



## Howard and Fisk ΦBK Anniversaries Recall Their Historic Significance

The Phi Beta Kappa chapters at Howard University and Fisk University celebrated their 50th anniversaries in November at a reception hosted by ΦBK Secretary John Churchill on the Howard campus in Washington, D.C. They were the first historically black educational institutions to be awarded charters by the Society.

The event also was attended by representatives of the chapters at Morehouse College, established in 1968, and Spelman College, the newest at a predominantly black institution, authorized by the Triennial Council in 1997.

In reporting the installation ceremony of Fisk's chapter on April 4, 1953, *The New York Times* called the school "the first Negro institution of higher education to receive this ac-

ademic recognition." The inductees that day were two distinguished alumni members: Fred Alsup, a physician and biologist, and historian John Hope Franklin, then a professor at Howard and a future Phi Beta Kappa Society president.

*The Times* reported that the president of Emory University presided at the ceremony, with Fisk's president, Charles Johnson, participating. At that time Johnson also was a U.S. delegate to UNESCO. Johnson noted that Fisk, founded in 1866, was the first black university to be accredited by the Association of American Universities.

A *Times* editorial two days later said of the Society and Fisk: "Each is an honor to the other ... A chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at Fisk ought to be no

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## Three Authors Receive Society's Book Awards

Winners of the Phi Beta Kappa Book Awards for 2003 were announced last month in Washington, D.C., during the winter meeting of the ΦBK Senate. The annual awards recognize outstanding books in the social sciences, the humanities, and the natural sciences and mathematics. All the winners, each of whom received \$2,500, were selected by committees of scholars in their disciplines.

David Freedberg was honored for "The Eye of the Lynx: Galileo, His Friends, and the Beginnings of Modern Natural History," published by the University of Chicago Press. He received the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award in the Social Sciences, established in 1960. That committee considered 42 books nominated by 29

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Presidents of four Phi Beta Kappa chapters participated in the 50th anniversary celebration in Washington, D.C. From left: Curtis Clark of Morehouse, Estelle Finley of Spelman, Lorenzo Morris of Howard, and Princilla Evans of Fisk.



## From the Secretary

### What Do You Think?

By John Churchill  
Secretary, The Phi Beta Kappa Society

One of the small pleasures of life for some of us lies in pondering the strange misfires of meaning in ordinary language. In a recent airport conversation, I mentioned that I was taking a non-stop flight. My friend pointed out that a real nonstop flight would not be a good thing. The best flights are the ones that stop once—at your destination. This may strike you as smirky quibbling, like the remark that it isn't the fall that kills you; it's the sudden stop at the end. But sometimes attending to literal meanings, when they're buried beneath the familiarity of usage, can turn up something interesting.

If I inquire about your thoughts out of the blue, I'll ask, "What are you thinking?" I might also say this if you've given me some nonverbal clue,

like a grimace or a groan. But if there's a topic before us and you haven't shown your hand, I'll ask, "What do you think?"

And yet, what I probably really mean is something more like: "How do you think about this?" Of course, I do want to know what your opinion *is*. But frankly I'm more likely to be interested—unless we're just voting—in learning *how* you go about thinking about it. I want to know the cartography of your thinking.

In his immortal "The Hunting of the Snark," Lewis Carroll has the Bellman introduce a map consisting of nothing but open ocean. Despite the crew's delight in "a map they could all understand," this map is perfectly useless. There's nothing on it, and one

place is the same as any other. Similarly useless would be a map purporting to represent the location of a single island in such a featureless sea. We know nothing about where anything is until we know its relation to other things—at what distance it lies from what else and in what direction, and approachable only through which obstacles.

So when I ask, "How do you think about this?" I'm really asking you to situate your view relative to some recognized landmarks. And for this to be possible, there must *be* some landmarks. Therefore, I'm happy to say that, in asking for your views on the value of education in the liberal arts and sciences, Phi Beta Kappa can provide some landmarks. Results from last year's Conversations are now posted on our website. At <http://www.pbk.org>, you can access David Alexander's summary and comments on the Conversations, as well as the formal responses to his remarks. All this was presented in Seattle last August at the 40th Triennial Council.

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## Phi Beta Kappa Event Salutes U.S. Professors of the Year for 2003

Four award-winning professors were honored by the Phi Beta Kappa Society at a Washington, D.C., reception in November. They were in the capital to receive \$5,000 awards as 2003 U.S. Professors of the Year. Created in 1981, these are the only national awards that specifically recognize dedication to undergraduate teaching and commitment to students.



*U.S. Professors of the Year, from left: Paris Svoronos, Edward Ayers, Patty Hale, and Thomas Goodwin. Award sponsors are the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.*

The sponsors are the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Two of the winners are  $\Phi$ BK members: Edward Ayers, professor of history and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, who was nominated in the category of doctoral and research universities; and Thomas Goodwin, professor of chemistry at Hendrix College in Conway, Ark., in the baccalaureate colleges category.

The other winners were Patty Hale, professor of nursing at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Va., in the master's universities and colleges category; and Paris Svoronos, professor of chemistry at CUNY Queensborough Community College in Bayside, N.Y., in the community colleges category. There were 400 nominees for the awards. Forty-three professors were named state-level winners.

Andrew Carnegie founded the Carnegie Foundation in 1905. CASE is the world's largest international association of educational institutions, serving 3,200 schools, colleges, and universities in 46 countries. It offers resources for professional development, fundraising, communications, and alumni relations.

## Chapters Get Tips at Triennial Session

**Editor's note:** *Neal Burdick is publications editor at St. Lawrence University and past president of the Phi Beta Kappa chapter there. He first learned of the Society as a child when he asked his grandfather about that square gold thing on his watch fob. Burdick thanks Phil Johnson for his help in compiling the material for this article.*

By Neal Burdick

"My chapter doesn't do anything!"  
"Some students we elect say, 'Phi Beta Kappa? Is that a frat house?'"

Many of us have heard these and similar indications that our Phi Beta Kappa chapters are not as visible as we would like them to be. And given that a number of electees are declining to accept initiation, probably because

they've never heard of ΦBK, it's understandable that one of the most popular small-group sessions at the 40th Triennial Council in Seattle was "Tips from Award-Winning Chapters: What Made Them Successful."

Moderated by Senator Allison Blakely of Boston University, the session was led by Philip Johnson of Baylor University and Senator Kurt Olsson of the University of Idaho, whose chapters won recognition at the Triennial banquet. It entailed a lively discussion of ideas for steps that can reinvigorate chapters and enable them, as one participant said, to "impact the intellectual life on campus." Most involve varying investments of time and energy, and some require the cooperation of others. Here are the principal suggestions, in no particular order:

- Cultivate institutional support, especially financial. If an institution cannot cover the cost of the certificate, key, and initiation banquet, ask alumni and ΦBK members in the community if they can do this.
- Although the position of secretary should be long-term for continuity, momentum, and accessibility, other officers should rotate every two or three years.
- Involve as many ΦBK faculty members as possible by giving them modest

The national office of the Phi Beta Kappa Society has moved into its new headquarters. The address is 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009. The phone number at the reception desk is unchanged: (202) 265-3808. The fax number also remains the same: (202) 986-1601.

committee assignments. Make a point of inviting newcomers to be active in the chapter.

- Make sure that faculty service in ΦBK counts toward tenure and promotion.
- Sponsor a ΦBK essay contest, with faculty members as judges.
- Ask faculty members to inform the chapter of outstanding student work.
- Create a letterhead for stationery.

Host annual activities with high visibility, and cosponsor some with organizations and departments that relate to the aims of ΦBK. Some examples:

- Organize more than one initiation ceremony.
- Invite parents of initiates, key administrators, et al., to the banquet.
- Sponsor a Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar.
- Present a faculty lecture.
- Present a symposium on the meaning, relevance, and value of the liberal arts and sciences.
- Make a presentation at new student orientation on the meaning of "the liberal arts and sciences."
- Try to affiliate and be identified with your institution's Honors Program, Scholars Program, and other academic

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### THE KEY REPORTER

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Librarians, archivists, and others who save *The Key Reporter* will note that starting with this issue—Number 1—the newsletter is numbered in accordance with the January–December calendar cycle. The first issue in a sequence of four will be published in January. The previous sequence followed the academic calendar, with the Number 1 issue appearing in the fall.

