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rFidel Castro
JULY/AUGUST 1989
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feel that peculiar
sensation!
experience In his
presence, as if I
am meeting a
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and Phxlip Hyde (Parks)
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## BACKTALK

A Nlisquotation

In your June '89 ttOutfrontll you misquoted me as saying, 51 decided to bang away on a nasty male machine." What I was actually trying to explain was my frustration at the way female activists are typically portrayed. Male activists are generally given credit for intellectual integrity while women are shown as irrational, emotional. I made it very clear that my reasons for destroying a NAVSTAR computer designed to guide first strike nuclear missiles were based on lengthy study of politics, strategy, and economics. I stressed that I was no latter-day Luddite, that I was not engaging in a technophobic tantrum. I did not want the public to see me as some sort of man-hating, machine-hating maniac. I had asked-fruite lessly-that I not be caricatured in this way. The misquotation was printed in enlarged, bold type. Why was it emphasized? Because the editor imagined that a graphic statement heavy with sexual innuendo, alongside a photo of an imprisoned woman, would attract the reader. If thatis what it takes to sell this magazine nowadays, at least try for accuracy. Better yet, just go back to investigative journalism . . . you used to do it so well.

KATYA KOMISARUK

Spokane, Washington

Editor's Note: No innuendo, sexual or otherwise, was intended. We do regret the error; in a discussion about ttmedia dise tortionsf Komisaruk actually said: IIOne distortion would be that Iim sort of a very emotional, spiritual woman who finally threw a fit and went out. .and decided to bang away on a nasty male machine Information about Komisaruk 5 case- -and the light against first- strike nuclear weaponv-is available from the White Rose Collective in San Francisco: (415) 621-5345.

Debating Abortion

Feminists for Life of America (ttAnti-Abore tion, Pro-Feminism?" May 89) can call themselves what they may, but those who would take the right of self-determination from women or who would give a fetus more rights than a woman are not feminists. Their position would send other women to self-induced, illegal, and unsafe abortions or force them into unwanted pregnancies and parenthood. A feminist would never do this to another woman.

Particularly telling is Juli Loeschts statement that a rape/incest victim,s abortion would be ukilling the child for the crime of the father? She makes no mention of the rights or wishes of the woman while calling the rapist the Ilfatherfl I-Iow Loesch stands on nuclear weapons or Nicaragua is irrelevant to her claim of feminism when she is one of the mob called Operation Rescue, which intimidates women and girls and blocks them as they attempt to make their own decisions about their lives. Calling people like Loesch and her allies feminists is like calling Oliver North a patriot.

SUSAN CARTER

```
Toledo, Ohio
I commend you for your article on Feminists
for Life. Even though you were critical of
our viewpoint, and left out several impor-
tant points, your straightforward acknowl-
edgment of our existence speaks well for
your honesty.
If itls not too much to ask, Ild also like to
see you treat the abortion industry to the
same investigative reporting that you give to
any other proht-oriented institution.
RACHEL MacNAIR
President, Feminists for Life of America
If Sidney Callahan doesnlt know why she is
Itcommitted to these tiny dots of nothingf
how dare she seek to compel other women
to act on an opinion that she holds in ad-
mitted ignorance? Thatls all the belief that
the fetus is human is: an opinion. It cannot
be proven to be fact.
Therels a reason why feminists reject
What does yournderwear sup_p_rt_50?
Think about the last time you bought underwear. . .
What did you know about the company that made it?
Do they protect the environment? Do they invest the
money you spend with them building nuclear weapons or
supporting apartheid?
Too often, your money works against you, going to
businesses that you probably dont want to support.
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morev RCA 104657 ,
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world battered by turmoil and
strife. t .When you know innocent
children are hungry and hurting. . ,
your heart cries for them.
But what canyou do?
The truth is. as a person who
cares about other human beings_
even a child thousands of miles away
you can do a lot,
You can stop the hurting for one
little child_and change the condi-
tions that cause it. And in one small
comer. you can help With the healing
of our troubled world
Create a bond of peace and
love for only 72 t a day.
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talks, and spend billions on aid and
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you share your Foster ChildIs dreams
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BACKTALK

llpro-life feminism." It calls on us to accept a position for no better reason than that some people feel it deeply.

