



The

# Key Reporter

Phi Beta Kappa  
Founded 1776

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## ΦBK Welcomes Nominations for Senate

All members of the Phi Beta Kappa Society are invited to nominate new candidates for the ΦBK Senate. The Society's leadership is giving high priority to ensuring that the Senate reflects the diverse careers of Phi Beta Kappa's members, including those outside the academic world.

This goal is supported by the report of an ad hoc committee, appointed when Frederick Crosson was president of the Society, and chaired by Senator Alonzo Hamby. Its mandate was to examine the question of increasing the number of Senate members who do not work in higher education. The committee members agreed to urge the Triennial Council Nominating Committee to recruit and nominate candidates who would enlarge the representation on the Senate of ΦBK members from a variety of vocations.

That committee is chaired by former Senator Virginia Ferris, professor of entomology at Purdue University.

This summer it will select the slate that will be presented to the next Triennial Council when it meets August 6-10, 2003, in Seattle.

Members of the committee until 2003 are: Annemarie Weyl Carr, profes-

sor and chair of the Division of Art History, Southern Methodist University; Professor Ferris; Ramon Saldivar, professor of English and comparative literature, Stanford University; and

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## Kenneth Koch's "New Addresses" Wins Inaugural Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award

The winner of the inaugural Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award is Kenneth Koch, an acclaimed poet, dramatist and librettist. Established by a gift from the Winston Foundation, the award was presented to Koch in November at the Society's national headquarters in Washington, D.C. He received \$10,000 and a bronze medal for his winning volume, "New Addresses."

The judge was John Ashbery, a distinguished American poet, playwright, novelist and critic. Nearly 200 poets submitted their published works for the award.

Koch and the four other finalists read from their works the evening before the award presentation in a public program at the Library of Congress, attended by Ashbery. The readings were introduced by Billy Collins, making his first public appearance as the U.S. poet laureate. (Excerpts from Collins' presentation, and a poem that Koch read at the program, are on page 4.)

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1925, Koch said he "wrote the first poem I liked

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The proprietor of the Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg had a surprise for Joseph W. Gordon, president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, at its 225th anniversary celebration. He presented a bill for damage done by 18th century ΦBK members, from smashed wine glasses to a broken chamber pot. Gordon's quick reply: "Do you take plastic?" For more Williamsburg photos, see pages 6-7.

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## The Motto is the Name

By John Churchill  
Secretary, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

In the office of the Secretary at Phi Beta Kappa's national headquarters, I found a closet crammed with the sorts of things that office closets accumulate. Among the legal pads and cardboard boxes of forgotten memorabilia were two gavels. Both bore the signs of use. The heavier of the two was pecan-colored, with a silver

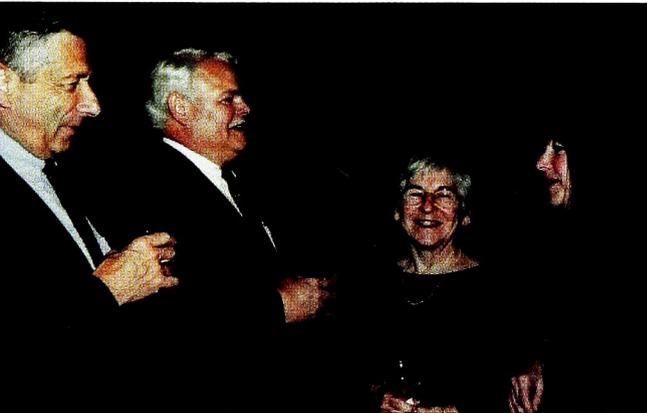
band. The inscription identified this gavel as a gift of the Alpha Chapter of Virginia—the College of William & Mary, of course. It stated that the gavel was made from the wood of “the ancient live oak which stood at the College gate.” The second, lighter in weight but darker in hue, bore the legend, “Gift of the Alpha Chapter of Connecticut.” The inscription stated that the wood came from “an old Yale elm.” I thought how appropriate it was to have these gavels on hand, one from the mother chapter and one from the first of the New England chapters, representing the region that sustained the Society through the 19th century.

As I discovered, these gavels are used at Senate and Council meetings. Not mere relics, they are used to call these bodies to order, to

adjourn them, and in between to mark the conduct of business. It occurred to me that the gavel is an apt emblem of the processes that govern democratic societies. As a kind of hammer, a gavel is a striking instrument. It carries in its form and use a reminder of power's embodiment in coercion. But the power of the gavel lies in its sound. Rapped lightly or vigorously, with a perfunctory tap or an energetic pounding, the sound of the gavel signifies the authority of the speaker's voice. The meeting is in session when the right person with the gavel says it is; the motion has passed when the chair, having called the vote correctly, declares that it has passed. And so on. This sort of authority rests on an agreement that when we have done this in that way, we accept the outcome. The gavel is the embodiment of this agreement.

The governance of a voluntary association like Phi Beta Kappa rests directly and vitally on agreement of the sort symbolized by the gavel. But the gavels of Phi Beta Kappa govern unusually complex structures. Those structures reflect the differing political sensibilities that have dominated the various epochs of the Republic whose birth year we share. Our Jeffersonian sensibilities express themselves in the primacy of local bodies—chapters and associations—who carry out the work of Phi Beta Kappa, but who gather only infrequently in the tri-

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John Churchill chats with Don Lamm, left,  $\Phi$ BK Publications Committee chair, Helen Bethell, and Anne Fadiman, right, editor of *The American Scholar*.

## Murray Drabkin to Lead Fellows

Murray Drabkin of Washington, D.C. has been elected president of The Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. Other new officers are John David Alexander of Claremont, Calif., vice president; Mary J.C. Cresimore, Raleigh, N.C., second vice president; and Jack B. Williams, Weston, Mass., secretary-treasurer. They will serve one-year terms.

The Fellows Directors, who serve three-year terms, are John Brademas, Fred H. Cate, Alvin Edelman, Daniel J. Edelman, Peter F. Eder, Myra S. Hatterer, Doris B. Holleb, William W. Kelly, Theodore R. Kupferman, Linda Lamel, Jonathan E. Lewis, Michael Lubin, J. Hugh Roff, Jr., Alfred Schneider, Malcolm B. Smith, Judi Strauss-Lipkin, Peter E. Wagner, Gordon L. Weil, and Philip S. Winterer.

The Fellows trace their origin to February 1939, when 14 prominent Phi Beta Kappa members met at the Harvard Club in New York City to review the Society's finances. They agreed to create a “living endowment” of members who would pledge a specific gift annually (currently \$500) for 10 years to the Phi Beta Kappa Foundation.



New President Murray Drabkin presided at the December banquet of the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in Williamsburg.

Established as the Phi Beta Kappa Associates, the group's name was later changed to avoid confusion with  $\Phi$ BK's regional associations of Society members. The Fellows' mission remained unchanged: to ensure the continuation of the Society's national programs and the advancement of its ideals.



## Alley, Silverman, West Win Book Awards

The recipients of the 2001 Phi Beta Book Awards are Richard B. Alley, Debora Silverman and Michael West. The winners were announced at the annual Book Awards dinner, during the Society's 225th anniversary celebration in Williamsburg.

More than 100 entries were submitted by U.S. publishing companies and university presses. These were judged by panels of scholars in the fields represented. Each award includes a prize of \$2,500.

Alley received the Phi Beta Kappa Award in Science for "Two-Mile Machine: Ice Cores, Abrupt Climate Change, and Our Future" (Princeton University Press). He is professor of geosciences at Pennsylvania State University. His book explores aspects of climatology, meteorology, geology, chemistry and physics. It illustrates how scientists extract information from

experimental evidence, and how scientific models are constructed and tested. Alley uses such analogies as roller coasters, conveyor belts, and traffic around city squares.

