Feminist Forced March

The Army recruitment video shows the young men coming to Ft. Leonard Wood in Missouri looking like a bunch of lowlifes about to be arrested for loitering. Then the hair gets shaved as the first step in a change of identity from private citizen to GI. Recruits find their own will replaced by that of drill sergeants with the temperament of a jangly Doberman. Then comes boot camp—a grueling marathon of pushups, sit-ups, rope climbs, tear gas, marches, and weapons training. The recruits smash each other with pugil sticks and charge through a bayonet course yelling "Kill! Kill!!"

By the end of their training, one assumes that Army instructors will have molded this bunch into what recruiting posters used to call "the fighting man." But some versions of the video append a section showing women in basic combat training. The effect is akin to clicking from The Battle of the Bulge with Henry Fonda to Private Benjamin with Goldie Hawn. When the women run through the bayonet course shrieking "Kill!" and jabbing ineptly at rubber dummies, the effect is unintentionally comic. Some women have trouble with the pins on the grenades, and one doubts that their chumminess in covering up would have protected them or their fellow soldiers from the blast. Some handle the standard-issue M-16 rifle as though it were a broom.

The army tape leaves little doubt that any regular troops or guerrillas forces anywhere in the world would quickly slaughter these women. That reality, evident to most veterans of actual combat, has not prevented the return of the "gender-integrated" combat training that now is the keynote of a campaign to move women into front-line combat. Of course, that reality has not deterred left-liberal politicians like Colorado Congressperson Pat Schroeder, for whom current policies are the end of a Long March.

For Schroeder and her feminist comrades in arms—most of whom are, on issues not having to do with women, hardcore anti-military—the issue remains entirely ideological. They believe that if women can't be gassed, shot, blown up, or tortured just like men, they remain incomplete human beings bereft of their constitutional rights. As in other arenas, these feminists confuse equality with sameness in their view of the military and ignore the realities about the differences between men and women.

While not missing basic realities, in fact, is probably what accounts for the death of Kara Hultgren, the first woman to fly a carrier-based F-14 fighter jet. Hultgren was killed in an accident landing six months ago, and at first Schroeder and her allies were able to mislead the press and the public into believing that the problem was mechanical malfunction. But recent evidence, suppressed by the Navy, shows that Hultgren had recorded seven downings (crashes in combat conditions) during training maneuvers. These failures, which would have long since grounded a male flyer, had been ignored in Hultgren's case to pacify those like Schroeder who had made Tailhook a national scandal and women in combat a civil rights issue. So, the death of Kara Hultgren was, in some sense, Pat Schroeder's first kill.

It is true, according to army data, that female recruits are usually better qualified academically than males, have more work experience, and are almost always better behaved, losing less time for disciplinary reasons and not being as inclined as their brethren to abuse drugs and alcohol. But it is also true that soldiering is a strenuous business—and women's upper-body strength is roughly half that of a man. They miss C-130s more than twice as much duty time on medical grounds and are four times more likely to complain of gouty physical ailments. Women suffer higher rates of attrition and lower rates of retention. The injury rates of women can be as high as 14 times that of men.

New National Standards Blame America First

History & Politics

By Ronald Radosh

When the new national history standards were unveiled last October and immediately attacked because of their pro- Jackie Robinson orthodoxy with the dark side of the American experience, The New York Times editorialized against those it dubbed "conservative critics." In fact, the Times was ecstatic about the effort: "Reading the Standards and support materials is exhilarating. Students will rejoice in learning from them, teachers will cherish using them." Citing the 2,600 sample assignments provided by the California group that spearheaded the effort, the Times praised the assignments as "treasures" that would bring history alive and that would truly teach students how to think and to reason.

By implication, the Times was critical of Lyell Cherry, who ironically had been head of the National Endowment of the Humanities when it funded the effort to come up with the new standards. Cherry, as almost everyone knows by now, had attacked the standards in a celebrated article in The Wall Street Journal, citing the emphasis of obscure minority group figures to the exclusion of our nation's founding fathers, all dead white males, and noting that the standards paid more attention to the Sierra Club than to George Washington. The standards, she wrote, "have their unqualified admiration for people, places, and events that are politically correct." The New Republic joined the attack by publishing a critique of Cherry's by Jon Weiner, a historian and critic whose writings on these topics usually appear in the pages of the left-wing Nation magazine, where he serves as a contributing editor. Weiner argued that Cherry's characterization of the new standards were inaccurate, exaggerated, and that the standards were, in fact, a relatively bias-free, mainstream attempt to rescue the teaching of history from collapse. Cherry's assault, he argued, was flawed; there simply was no "preferential treatment of women and minorities" in the standards. And of course, Frank Rich took up the cudgels in his own editorial column in The New York Times, arguing that the standards were "a fact an imperfect, middle-of-the-road committee product—and voluntary to boot."

The message from the Times and those sheltered under its umbrella was clear: There is nothing to worry about.

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NEW NATIONAL STANDARDS BLAME AMERICA FIRST

HISTORY & POLITICS

By Ronald Radosh

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The message from the Times and those sheltered under its umbrella was clear: There is nothing to worry about. Continued on page 12
Pro-Maas

As a Cornell alumna, I was shocked to learn that Professor Jean Maas had been accused of sexual harassment ("The Locked Box," May 1995). Psych 101 was the largest class I ever sat in, yet Maas managed to make it personal and accessible. I can imagine Cornell faculty having more creative, fun, and truly instructive teaching methods since Sexual Street. And I really felt that he liked and respected his students.

At first I felt betrayed: a man who seemed to believe sincerely in equality between men and women had taken advantage of vulnerable female students under his tutelage. It looked like the grossest abuse of power and authority. But the Cornell Kangaroo Court failed to protect the students against sexual harassment cases, so well documented by Craig Hynicka, only convinced me that we now know more about Maas' alleged misconduct than we did when the accusations were first made public. In a nation that provides legal counsel to rapists and serial killers, and in a town (Ithaca) that prides itself on liberal beliefs—which should surely include the right to representation and a fair trial—we have allowed a great teacher, and a good man, to be slandered without giving him the opportunity to defend himself and face his accusers.

Cornell seems to classify victims of sexual harassment in the same category with victims of child abuse: having undergone a traumatic ordeal, they must be protected from any further contact with the abuser that might upset them. That is why a student who is a victim is forbidden to see anything that is more than 15 feet away, from her sights. Such behavior is not only offensive but also unnecessary. The women's committee of Cornell's Women's Studies Department has now given up trying to win the feminist battle. The "bystander woman," who need not be trusted, doesn't listen to reason, and must under no circumstances be taken seriously.

Perhaps Professor Maas did take inappropriate liberties with his female students. Perhaps he humiliated them by taking advantage of his academic authority, and perhaps instead of standing up to him and saying that his actions made them uncomfortable—perhaps a difficult thing to do—they falsely reported his actions to the Demo.

But even if Professor Maas did everything that she said, he has not achieved any justice—only vengeance, and the perhaps undeserved destruction of a person and his career.

Aabigall Struble
New York, NY

In the May 95 issue, "The Locked Box" was a very informative article. It is good that the women's issue can be defended by the university, or is it? Is it not the case that women's issue is being made by the academic authority, and that instead of standing up to him and saying that his actions made them uncomfortable—perhaps a difficult thing to do—they falsely reported his actions to the Demo.

