



PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

SUMMER 2007

In the Future of Higher Education, Will the Humanities Still Matter?

MLA Joins ΦBK in Criticism of Spellings Report

The Society of 1776

Legacy Planning with ΦBK





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In the Future of Higher Education, Will the Humanities Still Matter?

Most of us can call to mind a classroom moment like this one: a literature professor, usually mild and measured, suddenly brims with feeling and conviction as a passage from (pick your era) *Moby Dick*, *The Catcher in the Rye* or *Beloved* comes up for discussion. Some cynics in the back of the room might have been wondering, "How can someone get so excited about a book?" But we were thrilled to witness the interaction of literary art with a sensibility honed to understand it. And we wanted to be like that, because it was, manifestly, contact with something that *matters*.

I ask you to call that scene to mind in connection with last winter's report that Phi Beta Kappa's 41st Triennial Council took formal action critical of the report issued by U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings' Commission on the Future of Higher Education. Specifically, the Council endorsed a resolution stating that the report was "seriously flawed" in its omission of the liberal arts and sciences as wellsprings of the excellence, success and public usefulness of higher education in this country. Now, I am happy to say, the Modern Language Association (MLA) — representing 30,000 scholars and teachers of language and literature — has weighed in on the same topic. These professors have spoken out in a way that bolsters the convictions we embraced last fall. The MLA's statement includes these words:

"We note that the commission makes virtually no mention of the humanities, despite their established central role in higher education . . . Yet, although the report ignores the humanities, the educational skills it emphasizes are precisely those that the humanities are credited with developing. A persistent theme of the report is the urgent need to produce college graduates who have mastered 'critical thinking, writing and problem solving skills needed in today's workplaces,' that is, the very skills the humanities teach." (Read the entire MLA statement at www.mla.org/execcouncil_spellingreport.)

At Phi Beta Kappa — with our loyalties across the social sciences and natural sciences as well as the humanities — we insist that those disciplines, too, contribute in important ways to the educational ends we all seek. They offer contact with something that matters. But having made that point, we welcome the statement by MLA as another voice of conviction joining Phi Beta Kappa's in saying that what students engage in their educational processes does matter. If it were not so, the issues of access, affordability and accountability, on which the Spellings report lays such emphasis, would themselves not matter.

The Secretary of Education is continuing to push the project along. In March she convened an impressively broad array of higher education leaders and interested parties in a "summit," which was reasonably well received by its academic participants. It does look, however, as if the accreditation process may be proposed as the vehicle for the collection of standardized national data on student learning outcomes. Now a "steering committee" has been appointed and is at work. This committee contains strong representation from business and the political realm, with three sitting governors among two dozen committee members, but no one who leads an independent institution of higher learning. We look forward to tracking this committee's progress.

What is at stake for Phi Beta Kappa in these activities? We want to inject two things into the discussion. The first, as we said in Atlanta, is that there can be no meaningful consideration of the future of higher education in America without a recognition of the role of engagement with the liberal arts and sciences as the heart of the experience. To forget this is to forfeit the value of the many remarks the Founding Fathers made on the importance of broad education in a democracy. The second, as we must continue to say in the face of demands for common measurement, is that the genius of higher education in this country lies in its diversity, its openness to spontaneous innovation and its decentralization in the decisions of literally thousands of curriculum-setting faculties across the country. Since the power to measure is the power to control, we will have to be vigilant in protecting that messy genius. We need recognition of the importance of the liberal arts and sciences in America. But we cannot have curriculum by decree.

John Churchill
Secretary



I'm proud of my election to Phi Beta Kappa because I was badly hurt my first year in college and lost an entire year of school. When I returned, I had two objectives: to finish the four years of work in three years and to make Phi Beta Kappa. When I was elected, it was a great honor, but it was also a great achievement.

— Fay Vincent

Francis (Fay) T. Vincent Jr. served as the eighth Commissioner of Major League Baseball from Sept. 13, 1989, to Sept. 7, 1992. Vincent joined Major League Baseball as Deputy Commissioner under A. Bartlett Giamatti in April 1989.

Prior to his position in Major League Baseball, Vincent served as Executive Vice President of The Coca-Cola Company until July 1988. He had joined Columbia Pictures Industries, Inc. in July 1978 as President and Chief Executive Officer, and in March 1982, following the acquisition of Columbia by Coca-Cola, he was appointed Chairman and CEO of its Entertainment Business Sector. In April 1986, he was promoted to Executive Vice President of Coca-Cola responsible for all its entertainment activities.

Vincent also served as Associate Director of the Division of Corporation Finance of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He was a partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm of Caplin & Drysdale from 1968 to 1978, where he specialized in corporate, banking and securities matters. Before joining Caplin & Drysdale, he was an associate in the New York law firm of Whitman and Ransom.

Vincent received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1963 and is a member of the bar in New York, Connecticut and the District of Columbia. After attending The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., he graduated *cum laude* in 1960 from Williams College, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He served as

Continued on 9

CONTENTS

FROM THE SECRETARY

In the Future of Higher Education,
Will the Humanities Still Matter? 2

ΦBK NEWS

Letters to the Editor 4

"Deliberation about Things that
Matter" Program Sites Selected 5

The Secretary's Circle 5

The Society of 1776 6

Pauline LeVen, Sibley Fellow in
Greek Studies 2007 6

ΦBK Charters Six New Chapters 7

The Meaning of Darwinism
by Alex Rosenberg, Romanell-
ΦBK Professor of Philosophy
2006-2007 8

Ruenitz Trust Creates the
Occidental College ΦBK Forum 9

ΦBK Associations 10

At the National Office 11

FROM OUR BOOK CRITICS

Reviews 12

ON THE COVER

Texas Tech University
Lambda of Texas, 2007

Students and parents touring Texas Tech University are photographed under the archway of the administration building. Texas Tech was awarded a Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the 41st Triennial Council in Atlanta last fall. The university's chapter installation ceremony was held on April 11, and the first students from Texas Tech were inducted into the Society.