Silverman won the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award for "Van Gogh and Gauguin: The Search for Sacred Art"



*Among Book Awards program participants were Thomas Bender, chair of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award Committee; Richard Alley, ΦBK Science Award winner; Michael West, Christian Gaus Award winner; and Marie Boroff, chair of the Christian Gaus Award Committee.*

(Farrar, Straus and Giroux). She holds the University of California President's Chair in Modern European History, Art and Culture at UCLA. Her book combines intellectual and art history with contextual and formal analysis to reveal the centrality of religious sensibility in Van Gogh's and Gauguin's quest for a modern art.

West is professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh. He received the Christian Gauss Award for "Transcendental Wordplay: America's Romantic Pundsters & the Search for the Language of Nature" (Ohio University Press). It examines 19th century American attitudes toward language and the making of a new language inherited from English. West considers the "revolution" of transcendentalism to be essentially philological. He explores how and where Dickinson, Emerson, Melville, Thoreau, Whitman and others developed a proclivity for puns, riddles, acrostics, anagrams, and other forms of wordplay.

The Phi Beta Kappa Alumni Association of Greater Austin (Texas) was awarded a charter by the Society's Committee on Associations at its December meeting in Williamsburg, Va.

The association's officers are Philip F. Patman, president; Donald R. Flournoy, first vice president; Barbara M. Myers, second vice president and scholarship chair; Joyce Pulich, secretary; and Alice V. White, treasurer. There are 218 members.

The association held two general meetings last year, both featuring cultural programs, and gave Alumni Award Scholarships to eight college-bound high school seniors. Its scholarship committee works closely with the outreach committee, which contacts National Honor Society faculty advisors in area high schools to inform NHS members about the scholarship program and the mission of Phi Beta Kappa.

Last year the association presented the second annual endowed Cornelia McWilliams Gilbert Memorial Scholarship to a student at the University of Texas at Austin.

The Society's Committee on Associations in December also voted to grant unchartered status to the Greater Wichita (Kan.) Association of Phi Beta Kappa. Its first meeting in November, which attracted 28 members, was announced in the *Wichita Eagle*, which also published a photograph of the officers: F. Marian Chambers, president; Doug Pringle, vice president; Jay Mandt, secretary; and Scott Colby, treasurer.

Future programs will include discussions of essays in *The American Scholar*, the award-winning quarterly published by Phi Beta Kappa.

At its earlier 2001 meeting, the Committee on Associations awarded a charter to the Western New York Association of Phi Beta Kappa, and unchartered status to the provisional associations of the Central Carolinas, Greater Pittsburgh, and Greater Tucson.



*Phi Beta Kappa sponsored a panel on community-building at the National Honor Society's annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., in November. Speakers, from left, were John Shumaker, University of Louisville president; Susan Hult, Houston (Texas) Community College; Dee Hawkins, Central High School, Louisville; and J. Blaine Hudson, University of Louisville.*

# U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins On “Refreshing the Language”

**Editor’s Note:** *Here are excerpts from the introduction by Billy Collins, U.S. poet laureate, to the poetry reading at the Library of Congress by finalists for the first Phi Beta Kappa Poetry Award.*

Kenneth Koch, with characteristic oddness and originality, once compared unoriginal poetry to a 75-year-old baby. “As charming as old people are,” he politely said to an interviewer, “one doesn’t want to have a 75-year-old baby. One wants to make something new.” No wonder John Ashbery called him “Doctor Fun.”

How to make it new, over and over again, is perhaps the ultimate challenge that poetry offers, particularly in the 20th century, and still now as we stand at the shallow end of the 21st. Originality is a relatively new idea. If you had asked Chaucer why he never wrote anything original, he would probably have answered: “Surely, we have not been reduced to *that*.”

But since the Romantics, the banner of Originality has hung over all serious poetic activities. What following the clipped injunction to make it new means is nothing less than taking a language that is debased and abused on a daily basis by journalism, politics, advertising and other kinds of public language, and somehow finding a personal way to rescue and redeem it. This would appear to be an impossible task—especially considering the increasing volume of public noise—yet poets keep finding a way to do it. And their finding is finally the way that poetry itself manages to continue.

The ability of a poet to breathe fresh life into the tired corpse of the language

has been simplified into the phrase “finding your voice,” as if it were a thing that was lost—a set of car keys buried in the sofa cushions. It seems closer to experience to say that refreshing the language is a matter of discovering, through practice and luck, a way of writing poetry that is different—however slightly—from everyone else’s way of writing poetry.

This is not a condition easily arrived at, requiring, as it does, a difficult negotiation between the forces of audacity and self-consciousness, the pull and push of curiosity and uncertainty. But such a discovery—and each of tonight’s readers has made it—makes a poet feel as if he or she had invented a new instrument. At that point, there is nothing better to do than to spend the rest of your life playing that instrument. The writing of every original poem is the equivalent of Adolphe Sax playing the saxophone.

This evening we have the privilege of hearing the playing of five strikingly original instruments. Still, they can be said to form a kind of chorus in that they are bound together—the way a Rubik’s cube is bound together—in a number of sympathetic combinations. The joint effect of hearing them read together this evening might remind us of some of the postulates that underlie postmodern poetry.

We might be reminded that directness, despite its high status with Americans like Ben

## “To Fame”

by Kenneth Koch

To be known outside one’s city and one’s nation  
To be known outside one’s life! By means of you,  
Bella and bruta Fama, talk, public opinion.  
If only you bore more the semblance  
Of recognition of achievement!  
Instead you nod and flounce  
Around, you are  
Co-animate with feathers  
You traipse off with strangers  
You sing the song  
You’ve sung thousands of times.  
At fifteen I married My Lord You  
I decided I was a poet  
You, Shelley, and I went into my later life  
And the three of us still stayed separate  
I was at my desk, Shelley was in the library, you were out drinking or  
dancing. I wrote  
“Fame, daughter of Terra, false one and fairest  
Of all the sisterhood of fake inventions and intentions  
Come stay with us a while, my friends and me—  
We have invented a new kind of poetry.” What a rush to the heart  
And what a rush to the newsstands, if you come! But you are gone.  
One person in a billion perhaps has you forever, and even that person  
Is lifeless, though you promised something else.  
Norris Embry said to me on Hydra one morning, when I was being  
Supersensitive and profound on an unimportant subject,  
“Kenneth, you’re Rilking!” and there you were.

Franklin and our native pragmatists, is wildly overrated. That meaning is more fluid than fixed. That arrival is illusory. That the mundane is not unrelated to hallucination. That past, present, and future cannot be kept in separate canisters like salt, sugar and flour. That poetry resides in the accidental. That in poetry’s traditional mix of constant and variant, there is more variant today than constant. That a poem can be a series of its own interruptions. And that irony is the chlorine in the pool in which we swim . . .

Kenneth Koch . . . once described the French language as being “stuck to the tip of my tongue like a Christmas sticker . . . has written 21 books of poetry and—at least one of his titles claims—a thousand plays . . . changed my entire understanding of poetry when he announced that he was wearing his George Washington, Father of his Country, shoes . . . knows that one train can hide another train just as we know that one Kenneth Koch can hide another Kenneth Koch . . . [His] new book has reclaimed that most endangered genre, the ode.



ΦBK Poetry Award winner Kenneth Koch talks with Poet Laureate Billy Collins at the Library of Congress reading by the five finalists.



# Poetry Award

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at age 7,” and was class poet in elementary school. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard and earned a doctorate at Columbia, where today he is a professor of English. Among his other honors are awards from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Fulbright Program, and the Guggenheim and Ingram-Merrill Foundations. He also has received the Library of Congress’ Rebekah Johnson Bobbit National Prize for Poetry.

Early in his career, Koch was identified with the New York School of poetry, which was inspired by the works of such action painters as Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning. His collaborations with painters have been featured in exhibi-

tions in England and New York City. He has written many short plays, some of them produced Off-Broadway, as well as the libretto for “The Banquet” by Marcello Panni. He also has written books on teaching children to write poetry.