The Fall 2003 edition was wrongly identified as Number 3; it was Number 4. In past years the Summer issue was published in July and the Fall issue in November. In order to report promptly on the 40th Triennial Council last August, there was no Summer edition, and the Fall *Key Reporter* was mailed in September.

## Book Awards

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publishers. Freedberg is professor of art history at Columbia University, where he also is director of its Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society.

An appraisal of the book by an Emerson committee member said: "This is an extraordinary book. It is learned, it is fascinating, and it is, above all, beautiful. It [is] impossible to do justice to a book that touches so many areas: art history, natural history, history of science, biology, intellectual history, and the religious politics of 17th-century science." Another committee member wrote, "This may be the surprise best book of this year. An art historian makes a major contribution to the understanding of science and creativity in the 17th century ... This work is unusually richly detailed, and evocative of a wonderful era in the history of modern science."

None of the winners was able to attend the presentation because of bad weather or prior commitments. Freedberg's brother, Michael, accepted the award on his behalf. He said the book grew out of David's discovery of

2,700 drawings in Windsor Castle when he was an adviser to Prince Charles. He set out to determine their origin, purpose, and impact on natural history in the age of Galileo.

The Christian Gauss Award for literary scholarship was created in 1950 to honor a former Phi Beta Kappa president and distinguished scholar at Princeton University. The 2003 winner was Roy F. Foster for "The Irish Story: Telling Tales and Making It Up in Ireland," published by Oxford University Press. It was selected from 34 books submitted by 26 publishers.

Foster is Carroll Professor of Irish History at Oxford, the first endowed Irish history chair in the United Kingdom, and a fellow of Oxford's Hertford College. He has written extensively on Irish and Victorian history and culture, including a two-volume biography of W.B. Yeats. A leader in an iconoclastic generation of Irish historians, he argues that the Irish have manipulated their history and reduced it to kitsch, motivated by sentimentalism, nostalgia, and tourism dollars.

A Gauss committee member wrote: "'The Irish Story' is a provocative book, challenging the assumptions of victimization, of therapeutic culture, and of identity politics, which have become commonplace in the histori-

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## Howard and Fisk

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more newsworthy than a chapter at Amherst. That day, however, has not yet been reached, and until it comes we welcome this chance to see another milestone on a worthy road."

*The Nashville Tennessean* also hailed the awarding of a ΦBK chapter to Fisk, saying that it "marks another step forward in the development of the great Negro university."

*The Washington (D.C.) Afro-American* cited Fisk's achievement, and reported in the same issue the awarding of Howard's chapter. While Fisk did not initiate student members—there were four—until May 6, 1953, on April 24 of that year Howard became the first black institution to initiate students—13. The speaker at their installation ceremony also had a United Nations affiliation: Nobel Laureate Ralph Bunche, then director of the UN's Trusteeship Council, who had taught at Howard.

Lorenzo Morris, president of Howard's chapter, presided at the anniversary reception. Gifts were presented to chapter secretary Anna Coble in appreciation of her work in helping to organize the event.

Also participating were Princilla Evans, president of Fisk's chapter, who is spending a year at Trinity College in Washington as an American Council on Education Fellow; Curtis Clark, president of Morehouse's chapter; and Estelle Finley, president of Spelman's chapter. Among others attending was ΦBK Senator Allison Blakely, a former president of Howard's chapter, who made a day trip from Boston for the celebration.

The reception was held in Howard Hall, a National Historic Landmark that today serves as the alumni house. From 1869 to 1874 it was the residence of Howard's first president, Gen. Oliver Howard. Not until 1926 did a black educator, Mordecai Wyatt Johnson, become the university's president.



Niall Slater, right, president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, presided at the 2003 Book Awards presentation in Washington, D.C. He discusses the books that were honored with Senator Harvey Klehr, left, and George Bornstein, who chairs the Christian Gauss Award Committee.

# Inspiration from a Wise Englishman

**Editor's note:** *This is one in a series of excerpts from addresses presented at ΦBK initiation ceremonies.*

*By Judy Owen*

*Elizabeth Ufford Green Professor of Natural Sciences, Haverford College*

This stanza from one of my favorite poems serves as a perfect metaphor for anyone engaged in research. It comes from one of T.S. Eliot's "Four Quartets":

We shall not cease from exploration  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.

This weekend, graduates have a chance to look back at two places where they have begun their own explorations: their true beginnings with their parents, and the start of their time at Haverford College, and perhaps to see and "know" them, as adults, for the first time.

I want to share some ideas from one of my own sources of inspiration: my dad. He is an unlikely source for a talk on a day which celebrates academic achievement. He was a clever and quite possibly brilliant man. Born just southeast of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, he attended a local high-end high school as a scholarship boy. However, he was kicked out at 16. The reason: "an inappropriate sense of humor." Those of you who know some biology will deduce that this is a dominant gene for which he was probably homozygous.

World War II saw my father joining the British Army. As a soldier, he learned a love of peace; he discerned that he had the ability to motivate and to lead men; and he learned an appreciation for others that transcended race and creed, something that was sadly unusual in postwar North of England. I benefited from these lessons. However, for this talk, I reasoned that I needed three pithy quotations that you could chew on and incorporate, or spit out, as you deem appropriate. The first is the most applicable to this audience: "Judy, you can take no credit for

your brains, only for what you do with them."

As a teenager, I was good at taking tests. My sister, a smart woman who runs a successful business in England, wasn't so good at taking tests. It irked me that my dad was as complimentary about her report card as he was about mine. But complaints about that were usually followed by conversations about the responsibility that comes with gifts of all kinds, which is what I would like to leave with the graduates. You have a unique and wonderful set of gifts, and have used them well. Now you must choose to use them equally well as you enter the real world.

The second "pithy saying" is perhaps the most important: "There is no such thing as a neutral encounter." Walking places with Dad, one always held his left hand, because his right was used to tip his hat to any lady we met. Conversations were interrupted by friendly greetings with neighbors or strangers. Well do I remember him telling me that every time we passed someone on the street, we could either make them feel better about the day or make them feel worse. There was no such thing as neutral in Dad's lexicon of interactions.

Dad clearly didn't live in New York City. If he'd visited there, he probably would have appeared much like

Crocodile Dundee. But the lesson stayed with me and was reinforced, as I grew up, by the realization that he had an incredibly eclectic set of friends. When questioned about this, he gave me a variant on the point he had made earlier: "There's a little bit of good in everyone. Sometimes it's easy to find and sometimes it's not. But if you find it, and relate to it, that person becomes your friend."

Back then, I'd never heard of Haverford, nor did I know any Quakers. But now I realize that my dad had independently derived his own version of the Quaker belief that "there is something of God in everyone."

Pithy saying number three: "If you're feeling shy, or scared to talk, you're being selfish." You who are graduating are going to spend a lot of time in the next year or so meeting new people, taking stock of new places, being asked to introduce yourself, and to speak in front of new audiences. As a child I was very shy, and I remain an adrenalized adult, particularly when addressing large crowds. However, each time I find myself with a new group which scares me, I remember my dad telling me firmly that if you're feeling shy or scared, it's because you're only thinking about yourself, and not about the other people who are just as shy and scared as you. The advice has served me well in a job that has me talking in front of a smart, critical audience, five days a week.

The year he died, I remember my dad reading "The Rise and Fall of the

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**J**oseph Epstein was awarded a 2003 National Medal for the Humanities by President Bush in November. From 1975 to 1997, Epstein was editor of *The American Scholar*, which is published by the Phi Beta Kappa Society. An author and critic, he is emeritus lecturer in English at Northwestern University.