JUDITH BAER

Bryant 'l'exiis

I must correct the misleading impression that I do not know why 1 am rationally and emotionally committed to the equal protection of the embryo. The human embryo should be valued because:

- 1) The embryo is genetically part of the human tamily-u being, like the newborn infant. on the way to becoming a person like us.
- 2) The embryo is the result of billions of years of evolution and is an amazingly complex, preprogmmmed stage of human life, as the gene-mnpping project reveals.
- 3) The embryo is organically so integrated that it is selfeordering in its patterned development needing only maternal nurturance and protection in the womb to come to birth.
- 4) All human life is interdependent and in need of nurturing protection, especially from its progenitors and kin, whatever our stage of achieved maturity or present access to power or resources; valid rights arise from need.

SIDNEY CALLAHAN

Ardsley-on-Hudson, New York

ls Bono Chaste?

In regard to Adam Bloekls llPure Bono" (May 189), we have never thought of Bono or U2 as chaste. The only people we know that do are repressed boneheads who like Poison (enough said). Bono is overtly sexual because he combines intelligence with integrity. Welre hot and bothered just pondering the man.

Tl lli EVll. PAYNE SISTERS

Boulder, Colorado

In the eighties we need more people like Bono. A lot of bands are just interested in the llsex and drugs" image of rock. They don't care about their music. Bono and U2 have proven to us over the years that there are groups out there who are socially and politically aware and care about the world surrounding us.

BARBARA KAKIRIS

Lakewood, Ohlo

Hell on Wheels

Thanks so much for the excerpt from john Callahanls Don't Worry, He Won't Get Far on Pool: The Autobiography of a Dangerous Man (llI-Iell On Wheelsf May 89). Ilm on my way to the bookstore.

My life has definitely been enriched by even 21 brief exposure to his talent, grace, and irreverent cartoons. Tell him I love him! SARAH (ILAXTON

West Bath, Maine

As a thirty-two-year-old paraplegic, and introduced to the second-class world of Medicaid recipients after a freak accident, I was not content to accept my condition. The 500,000 mostly young people in the United States who are victims of a spinal cord injury need a cute, not a hobby.

We at the Spinal Cord Society are a grass-roots citizen advocacy group frustrated with our llkinder and gentleral status quo society. Instead of complaining about our skimpy welfare checks, as John Callahan is content to do, we are raising the funds to get us walking again. Surely neither Uncle Sam nor anyone else will do it for us.

MARTIN COSTA

President, Spinal Cord Society New Bedford Fall River Chapter New Bedford. Massachusetts

Write your Mother. Send your reactions and suggestions Io Backtalk, Mother jones, 1663 Mission Street. San Hancisco, CA 94101 Please be sure to mdude your name. address, and daytime telephone number. We reserve 1/70 right to edit letters for publication. 3

A REMINDER FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD FEDERATION OF AMERICA. 810 SEVENTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10019.

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Ι

How to ace the toughest question in any inierview: "Are you now, or will you ever be . . . somebody's molher?" 8 JUIIY/AUGUST 1989 BAD ATTITUDE By Barbara Elarenreicl) Y, MY, GIRLS, WHAT, S ALLTHE FUSS over the new llmommy testll? Hundreds of eager young female job seekers have written to me in the last few weeks alone, confident of being able to pass the drug test, the polygraph test, Exxonls new breathalyzer test-but panicked over the mommy test. Well, the first thing you have to grasp if you hope to enter the ranks of management is that corporations have a perfect right to separate the thieves from the decent folk, the straights from the druggies, and, of course, the women from the mommies. For starters, you should know that thousands of U.S. women, even those afflicted with regular ovulatory cycles and patent fallopian tubes, have been taking-and passing-the mommy test for decades. In fact, it used to be almost the first question (just after llCan you type?) in the standard female job interview: llAre you now, or have you ever, contemplated marriage, motherhood, or u the violent overthrow of the U.S. government? Today, thanks to womenk lib, you wont be out on 4 the street even if you fail. All right, there are disadvantages to the mommy track: mandatory milk and cookies at ten, quiet time at three, and so forth. But many women are happy to get a paycheck of any kind, even if it is a gift certificate to Toys 1Rl Us. And if you still want to be on the fast track, with the grown-ups and the men, here are a few simple tips for acing the mommy test: 1. Be prepared for tricky psychological questions, such as: Would you rather (a) spend six straight hours in a windowless conference room with a group of arrogant, boorish men fighting over their spread sheets, or (b) scrape congealed pabulum off a linoleum floor? (The answer, surprisingly, is a.) Or try this one: Would you rather (a) feed apple juice to a hungry baby, or (b) figure out how to boost profits by diluting the companys baby apple-juice product with wastewater from the local nuclear power plant? But you get the idea. . . . 