Finalists for the ΦBK Poetry Award, in addition to Koch, were Amy Gerstler, of the Art Center, College of Design, in Pasadena, Calif., for “Medicine,” a set of poems on topics from love to the afterlife; Ann Lauterbach, professor of languages and literature at Bard College, for “If in Time,” an exploration of the human condition; Charles North, poet in residence at Pace University and a Phi Beta Kappa member, for “The Nearness of the Way You Look Tonight;” and Dara Wier, who teaches poetry and writing at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, for “Voyages in English.”

Allan and David Winston established the ΦBK Poetry Award through the Winston Foundation to honor their late parents, Joseph and May Winston. Joseph, an attorney and Phi Beta Kappa Fellow, was a lover of poetry who often hosted literary salons. He was born in Harlem and gradu-

ated from the City University of New York with a major in French. He earned a masters degree in French at Columbia, while teaching comparative literature.

But the Depression “made it a hard time to live with a literary career,” David Winston said, so his father studied at



*At the Poetry Award presentation are competition judge John Ashbery, winner Kenneth Koch, ΦBK Associate Secretary Susan Howard, and Allan and David Winston, who head the Joseph and May Winston Foundation.*

Columbia Law School while working a night shift at the U.S. Post Office to support his family. His favorite law professor hosted salons for students, featuring French poetry, which inspired Joseph’s own custom during his successful legal career. “He loved the law,” David said, “and he loved to argue. And he lectured on Proust to his clients.” In addition to fluent French and German, Joseph Winston spoke Russian and Spanish, and studied Mandarin Chinese.

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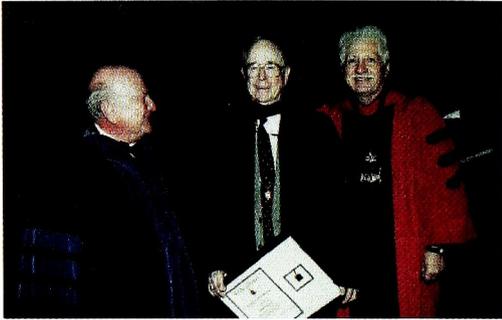
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<http://www.pbk.org>

Phi Beta Kappa members had an opportunity in December to engage in dialogue with the Society’s Executive and Policy Committees. The event was part of ΦBK’s 225th anniversary meeting in Williamsburg, Va. Many of those attending were members and officers of ΦBK associations and chapters, or members of the ΦBK Fellows.

President Joseph Gordon noted that he had named Senator Alonzo Hamby to chair the Society’s Strategic Planning initiative. Among the issues discussed in the dialogue were ways to ensure high acceptance rates by students; involving more Phi Beta Kappa members outside the academic world to enhance the Society’s influence; and innovations to encourage collaboration between chapters and associations.

Gordon said that since 1779, when the original chapter at the College of William & Mary decided to charter two new chapters in New England, the Society’s mission has been “to recognize and foster excellence in all fields, among all types of people. Our traditional long-term commitment to liberal education in higher education—in itself a noble goal that must remain an essential part of our mission—is no longer enough. We must reach out into our communities for programs and resources to support these values throughout our society.”

# A Williamsburg Album



*Ludwell Johnson, center, an Alpha Chapter officer for 40 years, receives a special award from former Secretary Douglas Foard, left, and Tim Sullivan, president of The College of William & Mary.*



*Sullivan and Johnson lead an academic procession into the historic Wren Building's chapel for the program opening Phi Beta Kappa's 225th anniversary celebration.*



*Winning author Richard Alley is congratulated by Virginia Trimble, chair of the Committee on the  $\Phi$ BK Award in Science.*



*$\Phi$ BK member Colin Campbell, left, president of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, greets Secretary Churchill.*



*Thomas Jefferson addresses the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and responds to questions about his life and times.*



*An anniversary reception attracts, from left, Katherine Soule, Don Wyatt, Scott Lurding, Joe Gordon and Kurt Olsson.*

# Senate Nominations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Richard Wendorf, director and librarian, the Boston Atheneum.

Committee members until 2006 are: Professor Crosson, the Cavanaugh Distinguished Professor of Humanities, University of Notre Dame; Claire Lynn Gaudiani, former president of Connecticut College; Neil Harris, professor of history, University of Chicago; and David W. Hart, retired professor of English and associate dean of the Graduate School, University of Arkansas.

The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 28. They may be sent to the Nominating Committee in care of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at its new address: 1606 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington D.C., 20009.

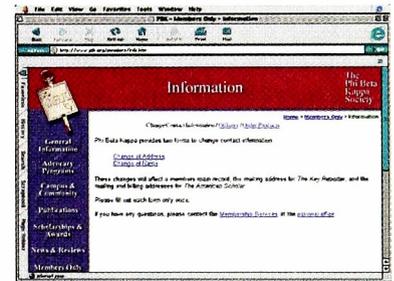


*ΦBK member James "Jock" Darling, choirmaster at Bruton Parish Church, plays an 18th century organ at the celebration's opening program.*



*William & Mary debaters argue 18th and 21st century issues in House of Burgesses. From left: Mo Rahman, William Blake, coach Matthew Sobnosky, moderator Douglas Foard, Arthur Traldi, Clinton Herget.*

## Members Can Update Addresses Online



Phi Beta Kappa members now can go online to update their names and addresses in the Society's records, ensuring that these are always current. The process is fast and simple.

Go to <http://www.pbk.org/members/info.htm>. You will be asked for your login name, which includes your first name, last name, and the last two digits of the year you were elected to the Society, with no spaces in between. Next add your password—the six or seven digit number on your *Key Reporter* mailing label. The site will provide further instructions.

Those with questions may contact Amanda Boone at [boonea@pbk.org](mailto:boonea@pbk.org) or by calling her at national headquarters, (202) 265-3808.



*Foard, left, sports a brown wig as he listens to Clinton Herget's argument on the state's proper role in 18th century education.*



*Secretary Churchill, left, and John David Alexander discuss prospects for the Society's 226th year with Don Lamm.*



# Among Our Key People

**Editor's Note:** *Christel G. McDonald, past president of the D.C. Area Phi Beta Kappa Association, is a former European civil servant. She now works closely with her husband, co-founder of the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, on a systems approach to peace-building in ethnic and regional conflicts (www.imtd.org or e-mail: ChrisJohnMcDon@aol.com).*

"It's the last time I can pay for something in D-Mark!" This thought shot through my mind as I left Germany last fall to return to the United States, my home since 1970. In March, when I go back to Germany, the D-Mark will be gone forever, and I will use the euro. I celebrated this special moment by spending my last D-Marks in the duty-free shops at the Frankfurt airport.

In Germany last October, I attended the first official ceremony to say "Farewell to the D-Mark and Welcome to the euro." The event took place at a military base in the small town of Rothwesten near Kassel. Representatives from the nation's political, economic and financial sectors joined in this celebration. The keynote speaker was Ernst Welteke, president of the German Federal Bank. I was invited because of my 12-year association with Alfons Kössinger, the director of the museum on the base, Haus Posen, which was founded in 1993 and commemorates the German Currency Reform of 1948.

My presence at this ceremony, shortly after the events of Sept. 11, was marked by the "McDonald March," a special tribute "to the guest of honor" played by the military band. In addition, it was pointed out that in difficult times like these, it was important to reiterate the gratitude of the Germans for the Marshall Plan and the important role the United States played in the currency reform of 1948.

In the eyes of the Germans, Haus Posen is "the cradle of the D-Mark." It was here in 1948 that 11 German experts (bankers, financiers, economists, professors) were brought together in great secrecy by the U.S. military occupation forces to craft the legal language for German currency reform, based on an American plan.

My first visit to the area was in 1989, while writing my M.A. thesis on the German currency reform of 1948 at the

University of Iowa. A brief newspaper article had alerted me to the existence of Haus Posen. The museum did not yet exist, but in 1988 a plaque had been mounted on the building to commemorate the "Konklave of 1948." The names of the 11 Germans were listed, but I was especially interested in one additional name: Edward A. Tenenbaum, Office of the U.S. Military Government.