Deliberative Skills and Liberal Arts Education

Secretary Churchill's letter in the Spring 2006 issue was just the inspiration I needed. My reason for wanting to teach composition, and to get a Ph.D. in composition and rhetoric, was to be able to develop just the kinds of deliberative skills Churchill outlines. All too often, what passes for deliberation on major policies and ballot issues is shallow, uncritical and uninformed. I believe teaching effective communication skills can help reverse, or at least slow, that trend.

Adam Smith, mentioned at the opening of Churchill's letter, taught rhetoric. Hugh Blair, who defended David Hume against charges of immorality, also taught rhetoric. These men knew, as the ancient Greeks did, the importance of effective communication skills at the center of a liberal arts education that trained men for public life. It would be great to see rhetoric restored to a central position in higher education. Meanwhile, I appreciated the reminder that in choosing to teach rhetoric, I also teach deliberative skills for citizens in a democracy.

Chris Geyer
Syracuse University
Syracuse, N.Y.

Academic "Freedom"?

Phi Beta Kappa has an abiding concern with defending the values of liberal arts and sciences education in our culture. The letters I have received from the Society in the few years since my initiation point to the need for contributions in order to help Phi Beta Kappa keep the values of the liberal arts strong in the United States' public imagination.

In *The Key Reporter* issues that I have read since my initiation, I find one topic interestingly and conspicuously absent: the growth of the so-called "academic freedom" and academic diversity movement. This movement claims its goal is to make

campuses "safer" for beliefs less commonly held at colleges and universities, usually socially and politically conservative ones. A good idea on its surface, the aim of this movement in fact often becomes a blanket for ideologues to push their agendas and to put undeserved scrutiny on teaching. Professors may feel pressure to rein in expressions of their own beliefs and alter their teaching styles. A key claim of the movement is that professors who artic-



"Thank you for teaching me to fetch and roll over, but these are not skills that will help me in the long run."

Courtesy of Marc Tyler Nobleman www.mtncartoons.com

ulate their own social and political views in the classroom will unfairly grade students who express conflicting ones, a suggestion most professors would find either laughable or offensive. The ability that teachers have to speak freely — and to cultivate in their students the skills of critically evaluating opinions and arguments — is central to the values of liberal arts education. Similarly, a teacher who honors the traditions of the liberal arts would not even consider penalizing students for expressing opposing opinions.

Samuel Morrison
St. Paul, Minn.

Editor's Note: Phi Beta Kappa embraces freedom of inquiry and expression as pre-conditions of the learning implied in the motto "Love of wisdom is the guide of life." Genuine learning can occur only when these values are respected. There is a variety of understandings of the way in which these freedoms flourish within the communities that observe them, and a variety of views of how these values permit

the communities themselves to flourish.

Fervent advocates of freedom of expression disagree among themselves about what must be protected in a civil society. They therefore strike the balance between individual freedom and the prevention of harm to others in different ways. We also believe that the membership of Phi Beta Kappa, now approaching 600,000, represents a wide spectrum of opinion on this question. Advancing deliberation, rather than stifling it, is our aim.

We believe that individual members of the Society — and others — should continue to explore the relationship between rights to free expression and the protections due to members of communities.

Whatever Happened to Nancy Lee's Key?

I am thrilled to report, after my letter ran in the Winter 2006 issue, that Nancy Lee Boxley Tepper now has her mother's bracelet and her own ΦBK key back

on her arm.

It seems the gold bracelet belonged to Mrs. Tepper's mother, who lost it while shopping in Richmond, Va. Mrs. Boxley had been so proud of her daughter's accomplishment that she asked if she might wear Nancy's ΦBK key on her bracelet along with her other meaningful charms.

Mrs. Tepper's mother died some years ago, so you can just imagine what wonderful memories receiving this old bracelet has brought back for her. It's hard to believe that after all of these years the bracelet has found its way home.

Anita T. Perry
College of William and Mary
Williamsburg, Va.

The Key Reporter welcomes the submission of letters. Those that are published may be condensed. Please send letters by e-mail to keyreporter@pbk.org, by fax to (202) 986-1601 or by postal mail to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

"Deliberation about Things that Matter": Program Sites for ΦBK-Teagle Grant Selected

"Deliberation about Things That Matter" is a project of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, funded with a grant of \$100,000 from the Teagle Foundation.

In 2003, the Society sponsored a series of "Conversations" around the country to see what ΦBK members — many of them long out of college — found to be of lasting value in their education. The answer was clear and consistent: They valued the development of skills of critical thinking and deliberation.

This response has inspired the Society to sharpen its advocacy for liberal arts education, and it has posed a new question: How are such skills developed? "Deliberation about Things That Matter" stems from that question.

Eleven campuses are involved, and the participants range across all types of colleges and universities where ΦBK has chapters (small liberal arts colleges, large state-supported research universities and so on). The coordinating body on each campus is a partnership between the ΦBK chapter and a campus curricular authority, such as the Honors College, the Dean of Arts and Sciences or the Curriculum Committee.

The activities undertaken on each campus are being designed to fit local circumstances. In one case, the project will be an effort to inject concerns about the teaching and learning of deliberative skills into a university-wide curricular study. In another, the aim will be to reshape the first-year experience with these issues in mind.

In all cases, the partnerships will not only engage students and faculty in deliberative activities, but they will also observe and analyze those activities with the aim of coming to understand what happens when people deliberate well, how people learn the skills involved and — equally important — how they acquire the disposition to use those skills.

The Society's intent is to have an impact on these campuses and, following the project, to produce a white paper of general interest on this topic in order to spread what we have learned to others. The Society also

aims to strengthen the role of the chapters involved on their campuses and to raise the visibility of Phi Beta Kappa as a champion of the liberal arts and sciences.

Participating Chapters

Beta of Arizona
Arizona State University

Beta of Arkansas
Hendrix College

Beta of Colorado
Colorado College

Gamma of Florida
Stetson University

Beta of Indiana
Wabash College

Gamma of Iowa
Drake University

Zeta of Michigan
Hope College

Upsilon of Pennsylvania
Carnegie Mellon University

Alpha of Texas
University of Texas at Austin

Alpha of Vermont
University of Vermont

Gamma of Washington
Washington State University ■

The Secretary's Circle



Phi Beta Kappa members who have demonstrated a high level of dedication to the ideals of the Society are now being invited to join the Secretary's Circle, an elite group committed to making a significant annual gift to further the Society's mission and to support its efforts to strengthen American education and the life of the mind.