The so-called "strong women" who claim to stand up in defense of women everywhere, do not understand the meaning of the word strong. Just recently, someone I know made a claim of sexual harassment toward a male co-worker. When asked what his sexual crime was, she replied that no sexual remarks were made, but she simply showed up with a fluorescent light. She's a woman, and what sexual harassment has become? It is no more a strategy to level the playing field. It is evident that the field is not level, but slated to give women the edge. I consider myself a strong woman who does not need the radical feminism, or anyone. These are just another setback for all of us in this sea from the road of life. The strength and wisdom we retain along the way is measured by how well we overcome each difficulty we face. If you have to give me a head start, then I don't belong in the race.

Cynthia Wadley
Dover, UK

Anti-Cornell

I was shocked and appalled when I read about Cornell University's torturous sexual harassment policy ("The Locked Box," May 1995). To think that any institution, much less a respected university, would resort to RGB tactics in this day and age! As a former community college instructor myself, I am ever saddened by what has happened to higher education. I feel bad for Cornell psychology professor James Maas. I feel even worse for those girls who raised their case, not because they were "harassed," (a dubious possibility, to be certain), but because they have been taught to think of themselves as victims. They are just a few more drops in the expanding sea of Americans who expect society to apply salve to every wound, big or small, real or imagined.

Russell H. Matson
Youngstown, OH

Attention Readers

With this issue, Heterodoxy goes on its annual summer break. Expect to hear from us again around Labor Day, when we will be full rested, and ready to do battle with the commissars of correctness once again.

Russell H. Matson

Class-Based AA

John Ellis' essay on "class-based" affirmative action was excellent. The obvious errors of the program will not be changed by changing the label. What is really "affirmative action" "affirming"? He nicely points out the contradiction of a day of a law school ranking in Illegal action. Ellis also defends the ideology of making a role model, but not more important that she is in a woman's role. She needs to be followed by another question, expressed by Mr. Ellis, observation that the well intended but misguided principles of such ideological projects benefit more from than to the assumed beneficiaries psychologically, and quite, politically. But it is a bit different from the ways things were 30 years ago when I went to college, except in being more open about what was going on. Your editorial needs to go a step further and possibly become truly heterogeneous by questioning the basis of both the current administrations and the defenders of the unidimensional ways. No matter how grand the school was 30 years ago, its most useful skill is its ability to give the "affirmative." This is the measure of the ability to pass tests. The "soft" science (economics, sociology, etc.) is the easier to pass; the answer to questions is "what's the answer he's looking for?" It is not difficult to divine except for those who are more interested in the subject than in passing the test. But, for example, Economics was not particularly heavy at geometry). Diplomas, awards, and the ensuing jobs were handed out based on test passing ability. It's not a negligible skill; it's not. But it is not quite the skill which Mr. Ellis means herein.

A good beginning for question is whether the university enterprise is for vocational school like medicine and law or vocational training service? If so, it has not gone. The universities were established to provide personnel for the bureaucracies. In England, in the 9th century, the classics were the only high road to jobs in the Foreign Office. Give this some heterodox thinking. The "traditional" ways were not strong enough to withstand the current assault. Why?

Judith Weinstein's columns are now the best part of the magazine. Hurrah is the best defustor.

Gabriel Austin
New York, NY

Ask Ralph Reed

I have received Metrodox magazine for May 1995. Along with this letter I am enclosing a photocopy of an item on page 7 with the caption: "ceramic ashtray portraying the non-politically incorrect Asian woman type as a washer woman getting her work done in the cellar where she works." The picture shows a statue of a woman having her breast smashed in the wringer of a washing machine. Do you get a vicious thrill from this type of material? I find the image unpleasant. I suspect that the figure was produced by and who people who enjoy seeing other people suffer. Everybody has to have a hobby.

Lowell's question in his question is whether another one's porridge, he is clearly in example of minstrelsy, and perhaps another example of minstrelsy is the politics of the picture. It is probably not true that Leland and Clifford Bayon were "forced" to buy this image as the claim in the article. I am not aware of any redneckish thinking that this type of material has. I wonder what Ralph Reed thinks of this kind of thing. Mr. Jakob composed an unsigned praise of Mr. Reed on page 13 of this issue.

Bradley Hall
Terrace, CA

Oozing Hate

I wasn't aware that there was another one's porridge, he is clearly in example of minstrelsy, and perhaps another one's porridge is the politics of the picture. It is probably not true that Leland and Clifford Bayon were "forced" to buy this image as the claim in the article. I am not aware of any redneckish thinking that this type of material has. I wonder what Ralph Reed thinks of this kind of thing. Mr. Jakob composed an unsigned praise of Mr. Reed on page 13 of this issue.

Alex Hutchins
Pl. Lauderdale, FL
REDOXION AD ABSURDUM

FOREASCH SENSITIVITY: In a piece on the evils of circumcision in Natural Health magazine, Ronald E. Kotsch wrote, "In August 1984, I heard a radio interview about a product called ' Oversight' that was advertised as a miraculous treatment to cure foreskin in recession. I was fascinated. When the interview was over, I was surprised. An outburst of anger, resentment, and powerlessness of the event took place in the 'Oversight' column. Kotsch reported that he'd been pulling on his penis for 18 months and said that he intended to pull it on for another 18 months or so.

THE FIVE SEXTES: The world's leading feminists have not settled the question once and for all of whether we're just boys and girls or something in between. Kotsch wrote that at the recent Preparatory Conference for the United Nations' Fourth World Conference on Women, a squeaky monkey outside among the delegates over the definition of the term "gender." The United States, Canada, the European Union, and the U.N. Secretariat were deterred to redefine the term to include five categories: female, male, homosexual, bisexual, and transsexual. Trouble began when delegates from the South covenanted that the solution for South Africa revolved around the more traditional view that we are all either men or women, personal preferences for companionship and marriage were disregarded. Additionally, Kotsch reported that the teachings of Islam, Christianity, and Judaism were redirected and relocated to provide almost two-thirds of the world's population with loving partners. Cost per insect came to $4, T4,717,245 just about what it takes to 984,444 contraceptors at the medical center.

IDIOTS SAVANTS: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has commissioned a project that involves a collection of cartoons, comics, and comic strips, and erotic memorabilia to revitalize its "genius" awards. The MacArthur, which more and more resembles Empire magazine's "Most Distinguished Achievements Awards, is particularly egregious now that its new chief, Catherine Sawhorse, has brought her personal commitment to legalization, deconstructionism, and data into play. Rather than a few scientists to give into a simplification of legitimacy, the 1995 "geniuses" represent the society's tolerance for eclecticism, seriation, and neo-Marxism. What can we say about a foundation that honors UCLA Professor Susan McClurkan? The psychologist by trade, McClurkan was awarded $255,000 for "testing the boundaries of the self in the context of social and sexual interaction and the relativity of beliefs about social and sexual interaction and the relation between beliefs and social interaction." In reality, McClurkan makes her living writing books about her travels around the world, reading classical music. In McClurkan's world, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony represents the "thrombing, murderous rage of a rapist incapable of maintaining a lie." "But "Lumen" is a metaphor for the use of violence for the purpose of subversion, and to Chomsky. And if there is a real man existing this man, surrounded by his situation within his homophobia." For that matter, what can we say about Cindy Sherman, who received $250,000 for taking photographs of herself in different costumes and poses that challenge traditional notions about identity, social stereotypes, and artistic representation. Sherman's previous works include a display of naked photos in art galleries and several enlarged photographs of a elephant penises and willing that one critic said "simply make people see as if they, we're seeing the monkeys do something rude at the zoo." The monkeys seemed more interesting, and probably more worthy of a MacArthur genius grant than McClurkan, Sherman, and the rest of Simpson's misfits, left alone for an eternity in a cage with a typewriter, as mechanismists have informed us, these monkeys would eventually produce King Lear.