I had never heard of Tenenbaum, and I decided to find out more about him. At the Library of Congress I found a German newspaper article from 1958 that referred to him as the "Father of the German Currency Reform." A few days later, however, I met a man who exclaimed, upon hearing what I was looking for: "But my father is the 'Father of the German Currency Reform!'" I added the name of Dr. Gerhard Colm to my research.

This is what I found: Colm, a former professor in Kiel, emigrated to the U.S. in the early 1930s. He was working for the federal government when Gen. Lucius

Clay, commander of the U.S. occupation forces in Germany, invited him to come to Berlin in February, 1946. Colm's task was to suggest how to cope with the high inflation of the Reichsmark and the black market economy that had developed after Germany's surrender in May, 1945.

During that visit, Colm's concept of the creation of a new currency took shape. Between February and May 1946, he designed in detail all the laws necessary for a currency reform. His superiors, named Dodge and Goldsmith, approved his plan and circulated it as the CDG Plan among the financial and economic experts of the Allied Control Council in Berlin, the Four Powers (U.S., French, British and Soviet) decision-making body for the military occupation.

The man whose task it was to convince the British, French, and Soviet members of the Allied Control Council to accept the CDG Plan was Edward Tenenbaum. He was a 1943 Yale graduate, only 25 years old, and a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Tenenbaum worked relentlessly from the summer of 1946 until the spring of 1948 to obtain the acceptance of the CDG Plan by the four Allies. Before all collaboration between the Soviets and the three western Allies came to a halt, Tenenbaum arranged for new German currency to be printed in the United States in 1947. Looking very much like dollar bills, it was transported in 1948 from the United



*Welcoming the euro, from left, are Col. Dirk Engels, base commander of Fritz-Erler-Kaserne; Alfons Kössinger, the currency museum founder and director; Christel McDonald; and Ernst Welteke, president of the German Federal Bank.*

Andreas Fischer, Hessische Nachrichten



*This crate held the first 20 D-mark notes—resembling dollar bills—that were printed in the United States in 1947, shipped to Germany, and stored in the basement of the Reichsbank building in Frankfurt.*

States to Frankfurt, where it was stored in the basement of the Reichsbank building.

That spring, currency reform in all four occupation zones became politically unthinkable. So the Americans and British, with the French joining at the last minute, decided to go ahead with the reform in the three western zones, even if this meant the *de facto* division of Germany. It was the only way to get control over the country's worsening economic crisis, and to halt the encroaching communism that threatened all of Western Europe. In addition, it was clear that the recently devised Marshall Plan had no chance of success if Western Germany was not part of it.

Once the new currency was introduced in Western Germany, Berlin bore the brunt of this decision. It prompted the Berlin Blockade that almost started war between the Allies and the Soviet Union. And the blockade led to the Allies' spectacular Berlin Airlift, which lasted for over a year and cemented the beginning of the Cold War. Less than a year thereafter, two Germanys came into being.

In 1990 I met Kössinger in Rothwesten, and we agreed that I would pursue my research on the American side of the story while he continued to work on the German side. We also talked about the possibility of converting Haus Posen into a small currency reform museum, not only dedicated to the German efforts, but also including the American contribution to the currency reform.

Back in the United States, I was able to locate Tenenbaum's widow and continue my interviews with Dr. Colm's son, Peter. Both were very helpful in shedding more light on the unusual circumstances that led to the currency reform. A few months later I visited in Munich with the last living participant of the Konklave of Rothwesten, Prof. Hans Möller, and in Hamburg with Dr. Michael Budczies, son of Dr. Wolfgang Budczies, a Konklave participant.

By 1991, a critical mass of material began to evolve, and I was happy to learn that the idea of dedicating "the little house" as a museum for the D-Mark was beginning to take shape. Kössinger was named its director. Thanks to his dedication and the extraordinary cooperation of the leadership of the military base, named Fritz-Erler-Kaserne, as well as the financial support of local banks and the community, Haus Posen opened to the public in 1993 and has had more than 20,000 visitors.

Mrs. Tenenbaum accepted my invitation to visit the museum on the 50th anniversary of the D-Mark in 1998, and made a generous gift: the first sample D-Mark, printed in the United States. After my first visit with Dr. Budczies, he decided to give the museum his father's original documents, with detailed annotations made during the Konklave of Rothwesten. Peter Colm also contributed important documents when he visited Kassel in 1998.

The museum exhibits continue to grow, and now include not only information on the Reichsmark, the D-Mark, and

the East-D-mark, but also on the German currency union of 1998–99 and the euro. The original table and chairs used by the 11 German experts in the Konklave of Rothwesten were retrieved from a local bank and returned to their original position. The library continues to grow, and one day will be a good resource for research on German currency reforms. My own search for further material continues. There are still more than 30,000 boxes of material from the time of the U.S. military occupation of Germany, much of it unread, waiting for me at the U.S. National Archives.

When the museum opened, Kössinger honored his commitment to include the results of my research in the museum collection, even though this meant expanding its role beyond its initial focus on the work of the 11 German Konklave participants. The material I collected in the United States, including photos of Colm and Tenenbaum, has been incorporated into the exhibits. I believe that Colm was the conceptual "Father of the Currency Reform" and Tenenbaum was the mastermind behind the execution of the currency reform. Both deserve credit for their imaginative work. They were also remarkable for their extraordinary acts of humanity. For example, they rejected the ideas contained in Henry Morgenthau's plan to turn Germany into a land of agriculture, and concentrated instead on the re-building of Western Germany. I am glad that the museum organizers recognized their contribution.

On Jan. 1, 2002, at the stroke of midnight, the euro replaced the D-Mark. The farewell to the D-Mark was accompanied by a lot of nostalgia. The German currency reform was the initial spark for the economic reconstruction of Germany after World War II. The welcome of the euro opens a chapter that offers new promises and challenges to strengthen European integration within Euro-Land and the 15 other countries that hope to join the European Union in the next few years.

My collaboration with the Museum in Rothwesten will continue. A visit to the Museum Währungsreform can be arranged through me or by calling the museum in Germany at 011-561-319.53.04 or Alfons Kössinger at home at 011-561-87.80.18.

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~ Sven Birkerts, Lecturer in English at Mount Holyoke College, for "Love's Wound, Love's Salve" (*Best Literary Criticism*; Autumn issue).

~ Andrew Levy, Cooper Professor of English at Butler University, for "The Anti-Jefferson" (*Best Work by a Younger Writer*; Spring issue).

~ Brooks Haxton, Professor of English and Director of the Creative Writing Program at Syracuse University, for "Boaz Asleep," a translation of Victor Hugo's "Booz Endormi" (*Best Poem*; Autumn issue).

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## From The Secretary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ennial Councils. Our sense of federalism is expressed in the Senate and its virtually continuous work. The unity of the institution as a whole was expressed in the old title, "The United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa," which endorsed an encompassing integral identity. This statement of *e pluribus unum* came, not incidentally, in the decades after the Civil War. Finally, the name since 1988, "The Phi Beta Kappa Society," places even more emphasis on institutional unity and betokens the widening enfranchisement and participation in governance that has characterized American political life in general. We have, then, in our 225 years become both more unified institutionally, and more complex in our governance.

Increasing unity with increasing complexity gives us interesting issues. Simple structures lend themselves to clarity about the locus and nature of agreements and disagreements. Complex structures make it difficult to locate the points at which disagreements may exist, the points at which agreements are needed, whether apparent disagreements really are such, whether they are substantive or procedural, and so on. Moreover, complex structures produce zones of overlapping interest and authority. Questions arise continually in these forms: "Whose decision is this?" "Who, constitutionally, may contribute formally to the outcome?" "Who, given their responsibilities in the institution, should be consulted?" Successful leadership in a complex organization is predicated on recognition of these

and related questions, and the skillful steering of issues through them.