The President also presented 2003 Humanities medals to two Phi Beta Kappa members: Frank Snowden, professor emeritus of classics at Howard University and a former U.S. delegate to UNESCO; and John Updike, a prolific author of fiction, essays, criticism, and poetry. In 1989 Updike was awarded a National Medal of Arts, becoming one of the few Americans to receive both honors.

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## How One Association Makes an Impact

New associations—and  $\Phi$ BK members considering starting one—can learn from the experiences of established associations. One model for large cities is the Phi Beta Kappa Association of the Delaware Valley, in the metropolitan Philadelphia area, which recently celebrated its second decade. It began as separate women's and men's organizations, which merged in 1983. Today there are about 500 members.

Dinner meetings are held four times a year at a restaurant in a suburb bordering the city. Associations in large metropolitan areas often debate whether to meet in various parts of the region or to designate a permanent location. The Delaware Valley

Association's regular meeting place is about the same distance from central Philadelphia; its southern, northern, and western suburbs; and the Delaware River bridge that goes to southern New Jersey.

The Association's 2003–04 season opened with a talk by Christoph Eschenbach, the Philadelphia Orchestra's new conductor. He discussed his vision for the ensemble and plans for educational initiatives and community outreach.

Last year's programs included lectures on "Cosmology and Man's Place in the Universe," by a physicist from the University of California who was a visiting professor at the University of Maryland at College Park, sponsored by

the Phi Beta Kappa Fellows Lectureship; "The Evolving Role of the Prosecutor," by the Philadelphia district attorney; "A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper," by the author of the best-selling book of the same title; and "The Sumerian Dictionary Project," by a professor of Mesopotamian languages and cultures who directs that project at the University of Pennsylvania and its Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.

The Association participated last year in the national  $\Phi$ BK "Conversations" project on the social value of the liberal arts and sciences in the 21st century. Robert Kirkwood of the Association's Governing Council moderated four "mini-meetings" at Penn and three colleges: Haverford, Swarthmore, and Ursinus.  $\Phi$ BK Secretary John Churchill participated in the culminating plenary session.

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*More information can be found at <http://www.pbk.org/affiliate/association.htm>*

The Governing Council, which has nine members, meets three or four times a year with the current officers and past presidents. There are seven Association committees: Scholarship, Book Award, Program, Relations with Local  $\Phi$ BK Chapters, National Honor Society Relations, Membership, and Publications. Governing Council members serve as committee chairs.

A newsletter, *The PHI-nomenon*, is distributed by mail or e-mail several times a year. It announces new programs and describes previous lectures and events.

Last year the Association presented copies of "Lincoln's Virtues" by William Lee Miller to 150 outstanding high school seniors at their schools, and they were honored at a reception at St. Joseph's University. The Association also provided 12 judges for the 2003 Academic Decathlon at an

area high school, and it sent representatives to  $\Phi$ BK initiations at Haverford, Penn, St. Joseph's, Swarthmore, and Temple.

Its scholarship program is intended for students who will attend colleges and universities in the Philadelphia

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*Among participants in the Philadelphia area's plenary "Conversations" session, from left, were Joe Poluka, Delaware Valley Association president; Doris Mackey, secretary;  $\Phi$ BK Secretary John Churchill; and Robert Kirkwood, who served as moderator.*



## Among Our Key People

By William P. Gottlieb

During my 87 years, I've been an advertising salesman, a newspaper columnist, an author and illustrator of books, a producer of educational filmstrips, a ranking tennis player, an Army Air Corps officer, and an economist. But today I'm known as a photographer of jazz musicians!

Among the serendipitous events that led me into jazz were my eating some improperly cooked pork, getting rained out of a tennis match, and reacting to the penny-pinching of a publisher.

The pork was served at my Lehigh University fraternity house in the spring of 1936. After returning home to Bound Brook, N.J., I came down with trichinosis and was in bed for a month. My most faithful visitor was an amateur pianist who subscribed to music magazines, including some from England and France. In the foreign journals, he read that the most original American contribution to the arts was jazz. He couldn't play the stuff, but he owned some prize recordings. On his visits, he fed me a diet of Armstrong and Ellington classics. By the time I recovered, I was a confirmed jazz nut.

Back at school, as editor of *The Lehigh Review*, I usually included a jazz piece in every issue. Meanwhile the new *Life* magazine, with its emphasis on photographs, was becoming a huge success and an inspiration to aspiring journalists like me. I loaded the *Review* with photographs taken by students, including Louis Stoumen, who later won Oscars for two documentaries.

Near the end of my senior year in 1938, I had no job prospects. I was on the varsity tennis team, and that spring we toured the South. A school friend was a nephew of Don Bernard, business manager of *The Washington Post*. "Since you'll be passing through Washington on Saturday and don't have a job lined up," my friend said, "why not try to see my uncle?"

We were supposed to play Johns Hopkins that day. And would Uncle

Don be working then? But just in case, along with my tennis gear I took examples of my college magazine work and my Phi Beta Kappa key. On the crucial Saturday—it rained! The Hopkins match was cancelled, and Mr. Bernard said he'd be glad to see me. I picked up my girlfriend, Delia (now my wife of 64 years), at Goucher College in Baltimore and drove to Washington.

Mr. Bernard offered me a job as a *Post* advertising salesman at \$25 a week, and I took it. (This was during the Great Depression, when hot dogs cost 5 cents.) Since I really wanted to write—and make some extra money—I showed the editor a column on jazz, which was becoming a national craze. He agreed to let me do a Sunday column for \$10 a week. Some say this was the first jazz column in a major newspaper.

I was able to parlay it into a radio show on WRC, the NBC outlet in Washington, and a disc jockey job on a local station. The WRC show featured interviews, usually with the leaders of swing bands with Washington dates. They were accompanied by records from my own large collection.

Eventually I asked the *Post* for a photographer to illustrate the subjects I interviewed. That happened—for two weeks. Then the managing editor found that union rules required premium pay for photographers who worked at the crazy hours I needed them. So I bought my own Speed Graphic, the costly, heavy, complex camera that newspaper photographers then favored. I also bought processing equipment. The paper's stinginess proved to be a blessing: It forced me to become a photographer. The results greatly enhanced my column, and the long-run benefits were even greater. When World War II erupted, I became a photo officer in the Army Air Corps, a happy development in view of the alternatives.

Before being drafted, I'd quit the advertising job at the *Post*, kept the jazz column and radio shows, and become a grad student and economics instruc-

tor at the University of Maryland at College Park, just outside Washington. The mix of jazz and economics made me a campus character. It also led some students to ask me to teach a course in jazz appreciation. But the administration turned them down. I later discovered that this "southern" institution didn't want to offer a subject that would flatter black culture. (Black undergraduates weren't admitted until 1951.)

With the country preparing for war, I left the university to become an economist in the Office of Price Administration, which set wartime consumer prices. Then came four years of military service. I ended up in charge of photo installations at domestic bases, such as Geiger Field in Spokane, Wash.

My only unusual military experiences came when, in addition to my photo job, I was assigned to be defense "attorney" for soldiers accused of crimes. I was singularly unqualified. The military prosecutors were lawyers, but I'd never even been inside a courtroom. Although I never won a case, my efforts were sometimes appreciated. When I needed an extra box to hold my stuff, I went to the stockade, where wood was stored. Some inmates, including my former clients, found out what I wanted and took over. "Take it easy, Lieutenant," one of them said. "Find a cool spot and wait for us to make your box." I kept that box for years.

After my discharge, my wife and I and our first child decided to take our chances in New York City. My reputation in Washington had reached New York, so I quickly got an offer from *Down Beat*, the leading jazz magazine. When I agreed to contribute photographs, this clinched the job. The office was in Rockefeller Center, minutes from 52nd Street—the center of the jazz world. Glorious! It meant exciting years covering idols like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Dizzy Gillespie, and Billie Holiday.

I remember commiserating with Armstrong about his struggle with weight. Fat, then thin, then back to fat. His favorite ammunition in this battle was powerful laxatives. At one point his elixir was Pluto Water, and I showed a

bottle on his shelf while photographing him in a theater dressing room.