BLIND LIKE MR. In response to a hearing on the Nation of Islam, Maurice Waterman blasted Congressman King Peak people knew about the One Love, One People Weekend. No doubt, most students knew or at least heard about the Weekend. Publicity is no excuse why the Colours concert was a whitewash. The director and his staff had performed to perform in order to convey the message. Some people are trying to find a mistake, which is okay, but you're trying to black out the facts or at least come to the individual whose blameworthy. I also believe that the Waterman produced a response that the cause could have been advertised more, I Walton. Kotsch meant to hoon himself to the President of the Student Association stating he has this job for the Weekend. Television stations, which would promote the event, because they had a lot to offer the Colours concert. No one wanted to give interviews and the original radio-co-sponsor backed out. So Colours brought in Z-Rock as the co-sponsor. 15,000 dollars in these didn't occur. For the cancellation of the Colours concert, Student Association took a loss of $2,000 for the co-sponsor, $15,000 dollars for the concert. The fundraising office didn't start planning for the event this was pre-planned with 50 percent of the work done when Colours brought the event. S. A. Colours fundraising was beyond our line of duty trying to make the Colours Concert a Success like Springfest. With all this negative publicity on one event, I don't want to be mistaken. The President's Office has had the great event prepared by the Programming office. Fun Flicks, SUNY night at Boogie's, March American, The Glass House, in a way for $10000 dollars, thanks to the and Springfest fashion show. All of these accomplishments, those who played a major role in the office needed to be recognized. Programming Relation Coordination done for a job well done. From the start to the end of the project everyone that was done in the Programming office have no regrets, because we're the programming staff and board gave the student community what they wanted. The reason for the title the Telev Be Knowns, has to do with individual Student Association who jobs are to step up on. Elizabeth has been a key member in the effort, which the individual responsible for the first last semester grade "Tests Are Cancelled" this using a major amount of time. Students noted that this story was written by Walton, not being a professional individual. Next time you see Richards stopping ask him what events has his office sponsored this season. Richards was perplexed by the least right a lot of words and wisdom. For one who tries to stir things up, there's no way reason why Residential Life Suddenly (Peter removal of his LA position). The reason was he wasn't in good academic standing with the Academic Affairs office to educate students about Academia, you can't blame Richards for doing such a terrible job because who would? Richards was so busy promoting his book that he was given an academic at his University with good academic standing. Let it be stated my position as Programming Director was "interim" major the event Springfest, his position was not a full time position, and he was an academic staff, and administrators who have made any four years of leadership great and interesting. All of this is invited to the President Undergraduate Leadership Awards were I'm Walton. Kotsch a recipient and the and other Bar and Richards are not. In two week I will graduate as move to the next Episode, until next time PEACE!!! Walton Gordon. Peace indeed!
Race, Crime, and Merle Haggard
By Paul Mulshine

Somewhere in the fifth chapter or so of the latest liberal tome on race and crime, I wanted to get out my guitar, call up the book's author, and treat him to an off-key version of the Merle Haggard song, "Mama Tried." Specifically, I'd make him listen to the part where Merle sings, "I turned 21 in prison, doing life without parole. No one could steer me right but mama tried, mama tried." And especially the line that ends, "Now there's only me to blame cause Mama tried." There's a message in there about personal responsibility that even the blackest person should be able to understand. But Michael Tony, author of "Malcolm X's Race and Punishment in America," doesn't get it. Tony, a law professor at the University of Minnesota, is an obvious example of a type we're seeing more and more these days, the liberal.(1) He's recovered. He can tell from his writing that he comprehends something that has gone terribly wrong with the liberal experiment that began with Lyndon Johnson's Great Society. But every time he sums up to the edge of the truth, he backtracks, like a would-be swimmer reluctant to go into water he's already wet up to his knees. Nevertheless, Tony has done us all a valuable service by saying the unsayable and pulling together in one place all the统计ist tracks that have been thoroughly researched, the liberal experiment has failed. Here are some exceptions:

- Blacks have, since the mid-1970s, represented about 45 percent of the incidents of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, although they make up just 13 percent of the population.
- Almost a third of the blacks in California between the ages of 20 and 29 are criminals.
- 42 percent of the blacks aged 18 to 35 in Washington, D.C., are criminals.
- Blacks have 6.4 times the incarceration rate of whites.

This last statistic is particularly interesting. The incarceration rate for blacks is 1,197 per 100,000. For the category of "other races," it is 244 per 100,000. In other words, the other races in America have a lower incarceration rate than either whites or blacks. If America is, as so many liberals and black activists maintain, a racist nation, and if racism causes crime, then why do these other races actually have less crime than whites?

Tony notes that statistics in a table but does not comment on it, perhaps because it undermines the main point on which he and Merle Haggard disagree—that the decision to choose a criminal life represents a personal moral failure. On this point, Haggard has better credentials than Tony. He's at least grown up as a hooligan and did hard time in prison that he ended up earning his living around. When he did, he went around to the people he'd offended and apologized. Then he began to write country songs like "Okie from Muskogee" that were so good that even liberals like Arlo Guthrie couldn't resist playing them.

Tony, unlike Haggard, doesn't think much of the idea that prisons are the answer. What he would like to see is a "treatment of the kind of black who lets his child run wild. Willie Horton comes to mind. In fact, Michael Tony loves Willie Horton. He mentioned Horton 10 or so times in the book. He describes the crimes Horton actually committed. I couldn't recall, unfortunately, so I consulted a newspaper database. I had to search for a clip from a small newspaper in Massachusetts that reported Horton's escape. It was in a paper I actually did to earn his status as an icon of liberal criminals.

I turn out that on a summer night in 1974, Mr. Horton and two friends held up a service station on a deserted stretch of highway. Willie slashed 17-year-old Joey Fourtner to death with a machete, cut off his genitals, and stuffed his body in a trash can. The graveyard he was thrown into was...
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Paul McChesney's last article appeared in the February 1995 issue.
Government Subsidies for the Nation of Islam

By Matthew Robinson

Black Muslim Leonard Muhammad, accompanied by a dozen of his well-dressed and swank-suited security guards, did not come to the Cannon Office Building to bring Congressman Peter King one of his organization’s famous bean pies. He did not come to share his faith in Allah or the wit and wisdom of the Nation of Islam’s Minister Louis Farrakhan. Muhammad appeared instead as a fact-finding mission to discover how many black kings he had on his staff. But everyone knew that the real reason Leonard Muhammad had some calling was to make a show of power to the one man who threatens most federal subsidies to the Nation of Islam ( NOI) and Muhammad’s security forces.

Over the past year and a half, King has been waging a well-funded crusade to reduce federal government sponsorship of one of the most violently anti-Semitic and racist groups in America. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s latest report, NOI’s federal security forces have received more than $30 million in government contracts to patrol public housing projects.