But political acumen is pointless without a groundwork of deeper agreements. It is not enough to be clear about procedure. There must also be, throughout an institution and its leadership, shared vision and shared purposes—a common sense of the good. In Phi Beta Kappa, this commonality is our rooted strength. We are an organization whose motto became its name: The love of wisdom is the guide of life. Our purpose, to recognize and promote excellence in liberal learning, is our deep agreement. It is, indeed, the commitment that animates our Society. This is not to say that we hold settled answers to the questions "What is liberal learning?" and "What is its good?" Rather, we recognize that Phi Beta Kappa must continually examine the purpose it serves. Pursuing our purposes while continuing to deliberate about them, we mirror the genius of participatory, democratic societies.

My hope, then, in taking office as Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, is to maintain and even improve the context of that deliberation, to assist all of our constituencies in maneuvering the complexities of our governance, and, above all, to heighten the influence of Phi Beta Kappa and our ideals in the public life of this country and the world, both within academe and in the broader culture. I am very conscious of my need for the good will and support of all who love Phi Beta Kappa, and I understand that they are to be earned. I am also conscious that those historic gavels are not mine to wield. The Secretary's implement is the pen. I will use it.

**S**ome new Phi Beta Kappa members have asked the national staff what is required to remain Society members in good standing. There are no requirements: initiated members enjoy that status for life.

They are not obliged to join or pay dues to a regional  $\Phi$ BK Association if there happens to be one in their community, although many members welcome the opportunity to participate in these volunteer-run organizations.

However, all  $\Phi$ BK members are invited to become Sustaining Members—those who make annual contributions to the Society. Introduced in 1940, Sustaining Memberships today provide more than one-third of Phi Beta Kappa's operating budget.

The current suggested minimum is \$25. New Sustaining Members who contribute at least \$50 during 2002 will receive one-year complimentary subscriptions to *The American Scholar*, the award-winning quarterly published by the Phi Beta Kappa Society.



# Phi Beta Kappa in the News

*The Washington Post* (Dec. 10) published a lengthy profile, called “Big Thinker,” about Edward “Ted” Halstead, a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Dartmouth College. The article begins: “Powerful people love to do favors for Ted Halstead, the 33-year-old founder and president of the New America Foundation.

“Former Harvard president Derek Bok helped Halstead cultivate the concept of a think tank nurturing the next generation of public intellectuals. Television producer Norman Lear and members of the Rockefeller family were among its earliest financial patrons. Media brahmin Bill Moyers helped name the tank—and awarded New America its first major grant.

“Tom Brokaw and Sen. John McCain blurb-ed Halstead’s newly published book, “The Radical Center,” written with Michael Lind, the extraordinary polymath and New America co-founder... Since Halstead founded the tank in 1999, its budget has tripled to more than \$3 million. The number of fellows has increased from eight to 20. New America’s stable of relatively young, ideologically diverse and intellectually iconoclastic fellows have become fixtures on the nation’s op-ed pages.”

On Dec. 5, the 225th anniversary of the founding of Phi Beta Kappa was featured in “Today in History” listings in dozens of U.S. newspapers, including the *Augusta* (Ga.) *Chronicle*, the *Bergen County* (N.J.) *Record*, the *Buffalo News*, the *Chattanooga* (Tenn.) *Times/Free Press*, the *Columbia* (S.C.) *State*, *Newsday* (New York), the *Orlando Sentinel*, the *San Antonio Express-News*, the *Seattle Times*, the *Tampa Tribune*, and the *Wilkes Barre* (Penna.) *Times Leader*.

*The Washington Post* (Dec. 2) featured Thalia Theodore in a weekly set of vignettes called “Life is Short: Autobiography as Haiku.” She wrote: “At 22, I graduated Phi Beta Kappa. I had

choices at my fingertips: law school, grad school—corporate America, here I come! Adults swelled their chests in pride. My peers practiced the ‘on my way to a Lexus’ shuffle. Then the question: ‘And what are your plans after graduation?’ Answer: ‘I’m moving to New York to teach elementary school in the South Bronx.’ As a 23-year old teacher with sore feet and 28 incredible kids, my explanation reminds me of a song. I had a choice to sit it out or dance. I chose to dance.”

*The Houston Chronicle* (Nov. 19) reported that Jenard Gross was honored at a banquet celebrating the naming of a new school the Jenard M. Gross Elementary and Middle School. The event was attended by U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and school district officials and board members.

The article described Gross as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vanderbilt University, a charter member of the Greater Houston PBK Association, “and the creative force behind the fabulous Greater Houston High School Scholarship Program.” This association program is administered by past president Leslie Blanton.

Last year the Houston Association raised \$375,000 for scholarships, including a \$3,500 award for the outstanding high school student in the greater Houston area, and 61 scholarships to other outstanding students. The program’s endowment fund is more than \$1,250,000.

*The Tulsa World* (Nov. 15) published a report on the 23rd annual Nimrod/Hardman Awards dinner, held in conjunction with a conference on “The Shape of Discovery: Exploring the Chaos and Complex Systems of Creative Writing and Science.” The University of Tulsa’s Phi Beta Kappa chapter was cited as a co-sponsor.

The October issue of *National Geographic* included an article on

Adjuntas, Puerto Rico. Its author, Linda Gómez is among the writers highlighted at the back of the magazine. The text notes that “after college and prior to joining the staff of *Life* magazine, Linda served a stint as a New York waitress. ‘Phi Beta Kappa waitress,’ my father called me. He wasn’t happy about my career choice then.”

The October issue of *Ebony* magazine features Pamela Thomas-Graham in its “Speaking of People” section. She is president and chief executive officer of CNBC, “which provides business news programming and financial market coverage to more than 198 million homes nationwide. Thomas-Graham is responsible for the network’s programming, advertising sales and the coordination of its television and Internet platforms. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School, where she served as an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.”

*Time* magazine’s “Milestones” section noted the death of Sally Reston, 89, “journalist and photographer who chronicled women’s lives in Europe during World War II. She was a major influence on and journalistic partner to her husband, columnist and Washington correspondent James Reston.... They met in college on a double date.... “She was a Phi Beta Kappa,” James Reston later recalled. “I was a C-minus student.”

*The Kerrville* (Texas) *Daily Times* interviewed 1963 Pulitzer Prize winner Ira Harkey, Sr., a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Tulane University. A Kerrville resident, Harkey is featured in a new book, “The Press and Race: Mississippi Journalists Confront the Movement,” edited by David R. Davies (University Press of Mississippi).

As editor and publisher of the *Pascagoula* (Miss.) *Chronicle* in the 1950s and ‘60s, the article reports, Harkey “found himself standing alone in a battle against the ‘way it was always done’ in Mississippi.... [He]

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# Recommended Reading

## BOOK COMMITTEE

**Humanities:** Svetlana Alpers, Michael Griffith

Robert P. Sonkowsky, Eugen Weber

**Social Sciences:** Thomas McNaugher, Josephine Pacheco

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

**Natural Sciences:** Germaine Cornélissen, Jay M. Pasachoff

### By Eugen Weber

**The Dictionary of Imaginary Places.** *Alberto Manguel and Gianni Guadalupi.* Harcourt/Harvest, 2000. \$22.50.

In 1980 these authors produced a traveler's guide to places found in literature but hard to situate on the map. That sumptuous gazetteer has been re-edited and expanded to feature the expected and the unexpected: Atlantis; Avalon; Erehwon; Kubla Khan's Xanadu and placid Zenda; Penguin Island; Laputa, Glubbudubrib and other remote lands visited by Lemuel Gulliver; Theleme Abbey, Baskerville Hall, and Mr. Toad's Toad Hall; Vanity Fair; Venusberg and Mahagonny; the kingdom of Patapoufs and Berlioz's Euphonia; Caber's Icaria and Fourier's Harmonia; Cuccagna, where pastries sprout along the roads (not to be confused with Coccagne, where there is no regret); Looking-Glass Land; elvish Middle Earth and unicorn-infested Narnia; Jabberwocky Wood (not far from Snark Island); the Slough of Despond; Scylla (also Charybdis—neither recommended); the great Gromboolian Plain; and Coromandel, where the early pumpkins blow.