"The Secretary's Circle provides a

wonderful opportunity for members to become more involved with Phi Beta Kappa and to support the many activities of the Society," said Associate Secretary Scott Lurding.

"The interest in the Secretary's Circle has been strong, and we are very pleased that so many members have chosen to become Founders of the Circle in its inaugural year," Lurding added.

The Founding Members of the Secretary's Circle have been invited to participate in a special weekend gala in Washington, D.C., the home of Phi Beta Kappa's national headquarters.

The Founders' Weekend will begin with a cocktail reception on the evening of Friday, May 18, followed on Saturday by an offering of cultural activities during the day and culminating in a black-tie dinner with Knight Kiplinger, one of America's most respected economic journalists and business forecasters. On Sunday morning, May 20, Founding Members of the Secretary's Circle will receive a private briefing on Society initiatives by Secretary John Churchill.

The weekend's events are free for the Founders of the Secretary's Circle.

For more information about the Secretary's Circle, contact Associate Secretary Scott Lurding at the national office. ■

JOIN
THE SECRETARY'S CIRCLE
AND HELP TO ADVANCE THE
IMPORTANT WORK OF
PHI BETA KAPPA



Laureate

\$1,500 - \$2,499

Bronze Laureate

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Silver Laureate

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Gold Laureate

\$10,000 AND ABOVE

The Society of 1776 — Legacy Planning with Phi Beta Kappa

Throughout the history of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, many individuals have elevated the Society to the level of a family member through bequests — both large and small — through wills, life insurance policies or family trusts. The Society is exceedingly grateful for these special contributions and honored to be remembered in such an intimate manner. Unfortunately, few of these donors gave us the opportunity of knowing them personally or knowing of their intentions during their lifetimes. With the introduction of the Society of 1776, we offer an attractive remedy.

The Society of 1776 is a group of members who have informed ΦBK that they have chosen to support the work of the Society through bequests, trusts or other deferred gifts. In gratitude for their generosity, ΦBK bestows special recognition, including, among many other attractive benefits, an annual induction ceremony and reception in their honor along with a special embellishment which complements the ΦBK key.

In the coming months, ΦBK members will begin to see notices in Society publications; you may receive correspondence or a phone call from Jared Hughes, our newly appointed Director of Legacy Planning, or from fellow members, volunteers or representatives. We ask that, in the meantime, you take a moment to make your intentions known via e-mail or letter if you would like to be a member of this august assemblage of ΦBK members. Soon, the ΦBK Web site will feature a section devoted to information about legacy planning and the Society of 1776.

Those individuals and families who have already designated ΦBK in their estate plans should let us know, so that we may recognize them as members of this special group of people. In order to be formally inducted into the Society of 1776, you must complete a standard letter of intent form and return it to the national office of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. By doing so, you will secure your place and be eligible for the benefits of membership because you have confirmed that you intend to make this vital and lasting ultimate gift.

Your generous support will help Phi Beta Kappa continue its important

work in furthering the liberal arts and sciences and honoring future generations of outstanding students and future leaders. Your gift ensures the safeguarding of our high-quality programs that champion knowledge and tolerance, respect and reflection, and cultivating the intellectual skills and capabilities of our members and future members will continue.

If you would like to receive more information along with a personalized illustration of how establishing a tax advantaged gift could provide a guaranteed income to you and/or a loved one beginning immediately and lasting for the rest of your lifetime(s), please contact the Director of Legacy Planning. It may interest you to know that gifts of this nature may be funded using cash, appreciated securities or real estate; are backed by the full resources of ΦBK; and can be a useful tool in protecting your assets while ensuring your philanthropic wishes are met.

If you are inclined to name the Phi Beta Kappa Society in your will or estate plan, suggested language might read: “I give, devise and bequeath to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, an unincorporated association organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, with principal business address of 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009-2512 (Employer Identification Number 53-0226282), XYZ percent of my residuary estate (or whatever terms you desire).” Or, if real property: “...all that piece and parcel of real property known and described as follows:....”. We strongly recommend that you consult with your estate planning counsel for the proper wording. You may advise your estate planning counsel that the Phi Beta Kappa Society qualifies as a tax-exempt charitable organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) and, thus, is qualified to receive tax deductible charitable contributions.

If you would like to learn more about this opportunity to support ΦBK for generations to come, please contact the Director of Legacy Planning, Jared Hughes, at (202) 745-3234 or via e-mail at jhughes@pbk.org. ■

Pauline LeVen, Mary Isabel Sibley Fellow in Greek Studies 2007



Pauline LeVen

Established in 1934, the Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship is a \$20,000 award designated for young women scholars who have earned a Ph.D. or are completing their doctoral dissertations. The fields of study alternate each year between Greek and French.

This year's Sibley Fellow is Pauline LeVen.

LeVen is a fifth-year Ph.D. student in Classical Philology at Princeton University and *Université Paris Sorbonne-Paris IV*. She completed her undergraduate studies in the humanities section of the *Ecole normale Supérieure*, where she worked with Professor Pierre Chiron on Greek rhetoric. She obtained the *Agrégation de Lettres Classiques* in 2000 and first came to Princeton as a Fulbright Visiting Student in 2001. She is currently working on a dissertation entitled “The Many-Headed Muse: Greek Lyric Culture in the Fourth-Century B.C.,” co-directed by Andrew Ford and Monique Trédé. Pauline's interests include Greek poetry, the ancient novel, French poetry (especially Paul Valéry), ancient rhetoric and literary theory, strings music and her golden retriever named Philoxenus (after the dithyrambic poet). ■

Phi Beta Kappa Charters Six New Chapters

At the 41st Council of Phi Beta Kappa held in October 2006, the Society voted to establish six new chapters. Chapter installation ceremonies and a wide variety of celebratory events have been taking place from Ewing, N.J., to Stockton, Calif., this winter and spring.