King had a perfect opportunity to make his point on Saturday—Muhammad’s surprise visit. But in the Subcommittee on Banking and Financial Services, held five-and-a-half hours of hearings on the presence of NOI security forces in government and other public buildings. The hearings were an embarrassment to Muhammad and his fellow NOI security forces, because Congresswoman Kink and her fellow Republicans were forced to admit that NIH’s fraud, incompetence, brutality, and contempt for law in patrolling public housing projects, as well as the NOI’s apparent lack of concern about the dollars being used to finance an empire of black racism.

King began his investigation after receiving an anonymous tip in early 1994 from a HUD official. According to King, it was fairly simple. The official explained that NIH, a federal agency, would be “looking over the shoulder” of NOI’s security forces to assure that they were following the rules. The Office of HUD’s security forces was probably targeted in advance to bring down the NOI’s security forces.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development currently has more than 100 contracts with NOI security firms in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and New York. The three main contracts are with NOI’s security firm, its Washington, D.C., office; with NOI’s security firm, its Chicago office, with NOI’s security firm, its New York office; and with NOI’s security firm, its Chicago office. The NOI security forces have been in place for more than a year and a half, according to King, who said that the NOI had been given until last year to disband.

The recent five- and-a-half-hour hearings produced some of the most riveting Congressional testimony in recent memory. The case was heard by Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) attended to denounce the inquiries as “witch hunt.” NOI Security Chief Abdur-Aziz Muhammad declared the hearing was an “informed attack” against the NOI. Abdur-Aziz Muhammad was not alone in his denunciation. NOI officials, including NOI Minister Louis Farrakhan, in a letter to the press secretary, said they were “practicing legitimate intimidation.”

Two of Muhammad’s imposing, red-bow-tied heavies positioned themselves in the Senate in the office hallway for “safety purposes.” The other 10 remaining Praxton guards hovered outside around their leader. Muhammad appeared to be on a fact-finding mission to discover how many black kings he had on his staff. But everyone knew that the real reason Leonard Muhammad had some calling was to make a show of power to the one man who threatens most federal subsidies to the Nation of Islam (NOI) and Muhammad’s security forces.

The NOI security forces began in 1989 when the Fruit of Islam—black Muslims who function as a sort of imperial guard for NOI’s Louis Farrakhan and other NOI leaders—began their volunteer patrols of Washington, D.C.’s Mayfair Mansion and Paradise Manor apartments, where income-assisted tenants live as a contract to deliver pay what they had been previously doing for “charity.”

$ For AIDS Snake Oil

Louis Farrakhan and his Nation of Islam are well-known for their exhortations of self-help and self-determination. They are also famous for their constant fight that the Jews control government and media, and that the black man is in danger of losing his blackness. But the Nation of Islam feeds at the public trough like so many other special interest groups. NIH has used its influence to approve more than $300,000 for security forces (see related story).

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The NOI security forces began in 1989 when the Fruit of Islam—black Muslims who function as a sort of imperial guard for NOI’s Louis Farrakhan and other NOI leaders—began their volunteer patrols of Washington, D.C.’s Mayfair Mansion and Paradise Manor apartments, where income-assisted tenants live as a contract to deliver pay what they had been previously doing for “charity.”

$ For AIDS Snake Oil

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The Department of Housing and Urban Development currently has more than 100 contracts with NOI security firms in Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and New York. The three main contracts are with NOI’s security firm, its Washington, D.C., office; with NOI’s security firm, its Chicago office, with NOI’s security firm, its New York office; and with NOI’s security firm, its Chicago office. The NOI security forces have been in place for more than a year and a half, according to King, who said that the NOI had been given until last year to disband.

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The Wit and Wisdom of the Nation of Islam

"Nobody tells you the way they should be told to. When somebody says something that might upset the Jews, they say, 'Don't say that because it is anti-Semitic. So you mince or you shut your mouth.' But Farrakhan ain't running nowhere."

—Louis Farrakhan
March 4, 1990, Palm Beach, Florida

"Hiter, with his magnificent oratory, made a people in Germany and it took the whole world to keep him in a permanent state of paroxysm. I had him in a permanent state of paroxysm. I killed him in a permanent state of paroxysm."

—Louis Farrakhan
March 9, 1984, University of Mass, Amherst

"said the black holocaust was a hundred times worse than the holocaust of the Jews. And, when I said that, some of the Jews get angry: 'How dare you compare our suffering with yours.' But let me tell you what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad said. He said for every thousand years of the white race's existence on earth, one million of the original people have been put to death. So in six thousand years, you have murdered six million black people."

—Louis Farrakhan
February 24, 1992, Chicago, Illinois

"white" history is written in the blood of the human family. It comes out of you like a weed comes out of a spider."

—Louis Farrakhan
February 27, 1994, Chicago, Illinois

"Murder and lying comes easy for white people. They never gotta tell. Your history is息息 associated with the blood of all human beings and you come in taking us, deceiving us, then killing us."

—Louis Farrakhan
February 27, 1994, Chicago, Illinois

"I hope nobody wastes my time and effort to try to tell me that there are some good Jews. The law of averages says three probably are God even managed to get three people out of Sodom."

—Abdul Muhammad
April 13, 1994, Final Call, Column

"Why would you call [new] bloodsuckers? Number one, because they are bloodsuckers. I am not going to change that. Our legal system talks about the bloodsuckers of the poor in the supreme wisdom of the Nation of Islam."

—Abdul Muhammad
February 19, 1994, Balentine, Maryland

"I don't tell my baby about no Crispus Attucks, who was the first to die in the American Revolution. He should die.opped a bullet for the freedom."

—Abdul Muhammad
February 19, 1994, Balentine, Maryland

"I think in our case, Congressman, this is not a situation where you are funding a hate group. You are actually funding a love group..."

—Leonard R. C. Moss, March 1, 1995

Hearing, U.S. House of Representatives
A League of Their Own

By Craig L. Rymowtiz

As the ground crews for the San Francisco State University Gators prepare the football field for the next school year, for the first time in 64 years they won’t be hauling out goalposts or chalking the grass every 10 yards. At SF State, football is a thing of the past.

The Gators are not the victims of declining attendance or a losing record—they had survived both of those setbacks—but of Title IX. Initially passed in 1972 to eliminate sex discrimination in educational achievements resulting from federal funds, Title IX marched affirmatively into action in that it was transformed by U.S. Department of Education bureaucrats and advocacy groups into a mandate for anything different from what in the institutes envisioned. Title IX was supposed to promote gender equality in all college sports. In the hands of special interest groups it became a de facto means to stifle a robust variety of gender equality by any means necessary.

"The feminist movement...[had] ignored issues in sports until recently and then they realized it was something they could cash in on," says Wendy Fawkes, a sportswriter with the Associated Press. "For some, this has been a way to achieve the same equitable logic that advanced women in other areas. For others, it means that the female student athlete has to work harder to achieve the same level of success that a male athlete can achieve.

Title IX has had a profound effect on college athletics. The numbers of women participating in college sports have increased dramatically. In 1972, only 5% of college athletes were women. By 1990, that number had increased to 40% of college athletes.

However, the increased participation of women in college sports has not been without controversy. Critics argue that Title IX has led to a decrease in the quality of men's sports programs. They claim that colleges have cut men's sports programs to balance their athletic budgets and to comply with Title IX mandates.

While the controversy continues, it is clear that Title IX has had a significant impact on college athletics. The increased participation of women in college sports has led to greater opportunities for female athletes and has helped to bridge the gender gap in sports participation.