Fortified keeps abound: Crotchet Castle, Kafka's Castle, Bluebeard's and Dracula's Castles, the Castle of Otranto, and Dreiviertelstein Schloss in the kingdom of Elfin. Urban sprawl mars Oz's Emerald City: Flutterbug Center, Fuddlecumjig, Rigmarole Town. In Pinocchio's Tuscan Playtown, holidays run all year but boys turn into donkeys after five months. And in Rootabaga County, the squirrels carry ladders and girls who cross the Shampoo River turn into pigeons. This latest edition adds such literary tourist attractions as Jurassic Park and Harry Potter's Hogwarts Witchcraft School; and sinister Eastwick joins Stepford with its robot wives.

Despite 800 pages full of maps, plans, and illustrations, the literary atlas remains proudly incomplete; yet it continues to offer a compendious treat, cheap at the price, marvelous to read in bed, but unlikely to put one to sleep.

**A History of Everyday Things: The Birth of Consumption in France, 1600 to 1800.** *Daniel Roche. Trans. by Brian Pearce.* Cambridge, 2000. \$64.95; paper, \$22.95.

Material civilization, material culture, everyday life: Roche, the distinguished French master of early modern history, tackles the relationships of people to objects and facilities. Winding his

way through towns, trade, and inventions, past ordinary and luxury consumption, through rural and urban housing, lighting, heating, access to water, and notions of dirt and cleanliness, clothing and fashion, bread, wine, taste and manners, he traces availabilities, norms, and expectations as they evolved between the 17th century and the beginning of the 19th.

A world where objects were scarce gave way to one where goodies abounded, the traditional sphere of exchange and gift to markets and wider consumption of commodities. The habits, customs, and expectations of daily life were transformed, and lives themselves changed color, cast, and course. Comfort, diet, codes of dress and manners, sensibilities, were all affected.

Roche delineates minimal light and exiguous fires, chilblains and miasmas, the distinction of white linen, the rare treat of sweetness, the still rarer taste of coffee that made its drinkers sparkle, and the hankerings they inspired. Limited access to water affected drinking habits, cooking, hygiene, and sartorial practices. Housewives and laundresses coped with mountains of dirty linen by river or by pond; the great sent their laundry to the American islands for a whiter wash; the poor rioted for soap as well as bread. Society moved from an economy of scarcity and salvation to one of plenty and prodigality. But the move was slow and spotty. The world we have lost was ripe for rejection.

**A Life in the 20th Century: Innocent Beginnings, 1917-1950.** *Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. Houghton Mifflin, 2000. \$28.95.*

A brilliant historian's brilliant demonstration of autobiographical art. Endowed with great talent for friendship, Schlesinger seems to have met everyone of interest in the English-speaking literary, academic, journalistic and political world of his time. His pages swarm with pithy, sharp-etched portraits seasoned by analyses and thought-provoking reflections. One leitmotif of great interest is the mottled history of Communism in America (overt, covert, and silly), and the liberal author's fraught relations with it. A compelling read, pending the next volume.

**Émigré New York: French Intellectuals in Wartime Manhattan, 1940-1944.** *Jeffrey Mehlman. Johns Hopkins, 2000. \$40.00.*

After the French collapse of 1940, a few privileged French and Frenchified intellectuals transferred the friction and fractions of their homeland to Manhattan and added a few

intrigues du jour. Mehlman's demanding but enticing book demonstrates that Fifth Avenue obesities (Louis Rougier *dixit*) behaved as most émigré hives behave—politicking, fracturing and squabbling; but also as their fellow French behaved, disseminating rumors and drawing up blacklists.

As befits the distinguished author of "Genealogies of Text," Mehlman provides plenty of structures, destructures, restructures and diacritics for amateurs of the ilk; but not enough to obscure his informed, original and frequently fascinating cameos of Maeterlinck, Rougmont, Rougier, Simone Weil, Saint-Exupéry, Saint-John-Perse, Lévi-Strauss et al; and the politics of pots calling kettles black.

### By Germaine Cornélissen

**Human Trials: Scientists, Investors, and Patients in the Quest for a Cure.** *Susan Quinn. Perseus Publishing, 2001. \$26.*

This book is primarily the story of Dr Howard Weiner's research on finding a treatment for autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis. Susan Quinn does a good job in introducing the topic, the problems to be tackled, and the excitement of the research done in the experimental laboratory and in the clinic. She eloquently presents issues related to clinical trials, including ethical aspects and the nagging problem of the placebo effect (or could it be used advantageously?). Her narrative has the gift of presenting the major players on a very human basis, with their hopes, fears, and other emotions in the light of their successes and also of their failures, but never relenting in their efforts to find a cure.

The trials of the drugs Myloral (an oral formulation of myelin intended to cure patients with multiple sclerosis) and Colloral (a collagen formulation intended for treating patients with rheumatoid arthritis) rest on the concept of oral tolerance, which refers to the observation of systemic hypo-responsiveness to an antigen fed prior to immunization. One aspect of the story, not always encountered in clinical trials conducted in academia, is the setting of a venture capital firm (AutoImmune) to produce the drugs and to manage the trials with active involvement by the principal investigator. Whereas the story is very engagingly written, it remains wanting on several issues, through no fault of the author. It is very humbling to see the limitations of relatively large trials, despite the hard work from so many participants. Susan Quinn captures this aspect well by finishing her book with a note of hope by adding a chapter called "The beginning" after one entitled "The end."

The immune system being eminently periodic, the question whether the drugs tested might have been more effective if given at a different time or according to a different administration schedule remains unanswered. Timing, often of equal importance to dosing (as beauti-

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# New Tucson Association Serves Members, Students and Society

Although the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Greater Tucson was established less than a year ago, it already offers a promising model for other associations seeking to attract members and develop worthwhile programs. Under the leadership of Hugh Rose, the Tucson association is proving that success is possible outside major population centers, and without several campus  $\Phi$ BK chapters in the area.

Two members of the University of Arizona chapter,  $\Phi$ BK Senator Bruce Barrett, the chapter president, and his colleague Jeanne Clarke, took the initiative in creating the Tucson association. But they were able to enlist motivated volunteers from many walks of life outside the university.

The founders established committees on programs, publicity, membership, scholarships, finance and development, and association/chapter liaison. The latter reflects a national Society policy to encourage collaboration between campus  $\Phi$ BK chapters and associations of  $\Phi$ BK members in their communities.

Last fall the liaison committee formed an ad hoc group, chaired by Clarke, to increase the acceptance rate among students invited to join the University of Arizona chapter. Like those at many other institutions, some are the first in their families to attend college, and they may not be familiar with Phi Beta Kappa. They also may not be able to differentiate among the university's academic honor societies.  $\Phi$ BK's current acceptance rate there is between 50 and 60 percent.

The ad hoc committee sent chapter invitees the Society's brochure, "Phi Beta Kappa Honors Excellence," which describes its unique heritage and mission. Five members—Rose, Clarke, Pat Davis, Art Felix and Don Tempkin—followed up with phone calls to the students, offering to answer questions and describing the value of  $\Phi$ BK membership.

The committee members will evaluate what worked best last fall to determine the most effective approach for

the much larger spring initiation. Kay Korn will distribute the Society brochure at area high schools to give those students an early introduction to Phi Beta Kappa.

Clarke assembled a directory of the association's 70 members; the number has surprised and delighted the founders. Publicity chair Edie Jarolim started a newsletter, and Kathy Eldred, the program committee chair, conducted a survey to learn the members' interest in various program options. Among the choices were dinner meetings, lectures, book groups, current events discussions, field trips, and cultural events.