Ellington was always a ladies' man. When Delia and I invited him home for dinner, he showed up with two beautiful companions. And although he'd done three performances that day, and was considerably older than me, he kept going strong at an hour when I couldn't wait to say good night.

One of my longer nights involved a Columbia recording date with Frank Sinatra. The studio and orchestra were very expensive, and he was then at a low point in his career. But in spite of this, he kept finding flaws in every "take" and insisted that they be done over. Was he right, or just trying to show that he was still a star? When I asked friends in the orchestra, they assured me that Sinatra was right every time.

I didn't use studios for my photographs. Everything was on location, in available light or with flash. Typically the subjects were caught while performing or in natural situations. I was very deliberate. Knowing their personalities and their performances, I tried to figure out in advance how to make visuals that emphasized—or went beyond—what I said about them in my text.

My picture of Django Reinhardt, the Belgian-French Gypsy guitarist, is an example. He became a jazz great even though (or because) as a young man, his fingering hand was mutilated when his caravan caught fire. In photographing him, my positioning and lighting let his hand be seen clearly.

More elusive are the visuals that capture personalities. I spent considerable time photographing Billie Holiday soon after she was released from prison. Without access to drugs or alcohol, and no longer chubby, she looked magnificent. And her amazing voice was as plaintive as ever. I tried to capture both her beauty and her anguish. One image has been called the most widely reproduced photo of a jazz personality.

In 1948 I quit jazz, cold. The nation was in a recession. The big swing bands were dying. And 52nd Street was being devastated by drugs and by the sounds of bop, to which older musicians and their fans couldn't



*Pianist and composer Thelonious Monk was among the jazz immortals that William Gottlieb photographed. Gottlieb's photo portraits appear on four U.S. postage stamps.*

relate. The final blow to Swing Street came when Rockefeller Center expanded, with skyscrapers replacing the cellar jazz clubs. Most important, I was really a square. Now I had a wife and four children, plus my wife's half-brother and half-sister. The joys of staying out until 4 a.m., even with my favorite musicians, had evaporated.

By coincidence, Curriculum Films, an educational filmstrip company, was next door to the *Down Beat* office. When the owner learned that I was a writer and illustrator and had been a teacher, he offered me a desk in return for being available for assignments. Soon I had so many projects that I formed an independent unit of writers, artists, and production people. This proved to be even more stimulating than jazz. One week, for instance, I worked simultaneously on "How to Set A Table" and "Number Bases Other Than 10." My company, now called University Films, became the main filmstrip producer for Encyclopaedia Britannica, D.C. Heath, and McGraw-Hill.

McGraw-Hill bought my company in 1969 and made me president of the University Films division. Between 1948 and 1979, when I retired, I produced about 1,400 filmstrips and wrote and illustrated about 400 of them. I also wrote and took photographs for 15 books, including *Golden Books* for children. "Laddie the Superdog," a take-off on Superman, sold almost a million copies. It shows my pet spaniel climbing walls, walking on water, and flying through the air.

Several books dealt with science. When space was a hot topic, *The New York Times* ran a composite review of 10 books about space. "Unqualified top rating," it said, "goes to William P. Gottlieb's 'Space Flight and How It Works.'"

Meanwhile my jazz photos gained higher visibility. In 1979 Simon and Schuster published my book, "The Golden Age of Jazz," with 215 pictures; it's now with Pomegranate and in its 12th printing. The images have appeared in magazines here and abroad; on more than 250 record album covers; on posters, postcards, and T-shirts; and in books by other authors. In 2002 there were 21 new books with Gottlieb photographs.

The prints hang in the homes of collectors, in the Jazz at Lincoln Center boardroom, and in many nightclubs. They're sold at art galleries and have been exhibited in 150 museums in this country, Canada, Scotland, England, Germany, Sweden, and Japan. Among U.S. sites have been the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery and the U.S. Postal Service; my photos of Billie Holiday, Charlie Parker, Mildred Bailey, and Jimmy Rushing appeared on U.S. postage stamps.

In 1995 the Library of Congress bought 1,600 of my jazz photos "for posterity." It put them on a new website with more than a thousand pages—a dramatic advance over those black-and-white newspaper images that first appeared during the Depression. My own website, [www.jazzphotos.com](http://www.jazzphotos.com), has a link to the Library site.



# From Our Book Critics

## BOOK COMMITTEE

**Humanities:** Svetlana Alpers, Rebecca Resinski, Eugen Weber

**Social Sciences:** Rick Eden, Josephine Pacheco

Anna J. Schwartz, Larry J. Zimmerman

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

### By Jay M. Pasachoff

**The Universe in 365 Days.** Robert J. Nemiroff and Jerry T. Bonnell. Harry N. Abrams, 2003. \$29.95

Many people use their computer's browser each morning to check for the Astronomy Picture of the Day. Two scientists at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center set up the site six years ago, and have since published thousands of images from amateur astronomers, professional astronomers, other photographers, artists, computer graphic specialists, and spacecraft. This thick, glossy, 7- by 5-inch book selects the best of those images.

"The Universe in 365 Days" gives one image per spread and one spread per day of the year. Each has a caption on the left-hand page and a dazzlingly reproduced and usually colorful image on the right-hand page. It is the ultimate book for browsing since the pictures are in no order. A Hubble Space Telescope image of a galaxy may follow an amateur's image of a comet, which may follow a NASA photograph of a spacecraft launch. The book is a delight for your bedside or coffee table.

**Salt: A World History.** Mark Kurlansky. Walker and Co., 2002. \$28; paper \$15

**Glass: A World History.** Alan Macfarlane and Gerry Martin. University of Chicago Press, 2002. \$27.50

**Coal: A Human History.** Barbara Freese. Perseus Publishing, 2003. \$39; paper \$25

A microcosm can show you the world, apparently, as the *Zeitgeist* seems to require explaining history in terms of a single object. Beyond "Salt," "Glass," and "Coal," Amazon.com lists "The Potato" and "Tobacco" in addition to the "Salt" author's "Cod."

Yet there is some truth and lots of interest to these tales. While reading Kurlansky's "Salt," I went around quoting random facts from the book to anyone who would listen. A Roman man in love was called "salax," in a salted state, from which we get "salacious." Bactrian camels were brought from Mongolia to carry salt inland to the miners in the California gold rush country, where I recently attended a wedding. Salt is used in pickling, and I just made a trip to purchase 100 full-sour pickles from Guss's Pickles on New York's Lower East Side. Is Kurlansky determining my itineraries?

Macfarlane and Martin claim, and back it up, that glass has led to most of the Western world's technical advances. They speculate that the West's adopting and developing a wider range of glass objects—moving beyond beautiful things and bottles to windows, lenses, and mirrors—led to the progress that caused its civilization to surpass the East's science, technology, and art. Did Renaissance mirrors lead to the discovery of self? What would many of us be able to do or learn without our eyeglasses, and what would science be like without microscopes or telescopes? The authors take 20 previously chosen important scientific experiments and show that glass played a role in 16 (although it would be nice if they could correctly spell J.J. Thomson's last name). I wonder if my reviews will be transmitted over optical fibers, a topic that could have had more discussion in the book.

The dirty face of the coal miner in Freese's book provides an obvious link to its subject. The industrial revolution in Manchester, England, and the growth in Pennsylvania's steel industry made possible by the availability of anthracite, are among the topics of discussion. "The North might have lost the American Civil War, or it might never have started, and the transformation of the American West would have happened slowly by wagon rather than quickly by rail." But, she admits, "if we do trigger drastic climate changes, all of coal's contributions to the empowerment of humanity will be overshadowed by the enormous price of that power." It is too bad that this wide-ranging book lacks an index.

### By Germaine Cornélissen

**Floods, Droughts, and Climate Change.** Michael Collier and Robert H. Webb. University of Arizona Press, 2002. \$17.95

The authors provide a clear and succinct review of the variability in weather and climate, with illustrated stories serving as background to explain the bigger picture. It is amazing how much the reader can learn from this relatively small book, which is packed with fascinating science. Floods and droughts are examined within the wider context of climate change.