2. Bring proof of infertility: your uterus in a mason jar, for example. Alternatively, tell the interviewer that you already had a child, but-and at this point you stare pensively into space-it didn't work out. . . . 3. Your interviewer will no doubt have framed photos of his own wife and children displayed prominently on his desk. Do not be misled; this is part oftbe test. Be sure to display appropriate levels of disgust and commiseration. You might ask, in a pitying tone, lth, did you marry a mommy? 4. If you actually are a mommy, and have small children of your own who, for some reason, are still living with you, the case is almost hopeless. Unless you can prove that, as a result of some bioengineering feat or error on their birth certificates, you are actually their daddy and hence have no day-to-day responsibility for their care. But the key thing is attitude. If you go for your job interview in a hostile, self-pitying mood, if youlre convinced that the mommy test is an example of discrimi-

nation or prejudice, believe me, it will show. And there

Theylre no longer subject to the extreme residential seg-

isnit prejudice against mommies today, not really.

regation imposed in the fifties, when mommies were required to live in special suburban compounds, far from the great centers of commerce. Today, youlll find Illustration by Hal Mayfortb

them living just about everywhere, even in jaunty little cardboard structures within walking distance of Wall Street. Today it is no longer necessary (as it was for poor Nancy Reagan) for a woman who aspires to public recognition to renounce all knowledge of, and contact with, her children. We even have a special day devoted to the distribution of flowers on the graves of dead mothers, as well as to those mothers who, for some reason, still linger on. However, even if we acknowledge all the tremendous contributions mothers have made-and there were mommies at Plymouth Rock, at Gettysburg, possibly even at the Republican National Convention-we must admit that they have, as a race, shown remarkably little aptitude for the fine points of corporate management. When have you ever seen a get-rich-quick book titled Leveraged Buyouts: A Motherls Secrets, or Swimming with the Sharks: A Mommyis Guide to Eating the Competition (And Finishing Every Last Bite)? But the bottom line (not to be confused, gals, with the mark left by overly tight Pampers!) is: Even if you respect mommies, like mommies, and are aware of the enormous diversity among them, would you really want to work with one? This is the question that thousands of top US. male managers have had to face: Would you want to be at a \$100 power lunch and risk being told to polish your plate? Hence the mommy track. It just makes sense to segregate them in special offices equipped with extra umbrellas, sweaters, raincoats, and toothbrushes-for their own sake as much as anything. Personally, I think the mommy track may be just the hrst step in a new wave of corporate cost cutting. Therels a new approach based on the experience of a brilliant young fast-track executive who got pregnant unbeknownst to herself and handily delivered in the ladies room during a break in the thirdquarter sales conference. The baby was raised on phenobarbital and take-out food until it outgrew the lower right-hand desk drawer, at which point our fast tracker hired a baby-sitter-to take over her corporate responsibilities! For the truth is, all you eager young job seekers, that no one knows for sure what the management of top US. corporations does all day or well into the night. Sitting at desks has been observed. Sitting at meetings has been observed. Initialing memos has been observed. Could a woman-even a mommy -do all this? Certainly, and with time left over for an actual job of some sort. So the question that our corporate leaders must ultimately face is: What does our vast army of pin-striped managers do anyway, and could it be done by a reliable baby-sitter? D PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO THE PLANE T On every continent, in every country. people are joining together to defend the planet and its inhabitants from further exploitation