Gaining a chapter is the result of lifetimes of labor and accomplishment by faculty, administrative staff, students, and supporters who have created institutions of remarkable excellence in the liberal arts and sciences — the enterprise honored by Phi Beta Kappa. The creation of these chapters is the result of years of effort by ΦBK members among the faculty and administration who are receiving the chapter charters at these institutions.

Theta of Maryland Chartered Feb. 23



“We are simply delighted that our 225 years of commitment to broad, general education in the liberal arts has been endorsed by the Society.”

— Baird Tipson, President
Washington College
Chestertown, Md.

Chi of California Chartered March 31



“Gaining a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa is a defining moment for the University of the Pacific, one which not only signifies the high quality of our liberal arts and sciences programs, but confers distinction upon all academic programs.”

— Donald DeRosa, President
The University of the Pacific
Stockton, Calif.

Delta of South Carolina Chartered April 2



“This is a very important milestone for Clemson. Our heritage and strength as a research university is in the sciences and engineering. We are very proud that Phi Beta Kappa has now recognized the excellence of our faculty and our undergraduate programs in the humanities, arts, and sciences.”

— James F. Baker, President
Clemson University
Clemson, S.C.

Delta of New Jersey Chartered April 9



“The distinction of Phi Beta Kappa is a welcome acknowledgement of the tremendous educational experience we offer, and the presence of a chapter on campus will even further enrich that experience.”

— R. Barbara Gitenstein, President
The College of New Jersey
Ewing, N.J.

Lambda of Texas Chartered April 11



“I am delighted by the installation of a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Texas Tech University and appreciate the decades of efforts and improvements at Texas Tech that lie behind the celebration on April 11.”

— Jon Whitmore, President
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas

Pi of Ohio Chartered April 22



“Phi Beta Kappa is a key piece in the complete picture of a Xavier education — to develop our students intellectually, morally and spiritually, with rigor and compassion, toward lives of solidarity, service and success.”

— Michael J. Graham, S.J., President
Xavier University
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Meaning of Darwinism: Three Public Lectures by Alex Rosenberg Romanell-ΦBK Professor of Philosophy, 2006-2007

I began my lectures by noting that the only name I did not recognize on the list of distinguished winners of the Romanell-ΦBK Professorship in Philosophy was my own. But few believed this self-deprecatory ploy, so I launched into my first lecture, “Is Darwinism the Only Game in Town?” My answer was a resounding “yes.” In this lecture, I advanced an argument to show that a small number of very reasonable requirements on any explanation of adaptation, complexity and diversity (but especially the first of these) made Charles Darwin’s explanation in terms of random variation and natural selection logically inevitable. Before laying down these conditions and giving my argument, I tried to distinguish my objective from a similar one advanced in Imanuel Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* to show that Newton’s mechanics was logically inevitable for cognitive agents like us. Kant’s hubris is a cautionary tale, since it turned out that Newton’s laws were not only not inevitable, they were false! My aim, however, is more limited than Kant’s program: I only want to show that physics makes Darwin’s account of adaptation and its consequences the only possible one.

There are two requirements on any real explanation of adaptation. First, the explanation cannot be question-begging. That is, it cannot leave us with the same question we began with, for instance, by positing an adaptation-producing mechanism that is itself an adaptation. This is what is wrong with Jean-Baptiste Lamarck’s hypothesis that adaptations appear owing to the use and disuse of organs and behaviors. Such a mechanism, were it to appear in nature, would be a wonderful adaptation. But the emergence of such a wonderful adaptation would itself have to be explained. The same problem bedevils William Paley’s explanation that adaptations are the result of the action of a designing deity.

The second requirement on an explanation of adaptation is that it be compatible with the laws of physics. Now the evolution of adaptations is a temporally asymmetrical process — one which makes sense only in the direction of past to future. But all the laws of physics are temporally sym-

metrical — they don’t determine a direction of events in time, except the second law of thermodynamics. This law tells us that entropy or disorder is probably increasing over time in the universe. So, the only way an evolutionary mechanism can be consistent with physics is if it exploits the second law — if it describes a process in which adaptations (that is order) appear randomly and are improbable and energetically expensive. Natural selection fills this bill perfectly of course. I try to show that nothing else could do so. If this is true, then the only mechanism of evolution will be natural selection. It is the only game in town.

Of course, biologists don’t need a philosopher’s argument to show them that Darwin’s theory is the right one. They already have plenty of evidence for this conclusion, and molecular biology is providing more and more precise, complete and compelling evidence for the truth of Darwin’s theory everyday. Biologists don’t need the argument, but I argue that social and behavioral scientists do. The explanatory domains of all the social and the behavioral sciences are adaptations, either in individual behavior and action or social norms and institutions. I try to show this by some Nobel-prize winning examples from contemporary economic theory. If the only possible explanation of these and all other adaptations is Darwin’s, then this theory must be the right one for the social and behavioral sciences as well. This is not to say that human behavior, human action and social institutions are somehow genetically determined. That would be a nonsensical idea. But all human adaptation must somehow be produced by the operation of blind variation and natural selection working, not on genes, but on some other nonhereditary transmitter of learned human traits.

In the second lecture, “Nature or Nurture: Darwinism Is Still the Only Game in Town,” I try to show that even the apparent products of human design, and the cognitive activities of their designers, must in the end be understood as the products of Darwinian mechanisms. This argument requires me to say something about what the “replicators” are in human culture if

they are not the genes that drive biological evolution. So I have to take up the problem of whether there are “memes” and how they must operate to vindicate my argument.