Ever since Santorio Santorio invented the thermometer in 1612, and Evangelista Torricelli built a barometer in 1643, the study of the atmosphere has advanced dramatically. This is

in large part thanks to efforts to develop a coherent system of oceanic and atmospheric measurement stations, and to continuously gather objective meteorological records of wind, temperature, precipitation, barometric pressure, and atmospheric moisture worldwide. The authors introduce us to the extremes of flood and drought, occurring within the context of local and global climate.

The climate system is complex because it consists of several components, such as the atmosphere, oceans, and ice sheets. Each has its own response times and thermodynamic properties, and the components interact nonlinearly. Solar energy, passed through the atmosphere and absorbed by the earth's land masses and oceans, primarily powers weather and climate. Geologic processes (volcanism, mountain forming, plate tectonics) also influence climate. Climate variability is further affected by external atmospheric variables, such as the Milankovitch and sunspots cycles, and internal atmospheric variables, such as the *El Niño* phenomenon. These demonstrate how the oceans and atmosphere are inextricably intertwined.

Long-term climate variability is also induced by the oceans through a deep-water mechanism known as "thermohaline circulation." Whereas a systematic recording of physical variables has been available for the past few decades, long-term data can only be accessed indirectly. There are several techniques, including historical records such as those of flooding on the Nile River, dendrochronology (tree-ring dating), ice cores, coral composition, and cave deposits.

Both the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans exhibit rhythmic climatic patterns (*El Niño*—Southern Oscillation or ENSO phenomenon) recurring every three to seven years. These reflect the quasi-periodic fluctuation of equatorial Pacific water temperatures and the coupled atmospheric response. The effects are propagated from the Pacific to the Atlantic as a global phenomenon, a notion known as teleconnection. The study of ENSO and its teleconnections, and of other phenomena, such as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, helps our understanding of atmospheric processes, including the prediction of hurricanes and the management of hydrologic assets.

The story would not be complete without a chapter on global warming and a call for wisdom: Real-time data about the oceans and the atmosphere is the first indispensable step, making it possible to design models for forecasting the weather and longer-term climate trends. But in the end, the critical question remains—whether we are willing to act in accordance with reliable forecasts produced by the models.

**From Chaos to Care—The Promise of Team-Based Medicine.** David Lawrence. Perseus Publishing, 2002. \$25

Written in lay terms for the general public, David Lawrence's book describes his vision for the delivery of health care. He uses the fictional case of a child with chronic asthma to illustrate the shortcomings of the current system of

care administered by a family physician working mostly alone. He describes this system as antiquated and chaotic, primarily because of poor communication among generalists, specialists, and other health care professionals.

Lawrence, himself a doctor, has the perspective of both a former CEO and chairman of Kaiser Permanente, and a son who experienced first-hand the limitations of America's medical system during his father's terminal illness. He outlines the challenges facing medicine and the merits of a team-based approach.

Among the challenges Lawrence identifies: the changing expectations of patients, who have increasing access to health-related information and no longer let their doctors make all decisions for them; the expanding pace and scope of medical and technological discoveries; the greater number of patients with chronic illnesses, leading to the growing complexity of medical care and more demand for transparency to give enhanced insight into medical system quality and safety; the nation's growing diversity; and the rising risk of threats from infectious and environmental hazards in other parts of the world.

Lawrence contends that these challenges cannot be met by solo medical practices. The solution he offers is to completely restructure care, centering it around the patient. Doctors, in-home care providers, pharmacists, nutritionists, support groups, and emergency room nurses should have access to the same complete patient chart. This would facilitate their work as a team and help them make better-informed decisions together.

Examples of health care organizations and nonmedical industries are presented that could serve as models for quality improvement. Integration, good communication and information systems, and a well-organized infrastructure are the key elements of Lawrence's plan, along with educating patients to actively participate in their own care. This blueprint for change has been highly praised by leaders in public health. It could ensure consistently safe, responsive, timely, affordable, and equitable medical care for all.

But it awaits testing in a rapidly changing society that would face staggering costs in providing such care. An important option is to add focus on prevention. Today's medicine consists primarily of treating conditions diagnosed when test results lie outside physiological norms. But variations within the normal range are largely predictable, characterized by broad time structures (chronomes), including multi-frequency rhythms, trends, and other variations. The monitoring of vital signs (temperature, blood pressure, pulse) to assess such chronomes may help detect abnormalities before there is overt disease, thus allowing the instituting of prophylactic in preference to curative or palliative treatment, and thereby reducing the risk (and cost) of complications. Another is to optimize treatment by timing its administration according to bodily rhythms, and basing treatment decisions on the best available evidence of whether a potential therapy is likely to work. These are

## Tips for Chapters

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initiatives that support the liberal arts and sciences.

–Elect top juniors to membership. Involve them in the chapter's activities.

–Use the publicity tools at your disposal (the alumni magazine, campus newsletter, student newspaper, etc.) to publicize chapter activities and announce the names of students elected to the chapter. Ask the publicity office to send press releases to the hometown newspapers of newly elected students.

–Induct honorary and alumni members periodically, especially those with name recognition and solid academic credentials.

–Develop a web page, linked to the institutional and ΦBK home pages.

–Ask student electees to name a professor who has made a difference for them; send letters of acknowledgment and thanks to these professors, mentioning the student by name, and invite them to the banquet.

–At Commencement, award a prize to the top student in the graduating class.

–Set up a display in the student center, the lobby of the library, or other prominent location for a week or two, at the start of the academic year or close to chapter elections.

–Ask about including an “incentive” statement about ΦBK in letters sent to students named to the Dean's List, or send them a separate letter of commendation.

critical ingredients that could go far toward reducing costs without compromising the quality of care.

**Aquamarine Blue 5: Personal Stories of College Students with Autism.** Edited by Dawn Prince-Hughes. Swallow Press of Ohio University Press, 2002. \$32.95; paper \$14.95

This book is a collection of essays by students who were diagnosed with autism at different stages of their lives. It vividly illustrates the difficulties they encountered in the university system, and the importance of early diagnosis, so that strategies can be designed to help patients cope with autism.

Prince-Hughes, herself diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome, emphasizes that autism falls along a spectrum, classic autism being the

–Ask faculty members in various disciplines to nominate “Phi Beta Kappa Award” winners, and announce the awards at a public event such as an awards convocation.

–Send letters of commendation to the top 10 freshmen and sophomores, invite them to the banquet, and recognize them there.

–Give a teaching award to a faculty member based on nominations from initiates. The recipient can be given a framed certificate and invited to speak at the initiation banquet.

–Invite the entire campus community to the banquet. Arrange for students to use meal plan credits. Invite a speaker with wide appeal (“beloved retiring faculty are a great draw,” said the person who made this suggestion).

Consider ways to make ΦBK known to top high school students in your community:

–Host a reception for National Merit Scholars or other top students.

–Recognize the winners of regional science fairs, history fairs, and academic team competitions.

–Invite National Merit finalists and semi-finalists and National Honor Society leaders to campus.

–Ask the admissions staff to have someone speak briefly about ΦBK at open houses and other events for top recruits.

Readers with additional ideas are encouraged to contact Phil Johnson at [Phil\\_Johnson@baylor.edu](mailto:Phil_Johnson@baylor.edu)

most immediately identifiable. But it shades off into clinical characteristics that are very difficult for people to notice in brief encounters. The diversity of skills specific to each autistic student should be recognized as such, and nurtured in an educational system that aims for individual excellence rather than conformity in a given curriculum.

The engaging essays convey the sensitivities and special needs of autistic people, but also their inner strength and resolve. The book's title refers to the color associated with the number 5 by an autistic student with synesthesia, a form of cross perception that enabled this future pioneering linguist to see music and words in color.