The University of Arizona  $\Phi$ BK chapter welcomed all Tucson association members to its fall initiation ceremony. In the spring, they will be invited to a campus reception for students who have been asked to join, some of whom are undecided. This will give the association an additional opportunity to explain the significance of  $\Phi$ BK membership.

The first dinner meeting in December featured a lecture and per-



*At a Greater Tucson Association cultural program, from left, are Kathryn Eldred, lecturer and pianist Alexander Tentser, Donald Tempkin and Hugh Rose, the president.*

formance by concert pianist and educator Alexander Tentser. For the spring program, a University of Arizona classics professor will lecture, and a meal will be served that replicates the funeral feast of King Midas, who ruled Phrygia in the eighth century B.C. Prospective members also will be invited. Another spring meeting will feature a scientist from the University of Arizona who has been active in NASA's Mars program.

The Tucson association was awarded unchartered status last summer. All new  $\Phi$ BK associations are designated "provisional" until they meet the criteria required to become unchartered. The final step is approval for a charter by the  $\Phi$ BK Senate's Committee on Associations. Chartered associations may send voting members to the Society's Triennial Councils.

## $\Phi$ BK In the News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

planted small ideas—like halting the use of 'colored' to describe a person, capitalizing 'Negro,' and using full names instead of only first names for black people in news stories—and large [ideas]—with some blunt editorials calling for an end to racism."

The author of the book's chapter on Harkey said he "was the first white journalist, not just in Mississippi, but

in the South, to step forward and say that racism was wrong, immoral and a sin.... This was in 1949, long before any other editor in Mississippi had the guts to argue for equal rights.... For his efforts, Harkey was shot at, ostracized, outcast and had a cross burned on his front lawn. He hired a bodyguard and lived in a hotel for four months." Harkey noted that "Mississippi now has more black office holders than any other state," including a black Supreme Court justice.



A commentary by Susan Howard in the fall 2001 Key Reporter, as well as a recent letter from Timothy J. Sullivan, president of The College of William & Mary regarding the value of a liberal arts education in light of the tragic events of Sept. 11, have made me understand the significance of Phi Beta Kappa and appreciate more fully what the Society stands for and the importance of its work in supporting and fostering liberal arts education.

Having been raised by liberal, well-educated parents, one a professor of philosophy, I have grown to value a well-rounded education and an open mind. In the wake of the terrorist attacks, I have had a difficult time coming to grips with the fact that there are people who want to destroy others simply because they possess different religious beliefs and their values are different. How could they have such radical views? How could they not embrace and love all humanity? "Tragic Events of Sept. 11 Strengthen Phi Beta Kappa Society's Dedication to its Mission" really struck home. Many religious radicals believe the way they do because that's all they know. In my mind, there couldn't be a more powerful argument for liberal arts education. Through my own liberal education, I learned about various cultures and their contributions to society, and perhaps most importantly how to be a lifelong learner.

When I was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, I was flattered to have been nominated, though I knew little about the society. Although I have remained a sustaining member since then, until now I never really understood the importance of Phi Beta Kappa and its mission. As President Sullivan wrote in his letter to the William & Mary community Oct. 26, 2001, "This nation was born out of a fight for freedom, including the freedom that education protects. We are once again engaged in such a fight, and as was the case in Jefferson's time, it is precisely this education—and liberal arts education—that will ensure we prevail." I am now quite proud to be a sustaining member and stand wholeheartedly behind the Society and its philosophy and goals.

*James S. Katzner, University Heights, Ohio*

I fully agree with [former Secretary Douglas] Foard's statements on the importance of liberal education in our society (summer 2001 Key Reporter). I also welcome the news of Phi Beta Kappa's efforts to encourage students to pursue a liberal arts education. I believe, however, that we must do more than focus on young students, many of whom today face the prospect of leaving college with tens of thousands of dollars in debt from educational loans. Given that today's students have the burden of loan repayment and the pressures of an increasingly competitive job market, we hardly can fault those who turn to business or engineering, instead of liberal arts, in the hope of gaining greater security. I earned my B.A. over 10 years ago, and even then the disparity in employment opportunities was significant.

In addition to encouraging students, we also must educate business leaders and other employers on the value of hiring employees with a liberal education. It is my hope that Phi Beta Kappa will devote some of its efforts to this important task, so that the student who elects to pursue a liberal education need not fear that he or she will be penalized for having done so.

*Jonathan Todres, Brooklyn, N.Y.*

In response to the discussion between Edward Farkas and Douglas Foard ("Of Majors and Missions," Fall 2001) I would like to offer my thoughts on the issue of undergraduates in disciplines outside the liberal arts. This May I will graduate with joint degrees in liberal arts and business. To be sure, I have found the narrow, vocationally minded approach of undergraduate business education completely bereft of even a semblance of intellectual curiosity and its students correspondingly narrow and boring. However, even from within such an unlikely place I have been quite satisfied with my learning. By mostly ignoring the career trap of the business school and pursuing the degree to my own end, I have been able to complement my studies in the liberal arts quite well and certainly to the benefit of my education.

Based on my own experience, I feel that rather than defining its mission as "count-

er[ing] the increasing numbers of students who elect to enter career-training programs," perhaps the Alliance [for Excellence] should instead strive to encourage students to embrace "the freedom and breadth of inquiry" no matter what their chosen field.

*Andrew S. Friedberg, Austin Texas*

I would like to comment on the letter by Mr. Farkas and the reply by Mr. Foard (Fall 2001). I believe that both of these authors are correct in their analysis. I take myself as an example. My major was chemistry. I thus fulfilled all requirements for a major in this field as to courses in chemistry, physics and mathematics. Nevertheless, I took quite a number of liberal arts courses as electives, while limiting myself to the 120 units required to obtain a B.S. degree. These electives were in philosophy, music, and literature. Thus far, I can consider myself an ordinary student.

However, this conclusion is not entirely correct. I was born in Germany and German is my mother tongue. It follows that I did not have to take a course in scientific German, at the time a requirement for chemistry major. Such a course was quite difficult and necessitated substantial work for an ordinary American student. In addition, in order to master scientific German, one had to know already ordinary German. I was thus able to save a lot of time which I could devote to other studies—liberal arts. From this point of view, I was indeed an exceptional student.

I hope that this small contribution will be of interest.

*Alexander H. Zutrauen, Chatenay-Malabry, France*

I believe that the debate, and supposed competition, between career-training programs and the liberal arts is another example of the fallacy of either-or. Students can train for a career and at the same time acquire wisdom and broaden their youthful perspective on this complex world by reading, listening and discussing in the so-called cultural fields. In deed, there are many examples of the most broad-minded and widely read people in technical fields as being the most eminent in those fields.

One need think only of Oliver Wendell Holmes and Louis D. Brandeis in the law, whose wisdom as shown in their Supreme



Court rulings, and dissents, reflect their breadth of vision and warm humanity, even though they studied at the career-oriented Harvard Law School.

Or reflect on Charlie Ketterling of General Motors, the greatest innovator in his industry, who could cross swords with anyone on mechanical engineering or on the social implications of America on wheels. Or the quiet little German mathematician-physicist who became Professor Albert Einstein, leading advocate for a peaceful world.

In my own time in a national public accounting firm, I found that the outstanding leaders were those who had combined their "number-crunching" with a wide interest in books and the arts. There is no contradiction between training to earn a living and developing a life of the mind. They complement each other.

*Alden Todd, Anchorage, Alaska*

I am glad to have the opportunity to defend my liberal arts education. When it was time for me to look toward college, the chairman of the music department at Mount Holyoke told me he had studied at the Paris Conservatoire. He felt he missed the broad education he should have had for the position he held, and told me never to consider a conservatory but make sure my family would send me to a college for a liberal arts education. That was very sound advice.