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4 Snow: "Men can" deal with commitment They're afraid they'll get marrled and then meet the woman of their dreams a? 'he reception." V Poundstono: "I had one of those moms who got mad at everything. Once I knocked a Flintstones gIass off the table and she sold, 'Dammlt, we can't have nlce things! " Comic Possibilities These days it scvms the hottest ((mzit's, from outragcous Sandra Bernhard to llpctitc flowerllirdy Tenuta, are women. Is a distinctly female mmcdy hndmg now 11111111611605, and am fiwzinism (Iain! some ()ft/JU c'rt'u'it? AUIA POUNDS'I'ON1-Z: Noma. "811111;, I WANT thc ERA, hut telling iokcs has nothing to do with genitalia. I dont even like it when comedians mldrcss their jokes to just Why a... o. many ouc scx. ltls antisocial. lhc lwomcn-in-comuh" angle hotcs 1111' to tears. I also think its scxist. Pcoplc Lloift go out and 53)". Honey. lctls sec ;1 womtm comic tonightf They just want to scc whocvcrk funny. llMy cxpcricncc in life is not different from anybody clscls. 1 tloift have childrem I'm not :1 wife. and l livc in ;111 apartment. 1 9 klt) tomcdy hccausc I love the audience. I daim "ledii' mum: SNoW: Ylil). "l'r's TAKEN WOMEN A long time to come out of the closet COIHCLlh cnlly. Wclvc always hccn funny. Even :15 kids, I cant imagine that the boys were having 11.x much fun .15 we wcrc. Now wc GUI do it in public. Hlu thc husiucss now, there are 5001000 guys in tics who all talk about the sumc thing. Airlinc food. l'm tlrL'Ll()lll1;1I. More women comics talk :1110llt life. If women rulcdtl1cworld.;u1tlwcallgotmnssagcs, there'd he no war. I truly lwelieve that. Boys are ruthlcss.Somc; 1rc wondcrful. But they'll do things like kill an audience before the next pcrson goes on. I hot new comics women? And would never think of that competition. The guys in clubs can he triends of yours, but they're vicious when it comes to the business stuff. But I (10HiI like to kvctch. ()nstzlgc, 1 11m giving out love and getting it back six times over. No day is .so had that it cant be fixed by 11 1111p? llll.Y'AU(;US'l'198k) visited Attica recently 11nd spcut time with all these Masai warriors. One night we were sitting around the fire but wc didn't spcnk each othch language. So wc drew pictures in the ash to communicate, and we

laughed 11ttllc same things. Funny is funnyfl

-Stmz/J Keller

llboropmplzx lly Amie Fu/lein

Anti- Shrinks ALLY ZINMAN, THE ex-patient. Peter Breggin, the radical therapist. jeffrey Masson, the persistent outside critic. Theirs are among the strongest voices in the growing psychiatry reform movement, a nationwide coalition that opposes shock treatment, involuntary hospitalization, and debilitating drug therapies. Zinman says the abuse she suffered from one psychiatrist was llso horrible it changed the whole direction of my life? She blew the whistle on the doctor, and he lost his license. Next she started a patients rights group, and today shels director of the Berkeley Drop-In Center, a client-run alternative mental-health facility in California. Zinman thinks these are crucial times in the politics of psychiatry. llTheylre trying to turn the clock back to the 19605;, she says, referring to proposed legislation in California and other states that would make it easier to commit people to mental hospitals without their consent. llWith all the cutbacks in spending, were seeing more homeless people, more people in mental distress On the streets? Zinman fears the shortcut answer will be 11to put more of these people away? Instead, she says, llwe need more self-help alternatives. We need to help people before they get caught up in the mental-health systemf Maryland psychiatrist Breg-The" message. gin is concerned with what hapens to people once theylre Four 0' hospitalized. 11We have the . . power, with electroshock and Psych'a'ry '5 neuroleptie drugs like Thorazine, to take away peoplels Por'enly sune' minds. The frightening thing is that we use this power? On television and elsewhere, Breggin has advised mental patients to stop taking their medication. 11The drug companies provide money to the American Psychiatric Association for fellowships, publications, media events, even the annual meeting? he says. 11No one would take those drugs of their own free will, so the pharmaceutical companies need the complicity of psychiatrists to force them on people. Its a shame on the profession? Even more radical is writer jeffrey Masson, who argues, in his new book Against Therapy, that psy-P/mtogmpbs by Martin Klimek tmd Ginger Ross-Breggm (Brvggm/ chotherapy is as bad and essentially unreformable as slavery: liltls a relationship of unequal power based on dominance and submission. You cant reform something that s basically corrupt? Masson adds: llThere may be a few decent people doing lpsychiatryl, but that doesnlt make the institution bearable? The training and certification of therapists creates only an illusion of protection, Masson argues: llYour whole emotional well-being is at stake, and youlre expected to say, This person will be fine, hes got a plaque up in his ofhce, I can trust him, hels never going to exploit or hurt mef Thatls just

The

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not true?