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## From Our Book Critics

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By Larry Zimmerman

**Women and the Machine: Representations from the Spinning Wheel to the Electronic Age.** Julie Wosk. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2002. \$45; paper \$22.95

Using more than 150 color and half-tone images and from the perspective of art history, Wosk considers depictions of women and machines in American and European art, advertising, and photography over the past two centuries. Her narrative is both topical and chronological, looking at images of women and the mechanics of fashion (think bustles and corsets), electricity (think appliances), bicycles, cars, planes, and warfare, ending with a “coda” on electricity (think computers). Deriving appropriate social meaning from representation in popular culture is profoundly difficult, and many humanities scholars tend to over-analyze from contemporary perspectives. Wosk doesn't do that, properly seeing most of these images as products of a particular time and cultural context.

Two things about this book stand out. The first is that when you can personalize an academic volume, it's a good book. The second is that “Women and the Machine” offers a profoundly feminist point that isn't buried in academic jargon. I've watched the women in my life deal with technology: In their relationship to machines, changing gender roles seem obvious. My mother could not even change film in a camera or batteries in a radio; my wife—who objected to my buying a four-wheel drive pickup—took it over as her preferred mode of transportation but still shies away from the multifunction remote control for our TV; my 20-something daughter seems to have no problem with anything technological, big or small, no matter how complex. Wosk helped me understand some of the cultural forces behind their adaptations to technology.

Her point is crisp: The relationships of women to machines are filled with contradictions that are reflected in images, even those created by women. They represent women as perplexed by technology and machines, yet able to master and control them, even seeing them as beguiling, “must have” products. These representations both reflect and create self-identity. The film “Simone,” starring Al Pacino, seems to embody all of it. A virtual woman captivates the world, becoming a role model for women and an object of lust for men. Both created and destroyed by a man, she is ultimately resurrected by a young girl with advanced technological skills. Seeing this theme in popular culture suggests that “Women and the Machine” is fully on target.

**It's About Time; It's About Them; It's About Us: A Decade of Papers.** Edited by Michael Burney and Jeff Van Pelt. *Confederated Tribes of*

*the Umatilla Indian Reservation (issued as Memoir 6 of the Journal of Northwest Anthropology)*, 2002. \$30

**Tribal Cultural Resource Management: The Full Circle of Stewardship.** Darby Stapp and Michael Burney. *AltaMira*, 2002. \$70; paper \$24.95

American Indian control over their cultural heritage has been eroded to the point that nearly the only element over which they have power is their oral tradition. The damage done to individual and group identity by having outsiders writing tribal history has been substantial. However, since the late 1960s, Indian nations have begun to demand control, first seeking the repatriation of human remains and grave goods removed from their lands, resulting in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of 1990. They insisted on control over cultural resources on their lands, and eventually got recognition of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) as being potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. In 1992, the National Historic Preservation Act was amended to allow tribes to appoint Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO) for oversight of cultural resources on their lands, replacing State Historic Preservation Officers.

Both volumes document this process for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), three tribes whose traditional lands are on the Columbia River Plateau of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The CTUIR have been in the headlines for demanding repatriation of the Ancient One or “Kennewick Man,” for whose remains they feel responsible. They contend that the Ancient One should be in their jurisdiction under NAGPRA. What is less known about the CTUIR is that they have one of the most well-developed cultural resources management programs in the country, begun in 1987.

“It's About Time” is a fascinating series of papers detailing the struggles of the program and its successes under its architects, tribal members Paul Minthorn and Jeff Van Pelt, and Michael Burney, a non-Indian archaeologist. The papers show what tribes can accomplish when they control their own pasts. What is also special about the book is its structure. Van Pelt provides section introductions, written in the first person and, as he says, much as he talks. This gives the volume a natural coherence and a flavor that is fully CTUIR.

“Tribal Cultural Resource Management” is a more standard academic volume. Many of the examples Stapp and Burney use come from the CTUIR experience, but they also provide some from other well-developed American Indian programs. Most examples are in boxes, written in the first person, giving the book a less academic tone. They provide excellent coverage of the legal aspects of tribal sovereignty over cultural resources and THPOs. One of the strongest sections is on consultation with tribes, a requirement of many cultural resources laws.

This book is a primer for tribes seeking greater control over their heritage, and for archaeologists who deal with tribes as part of cultural resources management practice.

More than anything, both volumes show what can happen when Indians and archaeologists cooperate as equal partners. They can be natural allies for protection of threatened archaeological sites and TCPs. These books are “must reads” for archaeologists, but will also be fascinating to others concerned about cultural property rights and changes in Native American sovereignty.

**Memory Perceived: Recalling the Holocaust.** Robert N. Kraft. *Praeger*, 2002. \$49.95

Traumatic memories make for compelling reading, and especially in the case of the atrocities from the Holocaust. Kraft selected 129 testimonies from nearly 600, given by people from 10 European countries, at the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University. These he analyzed in the “third person” as a psychologist, that is, as an outsider not involved in the interviewing process. He was impressed by the persistence of Holocaust memory, and he interweaves quotations and commentaries to analyze its structure.

Kraft looks especially at the memories of those who were young children when World War II began, how they and others experienced atrocity, and how experiences were encoded into indelible traumatic memory. He also examines how specific horrific memories direct the lives of survivors today and help shape their concept of self. What emerges as the most powerful message of memory “is the fundamental necessity of remembering itself,” to pass on to future generations a permanent record of the Holocaust. “Commitment to remember provided the motivation for survival.” The message and Kraft's analyses are powerful stuff.

**A Guide to the Archaeology Parks of the Upper Midwest.** Deborah Morse-Kahn. *Roberts Rinehart*, 2003. \$18.95

Heritage tourism has been popular for decades, but there are relatively few guides specifically for archaeological sites. Morse-Kahn's guide to sites in the Upper Midwest provides concise summaries of about 85 areas, describing what's there, with good directions, website URLs, and other useful contact information. The book could have given a slightly longer overview of Midwestern archaeology, the photographs should be placed near the text about the parks they describe rather than clustered in one place, and there are a few minor errors that likely won't concern anyone but specialists. All in all, however, the volume is interesting and practical. Given that I live in the region, the guide definitely will be in my car when I go out and about.

**Dictionary of Military Terms: A Guide to the Language of Warfare and Military Institutions, Second Edition.** Compiled by

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## Book Awards

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cizing and commemoration of the Irish past and its literature ... I hope that his deceptively light writing style does not mislead readers, for Foster is fully conversant with theories of post-modernism, postcolonialism, and postnationalism, and incorporates them ... but only when relevant, and never in ways that are pretentious or aggressive."

Foster's award was accepted on his behalf by his friend Jay Tolson of *U.S. News & World Report*, who read a statement from him. It said, in part, "I'm very happy to receive this award for a book which—at the cost of raising a few hackles—has tried to put down what I think about the way literature and history intersect in Ireland."

The Phi Beta Kappa Book Award in Science, established in 1959, was won by Andrew H. Knoll for "Life on a Young Planet: The First Three Billion Years of Evolution on Earth," from Princeton University Press. Fourteen publishers nominated 18 books for this award. A paleontologist, Knoll is Fisher Professor of Natural History at Harvard University and a member of

the National Academy of Science. He has written extensively on integrating geological and biological perspectives toward life on Earth.

An award committee member wrote: "The writing is excellent, poetic in places and pleasingly didactic in others ... it balances the remarkable successes in understanding the early Earth with the requisite skepticism that science must always maintain about both our theories *and* the data."

In remarks that were read by Sam Elworthy, editor-in-chief of Princeton University Press, Knoll said, "We live on a planet that records its own history. This fact has struck me as remarkable—worthy of both celebration and investigation—since I was a boy ...

"Textbooks commonly give the impression of science as a codification of facts, but it isn't that at all. Science is a disciplined way of asking about what we *don't* know, a set of rules on how to peer *past* the facts that clog our texts to learn something new about nature. I wanted to convey that sense of science as enterprise, explaining how we know what we think we know, and highlighting the uncertainties in our understanding as opportunities rather than failures."