To learn more about the impact of Title IX on college sports, read the following article: "A League of Their Own" by Craig L. Rymowtiz.
The court held that while both a man and a woman coach basketball teams, that was where their job ended. In addition, the school district started to take seriously the intent of Title IX to be enforced, and who is responsible. A who's who of women's and liberal activities including the Women's Sports Foundation, the National Women's Law Center, and the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, the Women's Legal Defense Fund, the Feminist Majority, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, the ACLU, the Young Women's Christian Association and others submitted testimony in defense of the constitutionality and continued enforcement of Title IX before a House Education Subcommittee.

Washington is full of prominent soccer critics, with well-paid staff members working full time looking for ways to get more girls for girls' and women's sports with no answering whistle to the sport's beleaguered boys' men, "says Christian Samuels, "and in the case of Title IX they have been working overtime," pushing the concept of supply and demand, they have engaged in a campaign to show that there is a real shortage of girls in women's sports, not only at the college level but at the high school level as well. Ironically, as a long tradition of football comes to an end, as a result of the Supreme Court's ruling, some states are offering a range of sports for girls that have been dropped or reduced in other states.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has rejected the idea of creating new women's athletic departments and has given schools the option of maintaining their existing programs or of joining a conference with existing programs.

Craig L. Hymera is a fellow with the Investigative Journalism Project of the Center for the Study of Public Culture. Additional research by Michael Barretto.
A photo of a woman standing in front of a military vehicle.

Drill instructors: Bringing Up Baby?

After the Army stopped the gender integration without explanation in 1982, it went back to separate training for men and women. But the debate continued, along with the search for a new way to train. A study by Dr. David Robertson at the University of Connecticut's Research and Development Center in San Diego tested 350 new Army recruits to find the best way to prepare them for combat. The results showed that male and female recruits were able to perform all tasks equally, but that male recruits were more efficient in certain tasks.

After the Panama canal war, new impetus for lifting combat restrictions for both women in the war, and the Gulf War provided a chance to test the validity of gender integration within the military. The Pentagon and media praised the performance of the 35,000 women who served in that conflict. But sociologist Charles Moskos points out, soldiers of any sex can carry a handgun and make a mark. Over half rated women's performance as fair or poor.

This was not merely a subjective assessment. In September 1992, Col. William Grier, professor of advanced military studies at Fort Leavenworth, testified to the Presidential Commission on the Assignment of Women in the Military that the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) scores for female officers were significantly lower, already at the upper end of the female population's potential. "Additional training, even heaerl_MPI effort," said Grier, "will not significantly change the results." These results showed that despite a few week's additional training, the most marginal male recruit can surpass the performance of the best-trained women. Grier also noted that adopting a male APFT would still mean that 70 percent of women would fail and no one would receive an APFT Badge because not a single woman achieved a score equal to what men must meet to get the badge.

After an APFT, the women were introduced to a three-month study with 50 women to determine whether they could be conditioned to meet male fitness standards. Details of the study have not been released, but Grier concluded that "officials found that they could not be." While some women can reach the lower ranges of male ability, they are operating at the peak of their performance and are therefore under maximum stress. Col. Grier testified that finding one woman out of 100 who can meet standards as opposed to 60 percent of men who can means that Army has in effect "just traded 60 out of 100 for the prospects of getting one." But these "cost considerations," along with the physical data acquired over the last 15 years, have proved no obstacle to realities like Pat Schroeder, who won an anti-military seat in the 1984 and '86, out by the time of the Clinton administration, had changed the name of the military from a ring to a circle.

Pat Schroeder "does not like the military at all," Kent Adrion, Martin Cunliffe told the N.Y. Times. "She's always negative on military procurement." James Bush, a retired Navy captain who twice served as Schroeder's staff defence expert, says that Schroeder refuses to meet with those who disagree with her. Esther Schnitzler of the liberal Center for Defense Information says that these men are merely threatened by Schroeder because her position in Congress makes her a "woman in a position to control the fate of boy's toys."

During the Cold War, Schroeder opposed virtually every effort to bolster our defenses (especially the construction of new aircraft carriers), to support our allies, and to cut back on military expenditures, attracting all East-West tensions to our own machines and xenophobia. But by the late '80, the liberal Grover Cleveland in Congress were interested in using the U.S. military as the ideal institution to implement their race/sexual/steel orientation/class division. (As one-time Secretary of the N.Y. James Webb puts it, "the military has become a test tube for social experimentation."). The incoming Clinton administration gave the PC forces a long-awaited window of opportunity to turn their agenda into a forced march.

Partly due to the efforts of Pat Schroeder, the Marine Corps now spends more on female housing than on ammunition ($152 million versus $312 million). But when Marine General Carl Mosby notified the number of married enlisted, Schroeder, appearing on The MacNeil Lehrer NewsHour, dismissed him as a cultural Neanderthal who had "taken leave of his senses," adding, "even the Pope allows his swimm's to be married." As in the case, the congresswoman was mistaken. Unlike U.S. Marines, who recently rescued a drowned U.S. pilot in Bousia, the Swiss army never deploy on dangerous missions thousands of miles from home. They serve for seven years before they are allowed to marry, and the Vatican does not accept married Swiss recruits.

When James Webb demanded that Schroeder apologize for insulting Gen. Mundy, she said he had no sense of humor. Webb shot back that a number of aviators had lost their careers because Pat Schroeder had no sense of humor about the risk airs Navy flyers had staged about her in San Diego.

Nor did she have a sense of humor about Tallbook.

...with which she plunged into a political wasteland. Schroeder used the scandal to leverage the military into opening all occupations, including combat, to women. She led the charge to put women's rights into the fight for women's rights, creating a policy in place, and, despite glowing reviews in Time magazine, showing decidedly mixed results. (The press, which was uniformly critical of initial Navy requests on Tallbook, was uniformly supportive of initial National reports holding that the death of F-14 aviator Kara Hultgren, a "Jackie Robinson" to Schroeder's cause, was due to maintenance failure.) Schroeder introduced the legislation to overturn the ban on homostrous in the military. She proposed an amendment to cut the number of troops in Europe from 100,000 to 80,000 at which the Department of Defense wanted. She pushed through a measure that entitled divorced spouses to the retirement benefits of their ex-spouses.

In 1989, Schroeder told The Washington Post that she wanted job assignments in the military to be determined by individual qualifications rather than by definitions of combat that have become "ahistorical in modern warfare." But Schroeder's advocacy of equal opportunity for women did not include the requirement that women serve in all occupations. This is not to say that the Colorado Democrat is apathetic to the physical disparities between the sexes, however, in that she has given an open statement: "The physical nature which stubbornly stands between women and their male counterparts in the military..."

One of Schroeder's pet projects is the Defense Women's Health Research Project. Her office somewhat disapprovingly describes this as "an attempt to bring those of us who have had to do the research for the rest of us" and describes the research as "the co-ed work force rebuilding." But one of her current studies suggests that this project is trying to trump nature and create the female cyborg soldier. The Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine in Natick, Massachusetts, is engaging $4,000,000 in an attempt to bring women into the strength and fitness range of men. Project leader Dr. Joel Rees notes that women aged 18-32 and paid them $500 each to undergo weightlifting and aerobic five times a week for 24 weeks, under the guidance of an experienced strength coach. The women also carried a 40-pound pack for two miles as fast as possible, repeatedly lifted 40-pound box, and performed other demanding exercises.

