by all the bugaboos and primitive myths that idiotize third-rate graduate students sweating to please their haughty profs. Of course they heave up news stories that are severely biased. Some are outright fabrications. I know. Occasionally I have retold such news stories, only to be corrected by careful readers. In fact, our report in the last "Continuing Crisis" about a Jewish boy becoming Chief of the Sioux is just such a story. It is a hoax, the Arabs can relax.

For bias, consider Anthony Lewis's recent column on Jonestown in the illustrious *New York Times*. Mr. Lewis is one of the greatest urban sophisticates of all time, and so when he writes about the Rev. Jim Jones

he drones on about "how an egomaniac religious leader or political leader can lead the credulous into madness" and "the methods of paranoid leadership and the nature of evil." Like a timorous student in Professor Balderdash's seminar, he is too sophisticated to mention that the Rev. Jones was a fervent Communist, who had actually made overtures to the USSR. Or consider all those hour-by-hour accounts of John Hinckley's last days before his assault on President Reagan. Only the *Washington Post* spotted Hinckley in a porn parlor during his last night of freedom. There in the Plain Brown Wrapper adult book store, Hinckley spurned the advances of the store's homosexual clerk, perused the store's bondage literature, and took in a peep show. Every other account of Hinckley's last hours ignored this sizable chunk of time. Did the journalists miss this, or were

they simply reluctant to appear anxious about porn? Twenty years ago the Communism of the Rev. Jones and John Hinckley's taste for porn would have been discussed obsessively. Now fashion dictates that the tough-minded journalists avert their eyes.

The touching piety of many of our journalists and their faithful adherence to quack liberalism makes them prime suckers for hoaxes and, occasionally, willing hoaxers. My favorite journalistic legend is the Eatherly story, a story that went through many recastings and has endured for more than three decades. The hoax began when a larcenous dissipator recently discharged from the Army Air Corps, Major Claude Robert Eatherly, palmed himself off on a credulous reporter as the highly decorated (the Distinguished Flying Cross) World

War II pilot who had bombed Hiroshima and—hounded by guilt—entered upon a life of self-destructive petty crime. He became an instant media hero, and a sensation with the peace movement. He was awarded the 1962 Hiroshima Award "for outstanding contributions to world peace," and one of England's "Angry Young Men," John Wain, composed a poem whose last lines sobbed "Say nothing of love, or thanks, or penitence: Say only 'Eatherly, we have your message.'"

Well, the real message was that here was humbug. Eatherly had no Distinguished Flying Cross. He had not commanded the Hiroshima bombing mission and had never harmed the hair of a Japanese head—at least not in combat. All he had done was fly a navigation plane over Hiroshima collecting information on weather conditions. Yet in 1978, when Eatherly finally gave up the ghost, the *New York Times* dutifully reported that in 1945 he had "radioed the B-29 Enola Gay to drop its atomic bomb." The *Times* retold all the ancient claptrap about Eatherly's tortured conscience. And there was a new twist appropriate to the ideological hypochondria of our day, namely: a link between Eatherly's alleged military exploits and his death from cancer.

As for more recent hoaxes consider the bogus story of May 4, 1980 on CBS's "Sixty Minutes," the burden of which was that Henry Kissinger had once schemed with the Shah to buy more weapons. Or what about Seymour Hersh's dubious contortions on Chile? Even he now admits that things were amiss in those lurid stories. Things were also amiss in his 1973 story asserting that President Nixon two days after his 1969 inauguration personally authorized "a secret Marine Corps" invasion of Laos. More recently, a so-called "Dissident Paper" on El Salvador



Adapted from RET's weekly column syndicated by King Features.