In the third lecture, “Naturalism’s Nice Nihilism?” I explore the great problem that faces a thorough-going Darwinism about human nature and human society: When it comes to human values, to the grounds of right and wrong, good and bad, virtue and vice, the Darwinian faces a hard choice: either to embrace a version of ethical naturalism, which tries to justify human value by evolutionary facts, or a Darwinian nihilism which denies that the explanation of our values that Darwinism provides can at the same time justify or ground them — show them to be the right values with a capital R. From the time of Herbert Spencer’s absurd notion that what is right or good is whatever is fittest in the struggle for survival, biologists and others have sought to erect moral values on evolutionary facts. Philosophers have much more rarely tried to do so, heading David Hume’s powerful argument that you cannot infer from what is the case to what ought to be the case. But once ethical naturalism is foreclosed, the only real alternative for the Darwinian is a sort of nihilism about objective value. The most we can say is that some values will make more of a contribution to the survival of our lineage, our population or our species. Under some environmental circumstances, the adapted values could be very far from the ones we want to endorse here and now. Fortunately, the Darwinian can embrace something I call “nice nihilism,” the recognition that for creatures like us humans, in environmental circumstances such as we have found ourselves in over the last several thousand years and will continue to find ourselves, there seems to have been very strong selection for cooperation and altruism; a strong concern for children, the weak and their welfare; and an emotionally charged commitment to equality and justice. The work of behavioral biologists, social psychologists, evolutionary game theorists and philosophers inspired by Darwin, has shown that

Continued on 9

Ruenitz Trust Creates the Occidental College Phi Beta Kappa Forum

New York entrepreneur Robert Merriman Ruenitz has given Occidental College \$320,000 to establish the Phi Beta Kappa Distinguished Speakers Forum. This initiative will bring a provocative speaker to the campus each spring.

The inaugural program was held on February 17. Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health and Harvard University addressed an overflow audience on "Global Health Equity — Examples from Haiti to Rwanda." After the presentation, he joined students for a luncheon at the home of Occidental President Susan Prager.

Ruenitz, a 1960 Occidental graduate, and his wife Jeri Hamilton made the gift through the Ruenitz Trust to honor the memory of Mr. Ruenitz's parents, Esther Merriman Ruenitz and Dr. Robert C. Ruenitz, longtime residents of Los Angeles.

The purpose of the grant is twofold: to create an opportunity for student academic leaders from various disciplines to know each other better and craft their own unique event and to bring a speaker to campus who will spark discussion possibly leading to action beyond the normal academic experience.

Under the terms of the endowment, members of ΦBK who are elected on the basis of their academic performance through their junior year will nominate potential speakers. The endowment will pay for the speaker to address the entire student body as well as participate in an informal gathering where ΦBK members can interact with the speaker. The endowment will also

underwrite dissemination of the presentation to audiences beyond the campus, whether in print, video or online.

Ruenitz says he was inspired by his own experience as a student when the Rev. James Robinson launched "Project Crossroads Africa." Robinson spoke to students at Occidental and challenged them to raise funds to cover the expenses of 10 students from the college who accompanied him on his first mission.

Mr. Ruenitz served the U.S. Department of State in Japan for several years before he and his wife, a former ABC News correspondent, formed their own business in the field of educational and cultural television production and event development.

Mr. Ruenitz believes that Occidental, with students who come from around the world, is well suited to consider issues of personal and institutional responsibility in a global context. ■



Robert M. Ruenitz, Jeri Hamilton Ruenitz, Susie Balaban (daughter-in-law), Jared Abrams (son), and Karen Ruenitz (cousin) pose in front of the president's house at Occidental College. The photo was taken at the luncheon following the inaugural program of the ΦBK Distinguished Speakers Forum.

ROSENBERG Continued from 8

being nice is a winning strategy for creatures like us. It remains for such creatures to construct, preserve and enhance social institutions that strengthen the evolutionary adaptiveness of these social dispositions. At least this is an obligation for those of us who hope the human race has an evolutionary future. ■

Alex Rosenberg is the R. Taylor Cole Professor of Philosophy at Duke University.

VINCENT Continued from 3

a trustee of Williams for 18 years and received an honorary degree in June 1990. He has served as a trustee of Carleton College and as chair of the Hotchkiss Board. Vincent is also a former trustee of Fairfield University and the Saint Thomas More Catholic Center at Yale University. Vincent has received honorary degrees from Babson College, Colgate University, Central Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, Kenyon College and Carleton College. He is currently a member of the Board of The Canterbury School in New Milford, Conn.

Vincent is a member of the Board of Directors of Time Warner Inc. (member of the Compensation and Human Development Committee and member of the Finance and Audit Committee) and Westfield Holdings of Australia.

Previously he served on the boards of Continental Corp., Coca-Cola Enterprises, Norton Co., Carson Pirie Scott & Co. and Horizon Group Inc.

He has been honored by the Negro League Museum for his assistance to Negro League Alumni. ■

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Jared Hughes, Director of Legacy Giving

Jared B. Hughes joined ΦBK as Director of Legacy Giving in February. Hughes attended American University's School of Communication where he received a baccalaureate degree in print journalism. He earned certification by the College of William and Mary's National Planned Giving Institute in 2002. He is looking forward to earning his Certified Fundraising Executive designation. In 2004, President Bush honored Hughes with The Presidential Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement representing more than 4,500 volunteer hours. Currently, Hughes volunteers with several area arts and community organizations.

Hughes is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the National Committee on Planned Giving and the National Capital Gift Planning Council. He and his wife, Nadia, are proud members of The Society of 1776, a group of donors who have remembered the Phi Beta Kappa Society in their estate planning.



Hughes has held progressively responsible positions at NASA, Allied Advertising, Prague Castle, the White House, Washington National Cathedral and the Nature Conservancy. He then served as American University's Planned Giving Officer, Director of Development at the Methodist Home of D.C., and Director of Corporate Relations at the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. Over his career, he has helped raise more than \$6.3 million. ■



Farewell to Farmer — Patrick Farmer, the Society's chapter traveler, is leaving Phi Beta Kappa in May to serve as a team leader for Bike & Build. This summer he will lead a group of young adults on a bicycle tour across North America to raise funds for and awareness of affordable housing efforts. Bike & Build supports housing groups in the communities participants visit and makes grant awards to housing groups chosen by the riders. If the national office has to lose one of its most popular and valued staff members, at least it is to a good cause. Read about Patrick's progress along the route from Providence, R.I., to Seattle by selecting "Routes and Cyclists" at www.bikeandbuild.org. ■

From Our Book Critics

By Svetlana Alpers



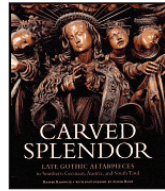
Romanesque Architectural Sculpture: The Charles Eliot Norton Lectures. Meyer Schapiro. Edited and with an introduction by Linda Seidel. Chicago: University Press, 2006; \$40.00

This is the publication of lectures given at Harvard in 1967 by Meyer Schapiro, the great historian of medieval and modern art. We owe it to the diligence, tact and intelligence of the editor, Linda Seidel, that these gripping lectures have finally been transcribed from tapes to make a small, elegant book. Her spirited introduction tells the tale behind the book and its art historical thought.