Peter Breggin doesnlt agree; he be-
lieves he and other therapists help peo-
ple. Still, the two critics have found enough common
ground to work together on a new book about psy-
chiatry in Nazi Germany. llPsychiatry has the power
in any society to enforce conformity? Breggin says.
llPeople who think or look different_gays, minor-
ities, the homeless-theylre in the greatest jeopardy?
Even in the psychiatry reform movement, says Sally
Zinman, there is confusion about llwhat this thing is
we call mental distress? Shels not concerned with che
medical modelf which asks why about mental illness,
says Zinman. 11We listen to people and what they wantf
Some just need a place to take care of their business,
use the phone, have some coffee. People want off the
streets, out of shelters. Survival is a lot of what people
are talking about now? _Mic/7ael DiLeo
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11
Masson (top, left)
favors "abolishing
everything connected
wlth psychiatry."
Zlnman: "I believe in
choice and informed
consent." Breggln is
for "breaking the psy-
chiatric monopoly." A
self-described liber-
tarian, he'd let client-
run centers, therapists,
rellglons, even cults
compete side by side.
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high'tcch urban buildings and
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the root. Khalili went on to build and bake
a tcn-room school f(irming and tiring cach
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award for his work (111 shcitcr tor IhL'
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Khalilik biggest US. project to date is a
twcnty-swcn-ttmt-widc dome in rural Ncw
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Navait) pcnplc. Khalili is alst) at work on
prctah htick vaults. modular units that (.111
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sometimes his vision guts much. much tur-
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In fact, a healthy Ficus would add more balance. Braden, 71, is the former head of a (LIA division in Western Europe and author of a tract titled uFm Glad the CIA ls tlmmoralf " On Crossfire, Braden, an LA. Times columnist, has identified Nelson Rockefeller as his political hero, called (le whistle-blower Philip Agcc an unpatriotic tirat." and stated that during the Vietnam War he advised young men to go and fight. Dont touch that dial. On CNN's The Capital Gang, A1 Hunt, Washington, D.C., bureau chief of the Wall Street journal, serves as a representative Of the Left. according to host Buchanan. PBS, meanwhile, offers three political "Lofty" Braden and Buchanan discussion pmgrams hosted by National Reviews William F. Buckley;  $\_{Ir.}$ , and john McLaughlin. The Left fringe of The McLaughlin Group is filled by New Rvpublic senior editor Morton M. Kundrackc, a contra supporter who admits that, under Reagan, he was tcmptcd to turn Republican. -Riclmrd Reynolds

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Khalil's ownrd-wlnnlng Mm. dlmhutp ' Walt ll , .Thon \_ The House Baker DECADE AGO, LO5 ANGELES ARCHItect Nader Khalili was designing high-tech urban buildings and parking complexes. But a motorcycle trip through his native Iran opened his eyes. Today hels gone hack to the land-hack to clay. specifically-and hels becoming known as 11the man who bakes houses? Khalili is out to prove that domed adobe structures can be 5er t0 permanence, made roek-hard to withstand time, weather, and earthquakes. He wants to change the way the developing world houses itself On his Iran trip Khalili discovered that the longest-surviving earthen structures art kilns. Many are large enough to walk into. 111th kiln can become a house? he mused, 11why can1t a house become a kiln? When 14 \_IU1,Y/AU(;UST 1989 Khalili then repaired some dilapidated domed houses in rural Iran, firing them Frnm xnh'khd nctnn UNDER 1 POUND FIRST CLASS "The only Ihing that can shelter the people of the earth is the BUSINESS REPLY MAIL PERMIT NO. 224 CAMP HILL, PA IMSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE Quality Paperback Book Club Camp Hill, PA 17011-9902 TV "Leftists" PPEARING ON A RECENT edition of CNN,S Crosshre, jeff Cohen Of FAIR (Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting) noted the paucity of left-leaning voices on TVS public affairs programs. Turning to 11liberal11 cohost Tom Braden, archconservative Pat Buchanan asked, 11What do you think this is, a potted plant?,1 In fact, a healthy Ficus would add more balance. Braden, 71, is the former head of a CIA division in Western Europe and author of a tract titled Tm Glad the CIA Is immoral? On Crosshre, Braden, an LA. Times columnist, has identified Nelson Rockefeller as his political hero, called CIA whistle-blower Philip Agee an unpatriotic hat? and stated that during the Vietnam War he advised young men to go and hght. Dorft touch that dial. On CNNE The Capital Gang, Al