## From the Secretary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

It is our pleasure now to present this material on the website, and to ask you, "What do you think about this?" Or rather, "*How* do you think about this?" Chapters and associations are being asked to enter into further conversations about these issues. Opinions from individual Society members are also welcome.

So take a look at the material on the website, reflect on it, and respond by Monday, March 15, with an e-mail to [conversations@pbk.org](mailto:conversations@pbk.org) or a letter to the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington DC 20009. Every contribution will be read, considered, and melded into the process. (Depending on the volume of responses, we may not be able to reply individually to each one.) As I have written before in this space, we are preparing for a fuller articulation of the value of education in the liberal arts and sciences, in order to empower Phi Beta Kappa to be even more effective in its advocacy. You can contribute to this process by letting us know how you think.

## Inspiration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Roman Empire." This man who had completed his formal education at age 16 never lost his love of learning, and brought to it his own brand of wisdom. I hope that you will never cease your own explorations. I also hope that you will seize every opportunity to rediscover pieces of where you started and to know them (as adults) for the first time.

## Delaware Valley

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

area. Last year's six winners enrolled at Dickinson, Haverford, Penn, Princeton, Rutgers, and Temple. Twelve scholarships were awarded in 2002. The Association gives its criteria to area colleges, which use these to select the winners.





# Letters to the Editor

## Spelling English

As an English professor who teaches Old and Middle English and the history of the English language, I read with interest Edward Rondthaler's letter [Fall *Key Reporter*] about implementing standardized spelling based on phonetic pronunciation.

In theory, it could work; the International Phonetic Alphabet, for instance, has one sound per character and is relatively simple once one has associated the sounds with the characters. However, in practice such an attempt is doomed because it assumes that there is one standard pronunciation of American English, which is false. For example, "fork" may be pronounced "fawk" by a Bostonian, but "faw-erk" by a Southerner. To get a standardized spelling, we would need a standardized pronunciation, but whose pronunciation?

The "eminent scholars" Mr. Rondthaler mentions who created the simplified spelling

tended to be upper- or upper-middle-class Easterners with degrees from elite schools, who spoke with a similar regional accent and sometimes looked down on anyone who did not speak the same way. Despite its quirks, the current spelling system equalizes discourse for reasonable people. The many literate, intelligent people here at Texas Tech who speak with a lovely West Texas twang can write just as well as their colleagues at Harvard, while phonetic spelling based on their Lubbock accents might make their work unintelligible to those conditioned by a sophisticated Cambridge ear.

I agree with Mr. Rondthaler that the English language carries baggage from its Germanic and Norman roots, but I am not certain that this is as bad as he suggests. English is constantly under the influence of many factors, some internal (the Great Vowel Shift, Grimm's and Verner's Laws, etc.) and some external (the Norman Conquest, immigration, contact with

other cultures, etc.). For example, finding out why a silent -e indicates a long vowel, or why a doubled consonant indicates a short vowel, tells the student about changes that made Old English into Middle English and Middle English into Modern English. Plurals like "mice" and "geese" show the Germanic origins of the words; the silent "b" in "doubt" and "debt" indicates their descent from Latin "dubitatio" and "debitum"; and so on. A new system might help students use the language, but it would not help them understand it.

I, too, would like to combat illiteracy, but phonetic spelling would cause more problems than it would solve. Mr. Rondthaler praises the phonetic spelling of a thousand years ago for being simple. But anyone who has tried to read a medieval English text—or even a modern English text before the standardization of spelling in the 18th and 19th centuries—knows that phonetic spelling can yield two or three different spellings of the same word on the same page!

A serious commitment to funding education for all young people, plus the serious study of languages—English plus foreign languages, with a healthy dose of grammar and exposure to linguistics—will do just as well in solving our literacy problems. But this requires a culture that is willing to support our education system and to accept multilingualism, and these are topics for another letter (or a dozen more). Rather than make our spelling simpler, we should make our readers and writers more sophisticated.

*Brian McFadden, Lubbock, Texas*

I confes that I don't no how to spel most wordz in simpl American Sound Speling, but I hav to wunder how homonims ar speld. Won pear that cumz to mind iz the cognaets of the first to wordz in this sentenc. How duz won riet riet? I don't no about yoo, but I'l stik to the English I no.

Mi apoloeegez to Edward Rondthaler. Gud tri, but historee is to strong to chaenj. I ges I am not part of the peopl hoo wil chaenj to suen.

Just a dum alum, Marti Tepkey-Floid (fonetik speling)

*Marty Toepke-Floyd, Wishek, N.D.*

## "Holocaust: A History"

I would like to comment on Rick Eden's review in the Fall *Key Reporter* of "Holocaust: A History," by Deborah Dwork and Robert Jan van Pelt. I agree with almost everything Eden writes except when he addresses the issue of "where to begin." He seems to imply approval of the authors' avoidance of an "obvious" launch point—"Christian anti-Semitism."

All historical events have long-term and short-term causes. By avoiding the history of

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Christian antisemitism (the preferred spelling), the authors avoid the most significant of the long-term causes of the Holocaust. Christian antisemitism doesn't end with the Holocaust itself, but continues throughout the events, aggravates, and colors the short-term causes.

Instead of simply condoning Dwork's and van Pelt's choice to avoid Christian antisemitism, I wish Eden had pointed this out as a grievous error of historical judgment. The parallels, *mutatis mutandis*, between the attitudes and ideas expressed by the Church Fathers, Martin Luther, et al., and the Nazis is striking. The influential fourth-century Church Father St. John Chrysostom called Jews *deicides* with no chance for "atonement, excuse, or defense" and "inveterate murderers." He advocated their mass murder. As did Martin Luther, who developed a program of expropriation, exile, and murder that the Nazis followed step by step. And he worked politically with German rulers attempting to get the job done. The millions of Jews murdered before Hitler came to power did not come about by accident. Hitler knew about what the Catholic saints had advocated and he agreed with Luther.

The Christian Churches considered Jews to be special objects of contempt and arch-enemies, murderers of God. And vengeance was taken in Church policies of degradation and half-hearted protection during pogroms and mass murder of Jews in the Middle Ages and later.

Through defamatory stereotypes, degrading public policies, and pogroms of mass murder, Christian institutions put down Jewish attempts to fight back. Christendom considered the Jews monsters, beasts, murderers, betrayers, insects, poisoners, vampires, and devils centuries before the Nazis.

That Dwork and van Pelt avoided this momentous issue is an insult to the field. I regret that Eden did not see it.

*Robert Michael, Dartmouth, Mass.*

## A Liberally Educated Person

Among the characteristics of a liberally educated person reported in "The Conversations in Focus: A Symposium" [Fall *Key Reporter*] are "breadth of perspective, celebration of diversity, and tolerance for uncertainty and ambiguity."

The report is a summary, not a transcript, so I don't know if the keynote speaker or respondents raised these points: that breadth of perspective without a concomitant depth of focus suggests broad but shallow thinking; that celebration of diversity is divisive unless secondary to an appreciation of shared humanity; that in some circumstances (e.g., when reading a poem rich in word play), uncertainty and ambiguity are to be savored, not merely tolerated; that in other circumstances (e.g., writing the instruc-

tions on a bottle of medicine), uncertainty and ambiguity must give way entirely to clarity and precision.

I don't know if these points were raised, but I certainly hope so. A liberally educated person ought to press beyond the partiality of easy formulations that sound high-minded but lack the balance and nuance that complicate serious thought.

*Debra San, Brookline, Mass.*

## Correcting Latin

That one of your correspondents [Fall *Key Reporter*; Letters to the Editor, "Lingua Franca"] should connect the verb *initiare* with the rare *itare* is a minor point. A pedantic Classics professor would prefer to relate it to *initium*, in turn to be connected with *ineo*, the latter to be connected with the simple *eo*, to go. At least *itare* can be found in dictionaries.

That another correspondent should write "*cuisvis*" as a genitive and produce a verb "*educire*," neither of which exists in Latin, is a sad commentary on what is happening today.

That *The Key Reporter* should, on the third go, reproduce these two errors is the saddest thing of all. Please restore a member's firm faith in Phi Beta Kappa.