He observed that right now the women are "almost completely out of the male range" and that "the strongest female is generally weaker than the middle male while women typically have 55-60 percent of the upper-body strength of men, his goal is to bring it up to 70 percent."

"The public perception persists that the experiment will fail and that women will never make women as strong as men," writes military expert William Grier. "The fact that this answer is already known, but ignored, is as an issue of data, it is the material of politics. "The subjects of Schroeder's attempts to create a super-female," says Grier, "will be working under Olympic trials to achieve what male contemporaries achieve through routine training." In response to one subject who told his press that "it is useless to amuse and it should do the same kind of gender," Grier says, in the world of sports if some muscles are special and the additional expense... You can't throw biology.

Yet this is what Schroeder and others are doing - spending millions to do. Secretary of the Army Leroy West, an engineer and lawyer with only four years of military experience (and in that a bureaucratic role), has revealed that the Pentagon now pays less to women in the military that the department of veterans affairs for a disaster in the 1978-82 period. Press reports say that last year West visited soldiers at Fort Jackson who had participated in tests, which the Army has kept secret and which included, in one case, an anti-aircraft gun which was left to train by side by side. An Army press release says that "all training will be without favoritism and accomplished to the full satisfaction of the Army's needs."

And James Webb, the senator from South Carolina who sponsored the bill, has already made a public statement that "Fort Jackson and Leonard Wood, that can only be reference to "dual standards."

For example, men are required to do 32 pushups in two minutes, the women 13. The obsolete code for women is different, and the required time for the two sets is slower. And the present experiment is finding of some of the same realities about female psychology and
You find the women are more emotional," Lt. Col. Ron Perry of Fort Leonard Wood told the Washington Post. "For instance, when they stand on the rifle range and are told they've failed, many of the women will break down, while the guys will kick at some and come out." Military brass staunchly deny it, but there is abundant evidence that gender-integrated training has lowered standards across the board. As The Denver Post recently pointed out, at Fort Knox recruits have traded combat boots for running shoes and now are allowed to go around a 6-foot wall they were previously required to scale. Formerly mandatory overnight bivouacs may now be canceled because of bad weather. And one training march avoids Heartbreak Hill, which some deemed too tough.

At Fort Leonard Wood, Pvt. Vanessa Overhaus, a 19-year-old from Buffalo, broke down and cried on the first day of training. Then she fell five times on the obstacle course, forcing several officers to walk her through the ravine. After seven tries later, she scaled the wall. Like most of the women, she now feels better about herself, but her physical limitations remain.

There are social aspects as well as physical ones. Even the most generous press reports acknowledge continual complaints from the women over bathroom and shower facilities. Sgt. Steven Bieck of Fort Leonard Wood said that higher rates of injuries and sick call with female trainees have handicapped training, as they did in the 1982 experiment. The male recruits think the drill sergeants would be much tougher on them without women around.

Army spokesperson Jacqueline Mottam echoes Army claims that all is well, that everybody in the military loves the policy, and that the women are performing as well as the men, but according to Col. Robert Magoffin and other critics of the feminization of the military, performance can only be rated equal by changing definitions of cohesion and "solidification." Magoffin says, "They changed the whole modus operandi of the basic training." Women make up about 12 percent of America's 1.5 million troops on active duty, a greater proportion than of any other nation. According to Col. William Copper, however, there is a real need for careerists and officers.

"We arbitrarily exclude 40 percent of our men from military service," he says. "Having blocked suitable males from enlistment, does it then make sense to adopt special training methods just for women? Given declining training budgets, why should the Army embark on a specialized training effort to achieve what normal training methods would otherwise do?"

The former Army trainers hold no doubt that the PC contingent in Congress and its allies in the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services will be satisfied with nothing less than women in front-line combat. Yet unlike the PC forces, these women have actually engaged in combat and understand what the new policy will mean. They estimate that the current gender-integrated training has reduced our readiness by 5 percent and that women in combat would reduce it by 30 percent.

"This is social engineering at its worst," says former Navy Secretary Webb, a Vietnam vet whose article, "Women Can't Fight," got him barred from the Naval Academy for four years. (Possession of the article, members of a presidential commission were told, can constitute sexual harassment at the academies.) "The problem is purely objective terms is that it doesn't stress the men. Females fall behind in the aggregate and you basically water down the training." Webb adds that "the greatest damage of this issue is how the political process has pervaded the sense of integrity of the officer corps. When the commander of a ship stands up in front of the world and says none of these pregnancies occurred on board ship, every sailor in the Navy knows they are lying. When you see your leaders as hypocrites, integrity goes out the window."

In his early days as a comic, Bill Cosby had a funny routine about a reformer who handed out the rules of engagement before every war. But real wars are no laughing matter, and there are no referees. In a real war, Vanessa Overhaus will have only one chance, not seven, to get over the obstacle, and when she fails she will be shot dead along with those male soldiers leading her a hand. Their blood will dry out from the ground, all the way to the Capitol Hill offices of Pat Schroeder and her comrades who have been engaging in their own war against nature on this side.
History Standards, continued from page 1 and the attack is just another assault by the political right on those who are trying to broaden the approach to the American experience and make it more "inclusive."

According to the Standards Project, historians Gary Nash and Charlotte Crabtree of the University of California, wrote off any criticism as an attempt by "right-wing big hitters" to "stop progress toward creating more challenging and comprehensive classroom material for the study of history." The standards, they wrote, were "politically correct," only partially true, and that they and Crabtree claim to have nothing less in mind as a goal than helping to create a new framework for critical thinking and appraising historical issues.

"This is a truly worthy goal," to which few would object. Trained to look at the sources for verification, I decided to look past the words of The New York Times and of the Standards Project. I claimed, particularly those who provided for my own work of specialization as an historian—20th-century America, the Cold War, and the age of McCarthyism in the United States. Do these sections of the Standards Project promise to create a new framework for critical thinking? To answer the question, I examined the volume titled National Standards for United States History: Exploring the American Experience, Grades 5-12, expanded edition (from the National Center for History in the Schools, UCLA, Los Angeles).

At first glance, it is clear that these standards are too demanding and assume an acquaintance with the historical narrative of the past that is surely beyond most of our high school students. They are filled with interpretive essays that require an immersion in factual material that the student has not previously been exposed to. And many of the areas presented show what Walter D. McPherson calls, in an nascissistic essay to Commentary, "an ideological double standard that gives American events the most favorable possible interpretation."

In the context of the Cold War, the students are written from the perspective of those whose aims are simply not as morally equivalent. Consider this statement from the Standards Project on the Soviet Union and the United States: "It is clear that the Cold War was not fought on the basis of moral values, but it is equally clear that the moral values of the American people were not as strongly influenced by the events of the Cold War period."

In their introductory judgments, therefore, the authors conclude that our country made the better choice. Confronted with the Cold War, they suggest, students to interpret and discuss—provide a system of criteria whose students toward what they obviously feel are the right answers.