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Inside Mecca Islam's yearly Haii: closed to the rest of the world, combines piety and intrigue. An insider's report. Muslims gather from every corner of the earth around the Ka'buh, surrounding the sacred Black Stone in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. 16 iUiy/Aiityusi' i989 ERF. I AM, MY (ioi), mini: 1 AM? FROM THUR native Afghan valleys, from the bush of Africa, from Tunis, Cairo, London, and Indonesia, 1.5 million Moslems consummate their journey to the holy Mosque in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, with this chant. Mecca, a desert city of 750,000, is transformed into a modern-day Babylon of races and cultures-and into a potential boiling point of tension as the single place that unites the Byzantine faetions of the worlds nearly one billion Muslims. This year, believers will be flocking to Mecca from a Muslim world increasingly battered by externally and internally driven pressures: divisions among Palestinians about the PLOE negotiating stance with Israel, which last spring prohibited many Muslims from worshiping at the jerusalem mosque; lasting scars from the Iran-Iraq conflict, which divided 1slam like never before; conflicts between supporters and opponents of Ayatollah Khomeinis call to assassinate British novelist Salman Rushdie. All of the parties to these and other potentially explosive eonflicts will attend this years Hajj (as its known in Arabic), which unfolds the second week ot'bluly. Sunni and Shiite, fundamentalist and liberal, terrorist and king will unite briefly around the Ka'bah, which contains the Black Stone given by the angel Gabriel to Adam after he was thrown out of paradise. Muslims believe that the Black Stone is the only object passed directly from God to man, and that the pil-H OT SPOTS By Re'mi Favret

grimage is the most intensely religious moment in a believerls life.

Last year I arrived for the 1,409th Hajj from Paris, the only Western journalist to attend and one of the few ever permitted to penetrate the protected walls of the holiest city of Islam. Although raised 3 Christian, I grew fascinated by Islam during my years of Middle East coverage, sipping tea under fire with teenage Lebanese militiamen, talking theology with bearded ulemas at Cairols Al Azhar University, reading the great Persian poets under the minarets of Samarkand. I eventually converted in Afghanistan, where lad spent months traveling with the rebel mujaheddin.

The Saudis take seriously the HOLY MECCA: MUSLIMS ONLY sign marking the 1tholy perimeter11 15 miles outside of Mecca. Before arriving here, my passport had been checked three times to verify my Muslim eredentials-at the Saudi consul in Paris (which only issues Visas for Mecca after onels knowledge of the Koran and Islamic prayer rituals is certified by a local imam), upon departure at the airport, and upon arrival. My heart pounded as I passed this final checkpoint.

FOR THE SAUDIS, THE HAJJ IS A RELIGIOUS EVENT, but its also an industry. The first thing that hits you

in Mecca, even before the central Mosque, is the chaotic bazaar surrounding it. For local merchants, the yearly pilgrimage is a windfall. The vast outdoor supermarket around the Mosque teems with stalls offering an incredible variety of consumer goods: refrigerators, VCRs, cassette players, television sets, rice cookers, Clothes, radios. fake and real Rolex watches. Religious solidarity aside. retail prices shoot up by 300 percents the shops work around the clock (except during the live daily prayer times), and a bunk in a seedy room for eight, without running water. can cost \$1,000 a month. Those who cant afford hotels sleep in the streets; I saw barefoot Afghans sleeping on rugs that would have fetched small fortunes in the finest shops of London. Around the Mosque itself, there is a constant procession of worshipers: Arabs in white robes, Africans in brightly colored cloaks. Indonesians in batik dresses, Thais and Malays in sarongs, Soviet Uzbeks wearing pyramid-shaped black caps, U.S. black Muslims sporting Ray-Ban shades and listening to readings of the Koran on portable cassette players. While parts of the Muslim world square off in sectarian and nationalist contlicts\_Syria and Lebanon, Iran and Iraq, India and Pakistan, Libya and the moderate Arab states-the Hajj offers families and friends divided by the happenstance of politics the chance to come together. I accompanied 3 Lebanese friend meeting his Shiite cousin from Iraq whom he had never been allowed to visit before. They embraced in the shadows of the great Mosque, recognizing each other immediately from aged family photos.