The subject is the striking monumental sculpture of Romanesque churches in France — from tympanums over doorways facing out to naves and cloisters within. The tone is that of the spoken word with the editor's clever addition for comparison of samples of the heavier more fully annotated passages revised for the publication Schapiro himself was unable to achieve.

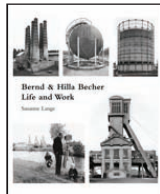
His premises were that this sculpture is innovative, is not determined by the architecture which holds and frames it and that it not only is of interest as art, but also as a maker and marker of its world. Art and society, put too simply, are discovered as bound together in essential ways.

The quality of the text is that of close looking and careful analysis. It is a revelation to read Schapiro on the *Eve of Autun*. Though it is frustrating that the old-fashioned half-tone illustrations are too few and too faint, it means that one attends all the more to the words. With these words in mind, one should go and see the sculpture for oneself.



Carved Splendor: Late Gothic Altarpieces in Southern Germany, Austria, and South Tirol. Rainer Kahsnitz. Photographs by Achim Bunz. Translated by Russell Stockman. J. Paul Getty Museum, 2006; \$150.00

With its 362 color and 70 black and white illustrations, this oversize volume on the wooden sculpture of the Gothic altarpieces of the German lands offers an instructive contrast to the Schapiro book. Despite a lengthy text, the illustrations commissioned for the book are the heart of the matter. They are astonishing as photographs. However, the truth is that if you go and see for yourself you will not see the altarpieces as they appear here — photographed under artificial lighting and in the kind of close-up detail that no worshipper on the spot was intended to see. The photographs make something totally unexpected out of the original works, though that was surely not the intention of the producers of this sumptuous volume.



Bernd and Hilla Becher: Life and Work. Susanne Lange. MIT Press, 2007; \$65.00

This book provides a well-illustrated introduction to a remarkable body of photographic work and art. The German husband-and-wife team have created a record in black and white photographs of a disappearing industrial world: winding towers, cooling towers, water towers, blast furnaces, lime kilns and more. In doing this with purpose and care under controlled conditions of angle and of light, the Bechers created a new art. Or, to reverse the telling of it, they began (in 1959) by finding visual pleasure in the shapes of things that existed for non-visual, non-aesthetic reasons. Then they went on to learn about the things they were photographing with the notion that it was not just satisfying but also important to keep a record of a world of objects that were soon to disappear.

We are given a brief historical survey of earlier architectural and industrial images and the prehistory of the photograph as documentation. We then

learn in some detail, with the help of interviews and Hilla Becher's journal entries, the way these two came to do their work and then in practice how they do it. Finally, the book considers their exhibits and publications. An interest is that while exhibited in the company of what is known as Minimal and Conceptual Art, they still insisted on the purpose of their photographs as documentary record. That doubleness runs right through their work and distinguishes it from the more single-mindedly artistic purpose — documentary as style — in the work of their numerous and successful students such as Thomas Ruff, Andreas Gursky, Candida Hofer, and Thomas Struth. The nature and the use of photography, it seems, are various indeed.

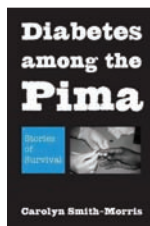


In the Studio: Visits with Contemporary Cartoonists. Todd Hignite. Yale University Press, 2006; \$29.95

This is an instructive, delightful and surprising study about cartoons and their making. What the author has actually done is to let nine well-known contemporary artists — from Robert Crumb to Art Spiegelman to Seth to Chris Ware — present their own work through informal first-person commentaries. The conversations of a studio visit are, as it were, self-generated.

One learns how each man (interestingly, they are all men) got into this sort of picture making and how he actually goes about it. They show us working drawings and planning pages. One learns of their taste for painters ranging from Hieronymus Bosch to Wassily Kandinsky and David Hockney, but also of course for old cartoons. Indeed the reproductions of pages of such oldies as *The Little King*, *Barnaby* or *Krazy Kat* are among the pleasures of the book.

Cartoonists think of themselves as storytellers, and the author succinctly describes their medium as visual writing. But looking through this richly illustrated book, what surprises one is that a cartoon page can be a marvelous and singular pictorial invention even when one can't make out the actions or the words accompanying them. How can that be? Cartooning is a richer and more puzzling art than I had realized before.



Diabetes among the Pima: Stories of Survival. Carolyn Smith-Morris. *The University of Arizona Press, 2006; \$45.00*

The unusually high rate of diabetes among Pima Indians has been the focus of innumerable studies during the past 40 years. Carolyn Smith-Morris offers a fresh look at the problem by following an ethnographic approach — research being based to a large extent on one-to-one interviews. Her choice to focus on gestational diabetes leads her to investigate the many hurdles facing the Pima in their fight against diabetes from an individual and community viewpoint. At this crucial stage in life, both genetic and behavioral factors come into play in determining the risk of diabetes later in life, for both the mother and her fetus, and hence for future generations to come. Pregnancy may also offer a unique opportunity and hope for change to curb the growing epidemic by acting preventively during the prenatal stage.

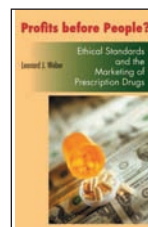
By means of a mixture of narratives derived from in-depth conversations with pregnant women at the Gila River Indian Community and experience gained over nearly 10 years of work in that community, the author not only reviews causes underlying the high incidence of diabetes in this population but also considers measures to improve the situation by way of treatment and education. At the core lies deeply engrossed cultural differences between the people at Gila River and the predominantly non-Indian professionals working on the reservation, including the health care personnel caring for the pregnant women.