This syndrome is even more evident in the postwar America sections on McCarthyism, Communism, and national security. For instance, the American history text book by A. B. Calvert, The American Experience: 1865-1985, published by Prentice Hall, Inc., 1987, now tell students of the Cold War's impact and importance of the Hiss and Rosenberg cases as an example. This is important not, first of all, that the most recent historical scholarship has made clear that the Cold War is a period of the 20th century, and that the Cold War cannot be seen in only one way. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War rhetoric, and it was a period of extreme Cold War politics. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War thought, and it was a period of extreme Cold War culture. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War literature, and it was a period of extreme Cold War film. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War art, and it was a period of extreme Cold War music. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War science, and it was a period of extreme Cold War technology. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War politics, and it was a period of extreme Cold War culture. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War thought, and it was a period of extreme Cold War art. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War science, and it was a period of extreme Cold War technology. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War art, and it was a period of extreme Cold War music. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War science, and it was a period of extreme Cold War technology. The Cold War was a period of extreme Cold War art, and it was a period of extreme Cold War music.

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HETEROXY

for example, to control Eastern Europe by destroying the democratic and socialist democratic alternatives via the imposition of Stalinist regimes brought in at gun point—such ideas are dismissed by the very grammarians of the argument. Students are led to the desired invariable Cold War revisionism, i.e., Hidden U.S. goals interfered with the legitimate needs of the Soviets for security—hence the unnecessary Cold War.

Ravitch has worked tirelessly for the creation of tough-minded national standards, and she has undoubtedly heard the current history standards can be reformed and become relevant. But judging from the kind of attacks launch by Gary Nash and his colleagues on those who have raised criticism, her hope are probably ill-founded.

The U.S. Senate debate on the standards, the main point about the treatment of the Cold War was stated most eloquently by Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn). Referring to the quotes cited above on the Cold War, Lieberman said that such boilerplate does not give students "the sense that conflict indeed resulted in all of history's battlefields." By describing the Cold War as simply a struggle for power, its authors showed "little awareness that the world faced a major conflict over ideas, over the nature of democracy."

Thus, the senator concluded, the standards were "inadequate, to put it mildly, insulting, to put it more honestly and directly.

Lieberman is right. By the terms of judgment advanced by Nash and Crabtree—that "the standards must provide a balanced approach to the study of history"—the course already has already flunked the course. The question is why, despite so much-on-target public criticism of the inherent bias of the standards, do Nash and others persist in arguing that they are non-partisan, objective scholars whose sole desire is to promote an "adequate" understanding of history?

That is simply not the case. The problem is not with the teaching of history but with students' attitudes towards the course. History is a skill that takes time and effort to learn, and it is important for students to understand the importance of critical thinking and research skills.

Furthermore, students often have a limited understanding of how history is taught and how it is evaluated. It is important for students to develop their own critical thinking skills and to think independently about the material they are learning.

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The bombing of Hiroshima can only be justified by "the argument that winning the war by other means would have been equally costly and would have taken a lot longer." On this point May has little to add: "I cannot believe that the Japanese would have surrendered in their home islands, however poor their prospects, without a bloody, mistrial fight, or an order from the Emperor. This last was eventually produced largely by the two bombs." Or, as Professor Robert J. Maddow writes in the current issue of American Heritage, the Japanese troop buildup on the island of Kyushu alone revealed that they might have one million troops assembled in time to fight the scheduled invasion date.

"The assertion that the Japanese surrendered because of the atomic atrocities," Maddow writes, "is insufficient to explain Truman's use of the bomb, because, therefore, we cannot be taken seriously. Yet the power of the bomb alone that controls the profession of American history is such that the fiction persists that the bombs would have been used only because of right-wing "pressure groups."

The dog in mind, there may be a misunderstanding in the history profession, including in particular the group that prepared the National Standards. It is perhaps the clearest evidence that even for sound revision of the standards will not be forthcoming. The authors of the standards, after all, are amongst the group of American historians who, Stephen Ambrose wrote recently in The Wall Street Journal, write in "black, Indian, Hispanic and other minority history, gay and lesbian history, and multicultural history...the subjects that academic historians do much of their research in, and most of their teaching." Yet there is little teaching about our traditional heroes, such as the Founding Fathers, and when it does take place it is dismissed as "triangulation.

Ambrose, unlike Professors Nash and Crabtree, understands that "we are children being cheated. They have a legacy that comes from they know not where, paid for by men whose names they scarcely know (or, if they do know them, it is as shareholders, imperialists, Daddy Warbucks, or Dr. Strangelove), as a price they cannot comprehend."
Scientists Discover The Real Cause of AIDS!

But the media and the government don't want you to know about it!

The news media blackout by the Government!

If you're wondering why you haven't read this vital information before, it's because the Government is doing everything in its power to keep you from hearing it.

Time after time, when Dr. Daniel and others have tried to get their messages out through the press, the story gets mysteriously "killed." This has happened with newspapers, magazines, and even the TV networks.

In every AIDS case, there is an annoyingly deadly factor present which has been deliberately covered up and ignored!

In the words of one of Dr. Daniel's top medical analysts at Berkeley, Mrs. Brian Eilers, who was interviewed for this story on Dr. Daniel's View of AIDS.

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Babes in Toyland
REVIEWED BY NICK GILLESPIE

Generational sniping is as American as apple pie—and twice as filling. In the 20th century, it has its roots in Gertrude Stein's proclamation—used by Hemingway to preface his 1924 novel The Sun Also Rises—"You are all a lost generation." Suddenly, it became chic, even imperative, to discuss generational identity in terms of loss and exclusion. Every "generation" (however dubiously defined or ambiguously constituted) since the '20s has carpentered that it somehow especially missed the boat or, more precisely, was unfairly held back while the ship sailed on. Indeed, there are only lost generations in America, and they are always a day late, a dollar short, and mad as hell about the injustice of it all.

The latest variation on this theme, of course, "Generation X" (GenX for short), a sobriquet lifted from Douglas Coupland's 1991 novel of the same name. "Generation X" refers to what can be called a "lost" segment of America's youth too young to remember the Kennedy assassination and too old to have missed the end of disco," writes Douglas Rushkoff in his introduction to The GenX Reader. As with all generational movements, exactly who belongs is an essential but far from clear-cut matter. Newsweek, no more authoritative on this matter than in reporting hard news, deifies GenXers as ably young—kids born between 1965 and 1975. To further muddy the waters, most people use Generation X interchangeably with "twentysomethings," a term more or less coined in 1988 by Washington, D.C.-based journalist Jefferson Morley. Nowadays, twenty-somethings would have been born between 1965 and 1975. But back then, Morley, whose essay "Twentysomething" is included in The GenX Reader, used it to describe people "born sometime after Brown v. Board of Education, sometime before the Kennedy assassination" who possessed what he called a "70s sensibility." (Full disclosure: Born in 1965, I am by some definitions a member of Generation X.) But births are daunting. In the June issue of Details, the 33-year-old Coupland—sort of the GenX Sinatra—proclaims, "The media refers to anybody aged 13 to 39 as Xers. Which is only further proof that X is a term that defines not a chronological age but a way of looking at the world."

The GenX Reader attempts to map out the contours of that world view. It contains a mix of magazine articles, book excerpts, snippets of fiction and screenplays, interviews, and comics. The contributors' list boasts a number of GenX heavyweights, including Coupland (represented by an interview with Sim, a few pages from his badly received second novel Shampoo Planet), Richard Linklater (writer/director of the seminal GenX film Slacker), Life in Hell and Simpsons creator Matt Groening, and cartoonists Shigeru Mizuki and R.U. Sirius (original editor-in-chief of the trend-setting zine Mean Machine).