Photograph by Hanmzi/SIPA

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We Didn't Give F oreign Aid TO Hitler...
RULE BY FORCE AND VIOLENCE
El Salvador Today _. Salvadoran
National Guardsmen sciying members
010:1 grassroots organization.
"You Germans were very
intelligent. You realized that
the Jews were responsible
for the spread of C ammunism,
Etienne Montcs
and you began to kill them. "
p m:
Roberto D'Aubuisson. ARENA Party
Founder and Honorary President for Life
Congress Has Given The Salvadoran Government $3 Billion.
Wh G ' It How Have They Spent It?
y Ive Since 1980. the Salvadoran Military and Death Squads have
. murdered over 60.000 Civilians. including religious voices of
TO HIS conscience such as Archbishop Romero.
I The Salvadoran government has used 3 billion American
dollars to expand a violent police state.
Imltators In I In May. as a Congressional committee voted to give El
Salvador more than $1 million per day, the Salvadoran
El Salvador ? arrhed forces conducted a midhight raid on utChristtiun
refugee support office. abductmg 70 people. mcludmg 30
women. The women were stripped naked and herded into a
cell. Many were raped. Maria Mirtala Lopez. 20. told an
American priest who visited her in jail how she was hung
by her breasts in order to extract a confession.
I_Congress IS Paying For Murdej More Money Will Fund More Violence
I I Want To Stop It ARENA, the Death Squad Party, now controls all branches of
I Yes. I'll help end the W" in El SMWIOR government: the Presidency. the Legislature and
the Courts.
I Ham's "V (1093mm to help WP C(Tngms I El Salvador is ruled today. as it has been for ge
nerations. by
from paying for death and destruction, . e _
an alliance of the ollgurchy and the mlhtary. The government
labels as "communist" anyone who tries to bring about
Change. Like the NAZl's. their policy is to eliminate citizen
opposition through mass murder and terror.
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Send checks payable to:
Neighbor To Neighbor Action Fund
2601 Mission Street. Room 400-A
Sun Francisco CA 941 I0
The American People Would Never Knowingly Support This
Our nation fought World War II to stop fascism. We should
not pay for it in El Salvador today.
NEIGHBOR To Call Your Representatives In Congress
L;& Tell Them To Stop Funding F ascism
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like the ancient (ireek ()lympies, when
warring citysstates temporarily put down
their weapons, the Hajj can serve to unite
the vastly different factions of Islam. But
often the realities of the temporal world earr
not help hut intrude.
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Saudi hosts occurred in 1979, when ultra-
cnnservative Shiites armed with subinaehine
guns took over the great Mosque tO foree it
out of the hands of the Saudi royal family,
whom they considered too cozy with the
West. It is this relationship, between fundar
mentalists and the more moderate and prag-
matie Saudi regime, that continues to haunt
the otherwise pious event.
The home () lthe Saudi royal family, a lux-
urious, zllr-COHLllthHCLl pink marble palace
looming over the great Mosque, is a peren-
nial touchstone Of animosity. It's impossible
to ignore the building after rising from
prayer, and many resent its presence as an
insult to the Prophet's humility. When 1
asked an Indian friend about the building,
his response gave me a jolt: uDon't speak
about it; it should be blown up."
Since the Iranian-inspired riots in 1987,
when over four hundred people died in a
clash in which fundamentalists protested the
Saudis pro-lraqi stance in the lran-lraq war,
the Saudis have maintained a heavy security
presence during, the Hajj: thirteen thousand
police are put on patrol around the city and
seventy-three video cameras maintain a con-
stant electronic vigil at key gathering points.
The U.S.-supplied technology at the video-
monitoring center on the outskirts ()fthe city
is the latest in surveillance equipment, capa-
ble of producing among other things. corn-
puterized portraits of lawbreakers.
The Saudis, strict practitioners of Islarn,
show little patience for non-Arab Muslims
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whose behavior does not conform to their stringent sensibilities. In the market around the Mosque, I watched as African women, used to more boisterous interactions among themselves and their children than the Saudis are accustomed to, were barked at and ushered out of the market by contemptuous policemen.