Gestational diabetes is mostly symptomless, and the condition often disappears after childbirth. Diagnosis relies on tests that may yield different results at different times. Medications that can produce negative side effects and the effort needed to keep glucose levels in check are added obstacles to other, more practical problems in seeking prenatal care. Smith-Morris depicts the sweltering summer months in the upper Sonoran Desert, the high unemployment rate among the Pima, the lack of grocery stores offering healthy foods at an affordable price, unfavor-

able health care coverage and problems of transportation and child care to visit the health care center. She also addresses concerns of confidentiality in a small community where the diagnosis of diabetes is often kept private and is not shared even with other family members until the notorious comorbidities of diabetes occur, such as amputations, dialysis and blindness.

Smith-Morris' interviews with physicians reveal some common problems in the prevention and treatment of chronic disease in our health care system. Physicians are becoming increasingly sensitive to the effects of economics and history on Pima subsistence and lifestyle. Caught between traditional values and urbanism, a comprehensive approach is needed that considers poverty, alcoholism and depression that also afflict this community. The decline in farming, the switch to alternate food sources with reliance on government commodities and increased sedentism likely contribute to the situation. Improved communication between health care providers and patients is also needed — a task calling for providers to be better informed about cultural modes of expression. Particularly at issue is the concept of risk as opposed to overt disease. Education could play a key role in the schools, at memorials and at gatherings of elders and other events where health is a common topic of concern. The author stresses the diverse roles women can play in fighting the epidemic through prevention efforts, as pregnant women, as mothers, as family cooks and as grocery shoppers.

Whereas the genetic risk for diabetes associated with certain ethnicities, including the Pima Indians, is relevant to the epidemic, the population studied in this book characterizes only a minority. The treatment and prevention of diabetes are challenging clinical problems in any population. It is particularly important now that we see an increased incidence of type II diabetes among adolescents apparently associated with another scourge: obesity. As such, this book should be of broad interest to anybody involved in public health, epidemiology and anthropology.



Profits before People? Ethical Standards and the Marketing of Prescription Drugs. Leonard J. Weber. *Indiana University Press, 2006; \$24.95*

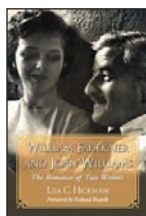
Weber's fine book is highly welcome. It takes a sobering look at the complex ethical issues faced by Big Pharma. Much effort and resources need to be invested for the development of any new drug, and it usually takes many years for a new compound to be developed, tested and brought to the market. It can also take many years to fully assess its side effects. Yet, pharmaceutical companies, contributing a large share of the chemical industry, have seen large, above-average profits in recent years. Aggressive advertising directly to the public and patent applications for slightly different molecules with essentially the same properties as older molecules whose patents have run out are practices that have brought intense criticism of the industry. At the same time, unprecedented demands from the public to the Food and Drug Administration have urged this agency to speed up the rate of approval of new drugs such as those in the fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Doing the right thing in a socially responsible way requires more than an understanding of the law; it requires an understanding of how to properly prioritize and balance commercial issues with the important basic responsibilities to the patients' well-being, avoiding placing them into harm's way, notably in view of the pharmaceutical industry's enormous influence on the practice of medicine and its key role in the health-care system.

Weber makes the point that profits and ethics are not necessarily antithetical, but that there is much room for improvement in marketing practices used by the industry. Each of the three sections of the book is centered on marketing and the ethical issues raised by it. The first section in general addresses the challenge to both ethics education and business education of including money in ethical discernment while including ethics in cost and revenue considerations. It urges for-profit businesses to recognize ethical and social responsibilities beyond those to owners and shareholders and beyond the minimum ethical standards imposed by law. Ethical issues encoun-

tered in marketing to healthcare professionals and to the public are the topics covered by the second and third section, respectively. Issues in great need of improvement include practices such as compensating physicians for lectures and consultations, recruiting subjects to participate in clinical trials, providing free samples to physicians and sponsoring continuing medical education courses, which compromises professional and scientific integrity and impacts the quality and cost of health care. Direct-to-consumer advertising is particularly criticized as creating a demand for a product rather than merely providing information about it. This presents powerful chemicals as just another commodity with a pill for every ill and for almost every desire to enhance life.

As essential stakeholders of the pharmaceutical industry and its impact on health care and health care cost, it will be our duty as citizens to press for higher standards and to embrace the ethical perspective outlined so forcefully in this book.

By M. Thomas Inge



William Faulkner and Joan Williams: The Romance of Two Writers. Lisa C. Hickman. McFarland & Co., 2006; paper \$35.00

Novelist William Faulkner always had trouble with women. The first object of his affection, a childhood friend named Estelle Oldham, was prevented from marrying him by her parents who considered him poor husband material. Instead, she headed into a more suitable but unhappy marriage that lasted only 10 years. His second love, Helen Baird, rejected him even though she inspired a good deal of love poetry and he dedicated his second novel to her. When Estelle divorced in 1929, Faulkner promptly married her, but the frustration of their lives apart somehow set the pattern for an uneasy and troublesome relationship. After the birth of their daughter and continuing alienation, Faulkner sought affection elsewhere — a script girl in Hollywood, the widow of his Swedish translator, a young French student at the Sorbonne. But his most momentous and frustrating affair may have been with a talented young writer, Joan Williams — the subject of this remark-

able and revealing book by Lisa Hickman. Thoroughly researched, well written and judiciously balanced in judgment, the author has produced a book that will be of interest to general readers and essential to Faulkner specialists. What brought Faulkner and Williams together was literature, unlike any of his other affairs. When they met, Williams was a 20-year-old college student and beginning writer, while Faulkner was a 50-year-old famous novelist about to win the Nobel Prize in literature. She wanted to learn about writing, and he wanted to teach her about life and love. In effect, she was the only student Faulkner ever agreed to mentor in the art of creative writing — his college of one. It is a sad story of misunderstandings and misplaced passion, but Hickman has told it well with good sense and sensitivity. This is an invaluable supplement to the several biographies of Faulkner, but as Hickman makes clear, Joan Williams deserves a biography of her own as an important writer who has lived too long in the shadow of her instructor.