*Ihor Sevchenko, Cambridge, Mass.*

## "Changing Places"

In a letter in the Fall *Key Reporter*, H.C. Erik Midelfort asks for exact information about "a supposed 'cocktail party game' in which literature professors dare to confess the major gaps in their reading." His impression is that the game was at the center of "a story in *The New Yorker*, perhaps 15–20 years ago."

Well, maybe so. I suspect that this game is the academic equivalent of an urban folk tale and has several provenances. In any case, it is definitely played—one time only—by mem-

bers of the English Department of Euphoric State University (UC Berkeley, in other words) in David Lodge's witty novel, "Changing Places" (published in Britain in 1975 and in the U.S. in 1978).

A visiting professor introduces the game, which he says he invented. It is aptly named "Humiliation." Desperate to win, one participant vehemently insists that he has never read "Hamlet." The other players refuse to believe him, causing him to leave the party in a huff. Later in the week the man is "unexpectedly" denied tenure, and the rumor goes around that the committee balked at giving tenure to an English teacher who boasts in private that he is ignorant of "Hamlet." The episode is narrated in a letter from a faculty wife to her husband (pp.135–37 in the Penguin edition).

I've heard of the game from some persons who had read Lodge and some who hadn't. I've never met anyone who had actually played it or who expressed any eagerness to do so.

*Sean Hoare, Arlington, Va.*

**Editor's note:** *Lodge's novel also was cited by Fred W. Jenkins of Dayton, Ohio, and Mary Beth Norton of Ithaca, N.Y.*

The *Key Reporter* welcomes letters to the editor. Those that are published may be condensed. Please send letters to Barbara Ryan by e-mail at [bryan@pbk.org](mailto:bryan@pbk.org), by fax at (202) 986-1601, or by postal mail to the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

**Correction:** In the Spring 2003 *Key Reporter*, an editing error appeared in a review of "The Living Clock: The Orchestrator of Biological Rhythms" by John D. Palmer. The author was misidentified in the text of the review. *The Key Reporter* regrets the error.

## From Our Book Critics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

*Trevor Dupuy, Curt Johnson, Grace Hayes, Priscilla Taylor, and John Taylor. H.W. Wilson, 2003. \$85*

This update of the 1986 edition is amazing! The content is wide-ranging and thorough, with excellent coverage of both ancient and modern warfare. It includes recent events and new technologies, even providing information on terrorist organizations such as *al Qaeda* and their 9/11 attacks. Entries are concise, very readable, and reasonably well cross-referenced. This dictionary should prove extremely useful to military historians, novelists, students, and citizens who wish to understand some of the terms they hear on the evening news.

**Warfare in the 21st Century.** Edited by Jeremy K. Brown. H.W. Wilson, 2003. \$50

Brown's is a scary volume, its chapters taken from today's headlines. Six sections examine the changes in warfare during the recent past, especially in terms of how the theaters of war have shifted from battlefields to back yards and hard drives. He includes sections on terrorism; on chemical, biological, radiological, and non-lethal weapons; and on what we can expect from the warfare of the future. Brown provides useful chapter introductions, which summarize the articles he has selected from newspapers and magazines, and adds his own observations. All of this makes for a readable and fascinating book that provides much more substantial information than what you are seeing on television.



## ΦBK in the News

Former corporate lawyer Enola Aird has become an advocate for “balanced living.” *The Boston Globe* reported that she left six-day workweeks behind to establish the Motherhood Project, “a think tank on issues relating to family and civil society.” Aird joined Phi Beta Kappa at Barnard College.

*The Toronto Star* described Bob Lutz, “General Motors’s panjandrum of product,” as “a Swiss-born ex-jet jockey for the U.S. Marines who went on to a Phi Beta Kappa turn at the University of California at Berkeley.”

*The Chicago Tribune* and *The Los Angeles Times* saluted U.S. Army veteran Duane DeWitt, 48, who graduated with honors from the University of California–Berkeley, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, despite struggling with homelessness. Now he is in Berkeley’s graduate program in city and regional planning.

Margaret Sanders Ott, still teaching piano in Spokane, Wash., at 83, was named 2003 “Teacher of the Year” by the Music Teachers National Association, according to *The Spokane Spokesman Review*. She joined the Phi Beta Kappa chapter at Mills College at 19.

A *Los Angeles Times* profile of CBS News reporter Bob Simon noted that he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at Brandeis University. He studied in France on a Fulbright grant and worked in the U.S. foreign service before turning to journalism.

*The Charlotte Observer* profiled Martha Mason, 65, who was paralyzed from the neck down by polio at age 11,

and has spent most of a half-century in an iron lung. She graduated first in her class at Wake Forest University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Last year she published her memoirs.

*The San Antonio Express-News* recalled the career of Paul Robeson in previewing a revival of a one-man show about him. The writer said that Robeson, a Phi Beta Kappa member at Rutgers, “was as gifted and prolific in his talents as any American in the 20th century ... one of the most admired individuals in the world.”

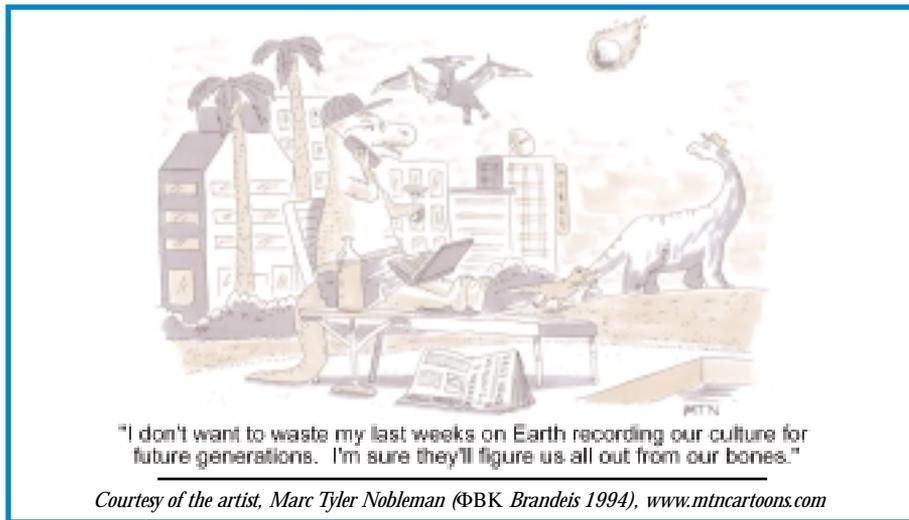
Maureen Dowd in *The New York Times* compared former President Bush’s reluctance to use “the big I”—what she called “the first-person perpendicular”—to his son’s comfort with it. When she asked George W. Bush about this during the 2000 campaign, “he laughed and self-deprecatingly replied, “That’s the difference between a Phi Beta Kappa and a gentleman’s C.””

Blues guitarist Scott Ainslie described himself to *The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* as “a Phi Beta Kappa suburban white guy who adores this tradition.” He graduated from Washington and Lee University.

*The San Jose Mercury News* called lawyer Amy Trask “arguably the most powerful woman in the National Football League” as chief executive of the Oakland Raiders. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa at the University of California at Berkeley.

In announcing Frank Rich’s promotion to associate editor and essayist, *The New York Times* noted that he joined Phi Beta Kappa at Harvard.

The Associated Press reported that a portrait of Robert F. Wagner will hang in the U.S. Capitol. “An immigrant janitor’s son who wore his Phi Beta Kappa key on a gold watch chain,” he sponsored the 1935 Social Security law and the Wagner Act, “which transformed labor-management relations.” Wagner was an alumnus of the City College of New York.



“I don’t want to waste my last weeks on Earth recording our culture for future generations. I’m sure they’ll figure us all out from our bones.”

Courtesy of the artist, Marc Tyler Nobleman (ΦBK Brandeis 1994), [www.mtncartoons.com](http://www.mtncartoons.com)

### THE KEY REPORTER

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