My liberal arts education prepared me to be a many-sided person, certainly more versatile. Studying the liberal arts gave me a broad background in many fields, gave me broader outlook on life, gave me the capability to be discerning when faced with major problems. It basically taught me to think out problems.

Do I feel that my education prepared me for changes? Yes, I believe it did. I have

always tried to keep abreast of new ideas in my field of music; when the computer was developed, I started taking courses in computer, first on the Wang then IBM. I have On Star on my automobile and bullet-proof tires. I took extra courses for years. For example, I had a scholarship to study choral conducting at Tanglewood; I have an A.B. degree in music composition; a B.M. degree in liturgical music; an M.A. and Ph.D. in musicology, plus I studied to learn other fields, even a Dale Carnegie course in order to present better lectures.

*Catherine A. Dower Gold, Boca Raton, Fla.*

*Editor's Note: "ΦBK in the News" in the Fall 2001 Key Reporter reported on a Philadelphia Inquirer interview with Josiah Bunting, III, superintendent of Virginia Military Institute. An alert reader, Lola Steele Shepherd, pointed out that he was incorrectly described as "a ΦBK graduate of the College of William & Mary. VMI claims him as a 1963 graduate." A letter of apology to General Bunting brought this enlightening response:*

As I understand the practice, the president of the [ΦBK] chapter at William & Mary, the founding "Alpha of Virginia" chapter, is ordinarily an "outside" person, not a member of the William & Mary community. I was asked to take on the duty around 1992, and I served as chapter president for about three years, working with the on-campus director, Dr. Ludwell Johnson, the Civil War historian, and the president of William & Mary, Tim Sullivan.

I had had no formal connection with William & Mary, but had been president at Hampden-Sydney for 10 years, in the 1980s. My duties as [chapter] president were light. I presided over two sessions—"investitures"—a year, made short speeches, and congratulated new honorands and their parents. It was ineffably pleasurable, on account of the Wren Building setting, the history, and the grace and wisdom of Dr. Sullivan, who made fine homilies for the occasion.

VMI has no chapter, but keeps on trying, and is in fact moving upwards in all the good academic and intellectual ways.

*Josiah Bunting, III, Lexington, Va.*

## Phi Beta Kappa Tie, Keys, Wall Display

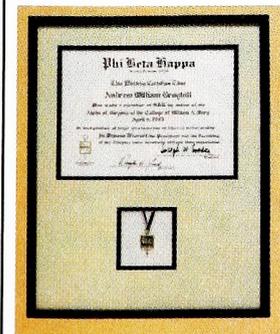
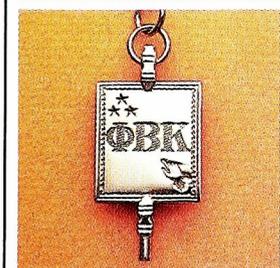
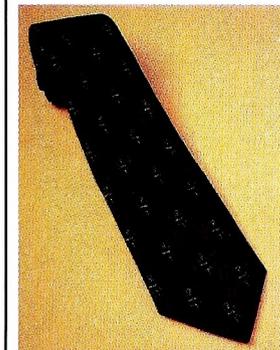
Phi Beta Kappa offers members a variety of items bearing the Society's insignia. The Phi Beta Kappa necktie is made of 100% silk, burgundy in color, and woven with the key design in gold. The Society's official symbol, the Phi Beta Kappa key is available in three sizes, each in 10-karat gold or gold-electroplate. The medium-size key is shown here actual size. 18 inch neck chains are available in both solid and gold-plate. The membership display includes an engrossed membership certificate and a large gold-plated key, double matted in an attractive walnut frame, 12" x 16" in size.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment and a copy of your mailing label from the back cover showing your ΦBK membership number to Hand & Hammer, 2610 Morse Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. You may place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You may order online at [www.hand-hammer.com](http://www.hand-hammer.com).

- Phi Beta Kappa necktie, burgundy and gold (100% silk)...\$39
- Medium-size key, 10-karat gold (1 3/8" high).....\$79
- Medium-size key, 24-karat gold-plated (1 3/8" high).....\$26
- 10-karat gold neck chain, 18 inches (for gold key).....\$46
- 24-karat gold-plated chain, 18 inches (for plated key).....\$6
- Wall display (key and certificate framed 12"x16").....\$79

Name, chapter and date for personalization \_\_\_\_\_

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# Phi Beta Kappa in Popular Culture

"Roosevelt's Secret War," a new book by Joseph Persico, describes a Navy lieutenant, Edwin Putzell, a lawyer who worked for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). In late 1941, he carried dispatches to the White House, and brought some to the President himself. "On one occasion, I pulled out a pocket watch with my Phi Beta Kappa key attached. He said, 'Lieutenant, that's something I always aspired to.'"

*Contributed by Harvey Klehr, Atlanta, Ga.*

The Wall Street Journal's "Leisure & Arts" section (Dec. 5) looked at "Theater: Dispatches from the Gender

Wars." Describing John Leguizamo's one-man show, "Sexaholix," Barbara D. Phillips wrote: "We meet the George-and-Martha Fresh Air Fund couple in Vermont, who teach John that WASP marriages can be dysfunctional too; his squabbling grandparents, who enjoy nothing together but a great sex life; and his two dopey friends, the only other members of the Sexaholix, the teen gang he forms after failing the exam for the 'Phi Beta Kappa' of gangs, the Savage Nomads."

*Contributed by James D. Sheppard, Greenville, S.C.*

In "Disclosure," a 1993 novel by Michael Crichton, a company newslet-

ter profiles Meredith Johnson, the villain of the book, this way:

"As a new arrival to DigiCom, Ms. Johnson brings her considerable business acumen, her sparkling humor, and her sizzling softball pitch. She's a major addition to the DigiCom team! Welcome, Meredith!"

"Her admiring friends are never surprised to learn that Meredith was once a finalist in the Miss Teen Connecticut contest. In her student days at Vassar, Meredith was a valued member of both the tennis team and the debating society. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, she took her major in psychology, with a minor in abnormal psych. Hope you won't be needing that around here, Meredith!"

*Contributed by P.S. Taylor, McLean, Va.*

## Recommended Reading

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

fully shown for the case of multiple sclerosis by E. Kanabrocki), may have contributed to the apparent response by some but not by other patient groups. These are testable hypotheses, should the large data bases collected in the course of the studies described in this book still be available for retrospective analysis.

Work by J. Resch, in turn, suggests that the incidence of multiple sclerosis is also periodic, following a distribution similar to that of solar particle rays, an effect perhaps mediated via the pineal gland (which is sensitive to small changes in magnetic field), as suggested by R. Sandyk, which may account for the age-dependence of the disease and its remission during pregnancy. As nicely documented in Susan Quinn's narrative, the case is made for the crucial importance

of an adequate study design. This reviewer wishes to emphasize the added critical importance of considering timing as an integral part of any study design, and to do so as early in a clinical trial as possible.

**The Spark of Life—Darwin and the Primeval Soup.** *Christopher Wills and Jeffrey Bada. Perseus Publishing, 2000. \$17.*

The authors are to be commended for giving a compelling review of a field at the frontiers of science, where there are still more questions than answers. In the search for the origin of life on earth, they provide arguments that life first appeared on the surface, rather than deep inside the earth. They make the case for a Darwinian natural selection that started taking place at the level of those early transition creatures from the dawn of life, called protobionts, before the appearance of living cells, as we

know them now. They show us how the emergence of life may have depended critically on the environment, which provided the strong, immediate and specific selective forces to drive the active processes necessary for a chemical evolution to take place.

Such a strong link of living things with a continually changing environment is particularly appealing to this reviewer, who finds that living organisms at different organizational levels continue to share many features of broad time structures with physical environmental variables (not just pervasive circadian rhythms, but also variations with much longer cycles, matching non-photic solar processes, such as those related to solar activity and/or geomagnetic disturbances, characterized by about 10.5-, 21-, and 50-year cycles, among others). A very enjoyable book, at the crossroads of several disciplines.

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