Browsability

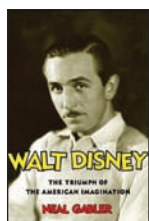
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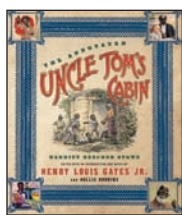
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Walt Disney: The Triumph of the American Imagination.
Neal Gabler. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006; \$35.00

Neal Gabler has written a highly detailed and balanced biographical account of one of America's most influential and accomplished men of genius. Walt Disney, he argues, "was so deeply imbedded in the American psyche and scene, understanding him may well enable one to understand the power of popular culture in shaping the national consciousness, the force of possibility and perfectionism as American ideals, the ongoing interplay between commerce and art, and the evolution of the American imagination in the twentieth century." That may strike one as an exaggeration, but it isn't really, as Gabler makes clear. Disney guided the creation of some of the finest examples of American film through animation; revived interest in numerous works of literature, fairy tale and lore; and taught several generations of children to believe in the work ethic, the philosophy of self-help and the moral nature of the universe — all things that once made the American Dream possible. Although Gabler is advertised as "the first writer to be given complete access to the Disney archives," that is questionable, as numerous other writers have been welcomed there by archivist David Smith, who has always amiably helped qualified scholars doing research on Disney. Nor is this a "definitive portrait" since Gabler has not supplanted the fine interpretive biography by Steven Watts, *The Magic Kingdom: Walt Disney and the American Way of Life* (1997). And a distinguished historian of animation, Michael Barrier, is about to publish a long-awaited biography of Disney based on a lifetime of research. But Gabler's is a comprehensive work that provides all the information most readers could ever want to know, dismisses most of the foolish mythology that persists about Disney (that he was an anti-Semite, worked as an agent for the FBI, was cryogenically frozen after death, etc.) and sheds more light on the simple facts of life about this extraordinary man than has anyone else. It will remain essential reading for a long time to come for those who care about American culture.



The Annotated Uncle Tom's Cabin.
Harriet Beecher Stowe. Edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Hollis Robbins. W. W. Norton, 2007; \$39.95

Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), alongside books like Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* (1906) and Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* (1936), remains an enigma of American literature. That is, these are books that seem to have little literary or aesthetic value but which have had a direct and profound effect on life, politics and culture in the United States. All have been enormously popular best-sellers and have never been out of print. Novelist Jane Smiley declared *Uncle Tom's Cabin* the Great American Novel and superior to *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Yet anyone who attempts to read it knows how frustrating it can be with its stilted

prose, sentimental attitude and cardboard characters. Perhaps it was, as Abraham Lincoln declared, the book that started the Civil War, but one wonders if the millions of copies sold may have more to do with obligation than with reading pleasure. In any case, we now have an impressive, handsome, thoroughly annotated and illustrated edition of the classic prepared by Hollis Robbins, who probably did the lion's share of the work, and Henry Louis Gates Jr., who provided an eloquent and provocative introduction that argues for submerged and latent sexuality as the heart of the novel's power. In addition to detailed page-by-page explanatory notes and historic references, the edition sports a wide selection of illustrations drawn from the entire publishing history of the novel — woodcuts, rare prints, posters, paintings, photographs, movie stills, cartoons and comic book adaptations. Captions for the illustrations, over 20 of which appear in color, helpfully interpret how they contributed to or reflected the national understanding of

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the novel. A color political cartoon portraying Condoleeza Rice as Eliza crossing the ice is especially striking. If one must read *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, this is the edition of choice, itself a monument of editorial skill.

By Jan Lewis



The Emperor's Children. Claire Messud. Alfred A. Knopf, 2006; \$25.00

The Emperor of the title is Murray Thwaite, a renowned liberal journalist and cultural critic, who smokes, drinks and engages in fleeting affairs with women younger than his own daughter. His motto: more life. His secret project: a book with the working title *How to Live*. The children are his daughter, Marina, and her Brown classmates Danielle Minkoff and Julius Clarke, now 30, and trying to make it in the world of New York's media. Danielle has come the closest; she produces TV documentaries and has her own pristine studio apartment. Julius made a splash with a few early reviews but has now been reduced to office temp work, a cockroach-infested walk-up in a not-yet-chic part of the Lower East Side, and dressing up in what he hopes others will recognize as his "signature" — rather than his only — suit. Marina still lives at home, also coasting on early promise, in this case, a contract for a book on the cultural significance of children's clothing. Over the course of a few months in the spring and summer of 2001, she acquires a boyfriend, "an embodiment of sardonic wisdom," who gives her the book's title, *The Emperor's Children*

Have No Clothes.

Claire Messud's novel is as captivating as Marina's boyfriend, at once seductive and repellant. A series of short chapters, written from the shifting perspectives of the characters' points of view, move the narrative forward as each of them enters into a new relationship, one in which they will have to figure out who they are and how much they can reveal. Again and again the characters strip themselves naked both for themselves and each other, but they always remain clothed — by their illusions and self-delusions. All of them, including Murray's awkward college-dropout nephew, Frederick Tubb, come to New York to learn from Murray how to live. They make a fetish of honesty at the same time that their lives are structured by secrets and the longing to be surprised.

"Take them by surprise," Murray instructs his nephew. "So you'd like to be surprised?" Marina's boyfriend asks Danielle, in the middle of a lunch at a trendy restaurant where they each carefully dismantle the elaborately constructed dishes they have been served and try, just as carefully, to dismantle each other's poses. The boyfriend has come to New York to establish a new magazine that will dismantle "falsehoods so you can see things for what they are."

With a novel set in 2001, we can all imagine what the greatest surprise of all will be, and we begin to anticipate how it will change Messud's characters' lives. The novel is intelligent and beautifully crafted. The nephew swipes Julius' copy of Robert Musil's *The Man Without Qualities*, though he never quite finishes it. Julius keeps asking himself and his friends whether he is more like Tolstoy's Pierre or Natasha. Marina has to repeatedly

remind him that she's never read the novel. This is a novel about people who live by books — "I measure my life out in books," Danielle says — but who never seem to be able to finish reading one. Messud is saying something complex about the nature of meaning in contemporary culture. If only we could care about her characters.

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