Two central themes link most of the contributors. The first is an urban contempt for baby boomers who came of age during the '60s. Trampling predecessors is, of course, fully in keeping with how generations define themselves. And how could it not be? After all, they've been served and served consumers. Not only did the counterculture stink, much ink unfairly decrying the '60s generation as "counterproductive." "Counterproductive" can mean anything, but it's often used to upbraid those of us unlucky enough to follow it as apathetic and self-involved.

The second theme revolves around the epistemological foundation of GenX's ironic distance. "Exposed to consumerism and public relations strategies since we could open our eyes, we Xers see through the clunky attempts to manipulate our opinions and actions. We believe in the joke," says Rushkoff. "When we watch commercials, we ignore the products and instead deconstruct the marketing techniques."

In some of the Reader's selections, the laborious debunking and dismantle is put to good use. An excerpt from Katie Roiphe's The Morning After, for instance, interestingly challenges the definitive expression of sexual assault posited by certain academic theorists. Other pieces, from, say, "deconstructing" suburban or opaque contexts, merely trade in cultural observations. Mark Frauenfelder's "Reports from Gen-X" is a notable exception; originally published in BoingBoing, it consists such insights as, "The full of communism was welcomed by everybody except arm and toy makers." After spending time wondering the aisles of the store, he concludes, "Lemme outta here!"

And yet, for all its emphasis on irony, The GenX Reader is often painfully sincere and lacking any self-awareness. Rushkoff's generation, one notes, has been here before, done this. Rushkoff, for instance, writes that his anthology's "is a collection of Generation X's most revered voices... which demonstrates... that while twenty-somethings may indeed have dropped out of American culture as traditionally defined, we also stand as a testament to American ingenuity, optimism, instinct, and brilliance."

Rushkoff, whose facility with hyperbole is matched only by his aptitude for self-derision, absconds, "[T]hese texts reveal... unprecedented moral and intellectual courage to confront issues... rather than cover them... Our own writings tell a story very different from those of our elders. A story that hasn't been told before."

Far from individuating GenX, however, such claims roost in an apocalyptic exegesis from every American looking from Ralph Waldo Emerson through Tom Hayden. Just as every generation is fast, so too is it the first to discover truth, justice, and the American way. Such a blind spot makes it difficult to believe that Generation X is somehow locked against manipulation. That the GenX world view is so heavily and untrivially informed by media-driven accounts of economic, environmental, and cultural doomdogs only drives the point home. Rushkoff, consistent with the overall tone of the collection, speaks of inheriting a stripe-mapped, socialistic wasteland: "We watched as baby boomers went to college, got big jobs, crashed the economy, and left nothing but McJobs—low-wage mental employment or temperature— for their vastly overqualified little brothers and sisters."

That's a vividly drawn scene, but one not overly everymanly. Indeed, according to management consultant firm McKinsey & Co., between 1980-1990 employment growth in the United States grew by 47 percent in professional, technical, administrative, and managerial fields and 27 percent in clerical, sales, and service jobs. McKinsey also found that, contrary to most media reports, the wage distribution in the U.S. service sector is almost identical to the distribution in manufacturing. In short, whatever the young Turks, they seem to like them: A recent poll of 4,300 workers by Wyatt Co. consultants found that workers under 30 were more satisfied with their jobs than any other age group.

The selection from the recently disbanded GenX political pressure group Lead or Leave makes more specific but equally distant assertions. For instance, it claims that "13,3 percent of all 16- to 24-year-olds in America are high-school dropouts," implying this is an upward trend. In fact, the percentage of people finishing high school has been inching steadily since the late 1960s and is currently at a near all-time high of 86 percent. Lead or Leave also states that, "In spending on elementary and secondary public school education, the U.S. ranks 17th among the industrialized countries of the OEC, Japan, and Australia."

Leaving aside the fact that most education studies don't support the implicit correlation that more money means better education, Rushkoff's statement is flat-out wrong. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, an international advisory group, the United States spends more than France on grammar and High School education ($5,780 versus $3,785); Australia spends only $2,626 (figures for Italy are not available).

So the material conditions undermining the Generation X perspective are perhaps less real than imagined—how ironic. None of it was even mentioned. In his recent Details article, Coupland, reminiscent of Jack Kerouac abdicating his role as King of the Beats, writes, "I'm here to say that X is over. I'd like to see a generation move over all the noise. He offers this even correction line: "Refuse to participate in all generational debates." Heeding that advice will, of course, only serve to create new generational movements. Rushkoff, Hemingwayally thinking followed up Gertrude Stein's aphorism with a verse from Ecclesiastes: "One generation passes away and another generation comes. Can we only wonder how Generation X will mature and transfigure as it ages and draws closer to establishing institutional and political power. Strange things will happen, no doubt, and they will certainly require a good measure of ironic distance.

Who, after all, would have thought that it was the same baby boomers who once chucked free speech as an anachronism would now be championing embattled Christians with equal fervor? Who would have thought that the first beemer president, a man who once organized demonstrations against his government, would later declare the use of "inflammatory rhetoric" aimed at the media and make the country hungry for someone, anyone, of the previous generation who served in World War II?

Nick Gillespie is the assistant editor of Reason, a national commentary magazine based in Los Angeles.
The long-awaited premiere of the opera High Noon at Twin Towers by Gilbert & Sullivan took place last night at the Metropolitan Opera, during a rare period of relative calm amid the storm of controversy that has surrounded this, the cross-epoch production.

While parking lot criers cried the half-funny sign reading "Sell-Out and Death to Censorship Towers," there were few actual death threats imposed by the management and none had been carried out as of last night.

The initial difficulties arose when the Arab Anti-Violification Alliance learned that the libretto presented events more or less as they had occurred in the real-life bombing of the World Trade Center by an Arab terrorist, although High Noon at Twin Towers also had a sub-plot describing the murder of a belt-bomber, a heroic 18-year-old security guard, as he attempted to rescue an elderly woman. After a period of intense protest by the Arab community, it was reported, although never confirmed, that spokespersons for AAVA visited composer Malik at his home last night and persuaded him that the story should be presented in such a way as to avoid casting Arabs in a negative light. Mr. Malik is said to have agreed after a very brief discussion.

Once the revised Act 2 was deemed acceptable to AAVA, rehearsals were begun, but trouble arose once again after the casting was completed and it was revealed that not one Arab terrorist had been engaged for any of the terrorist roles. While the Met's director, Calvin Flanger, noted that there was was 'no Arab terrorist known to have mastered music,' Rana Ahmad Abdelmalek, spokesperson for the International Association for the Advancement of Arabs in the Arts, insisted that the issue was important enough for the production to be suspended until such Arabs could be trained for the parts. Further, he explained that only someone who had endured the anguish of killing innocent people could sing these roles with any conviction.

Work on High Noon at Twin Towers was halted, while suitable singers were being found; work resumed after two and a half years of intense preparation.

Other obstacles remained, however. When it was discovered that the baritone hired for the role of Mr. Shonder was only 45 years old, the Grey Alliance threatened to boycott the work unless an appropriately senior singer was cast in the part. Management responded by insisting that if a Black soprano could portray an Italian cowgirl, a middle-aged man could portray an elderly maid. They noted that while the role of the widow had similarly been filled by a singer not yet eligible for Medicare, the infield widow had been rather young-looking. However, the Grey Alliance refused to yield and presented a list of retired singers from which several were finally selected and hired.

At last rehearsals began—a full three years after completion of the opera.