ill) some; howeven the Saudis are exceedingly gracious hosts. In the splendidly lavish tent city of the Muslim World league our side of town, I drank 741p with the leader of the Mom National liberation liront, Ntn' Musuari, whose guerrillas are lighting the Filipino army in Mindanao. "Mecca is the symbol of the unity among Muslims." he told me. "his a blessing for me to be here closer to Allah, and to remind my brothers in the jungle of the Philippines why we're lighting." Musuari was a special guest of the League-as were top officials from the Palestinian, Polisario, and South African resistance movements. 1 found Afghan mujahetltlin leader Yunus Khales wolfing down an extravagant breakfast at the Mecca Inter-(Imitinental Hotel, a far better repast than what I had shared with his troops up in Kunar. The guerrilla leaders-considered "freedom lightersn by Muslims and literrorists'l by the West (except for the Afghans, who are glorified hy bnth)-reeeive substantial financial support from Saudi Arabia, which toasts them at endless receptions in Mecca, provides helicopters for sightseeing, and offers them air-conditioned aeeommodations.

FOR 'nii. SAunis, THE ANNUAL HAJJ Is AN extremely useful event, affirming their status as leaders of the Islamic world. Tensions over the past several years, however, have begun to make their grasp on that position more tenuous. Last year, Iran boycotted the Hajj to protest a quota system-agreed to by all the other Islamic eountries-which would have limited their participation to forty-five thousand pilgrims, as opposed to the half million Khomeini had hoped to send. This year, an agreement was sealed allowing for limited Iranian participation in the Hajj, despite the fact that lran-supported extremists allegedly were responsible for the assassination of a moderate Saudi imam in Brussels last March. The imam supported Saudi Arabia and the Muslim League's nonviolent call for a "scholarly review" of Salman Rushdie's controversial novel, The Satanic Verses.

It is, finally, in Mecca where all the conlliets within Islam are expressed. Along with
the reverential crowds, relentless questions
revolve around Mecca's Ka'bah. Where
should the line be drawn between faith and
politics? Should the rule of God prevail over
the laws of man? How can the Muslim East
live in peace with the West? These questions
have violently split Islam for centuries and
touk on new sharpness in the wake of Iran's
revolution. If the radicals are going to prevail, they will L10 it first in Mecca. And if
Islam is going to find a way to adapt to the
modern worltl-in which religion does not

invade every aspect of life-the signals of that resolution will also occur first in Mecca. One day; Muslims believe, the Messiah will appear in Mecca with answers to the questions dividing his followers. In the meantime, for the key to the Islamic world, considered s0 mysterious by most Westerners, the Hajj in Mecca is the place to watch. Remi lizz'ret is d Ihrris-lmsed free-ltmee writer and novelist who lms (overed (be Middle lids! extensively for mmwmus French and British publimtimrs.

Mother Jones 1988 Raffle Winner Horace Eubank ROBERT SUDLOW, Woodlight, 1966 Intuitive Renaissance Man A tribute to Robert Sudlow He was a new Renaissance man-A mind that constantly inquired With fingers that drew, that wrote. His was a cool and curious head; He tried to teach the distinction Between joy and satisfaction. His was a life of joy; He knew satisfaction comes not From lust and greed and laziness. These lead to satiety and In the end destroy satisfaction, Which does not bring joy. He saw joy, the path to perfection: The true thoughts, the true friendship, Some work well-done, a painting perceived. His was a love freely given; These are the ingredients he Found in his search for joy. His life was a set of infinitives: To have strong reactions, to perform An act of faith, to appreciate deeply. He recognized the most important things In life one should learn are the Same things that cannot be taught. -H0mce Wren Euban/e

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secretary general of the Communist Party, and president of the Republic. He has used his power to convert Cuba from 1 demoralized colonial playground of the United States into a player on the world stage, which forced the first great global power rearrangement since the end of World War II. In Fidelis view, Cuba may also be the last bastion of real socialism. I first went to Cuba in june 1960, when the Revolution was still in its packanga stage, :1 time Of dancing and partying, of mind-bending change and continuous excitement. Havana still had casinos, beggars, remnants of sex shows, and 21 semblance of servility, that mixture of free and dirty Third World capitalism. In power for three decades, outlasting seven U.S. Presidents, Fidel Castro used his position to convert Cuba from a colonized playground into a proud nation. His advice to the next generation of Cubans: "Be Like Chia."

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menfs claims of great progress under Fidells
leadership. He protests that the Revolu-
tionls 9supposed great feats in education
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Rica, which had about the same statistics as
Cuba before the Revolution and has about the same now.,'
Such attempts to trivialize the Cuban experience fail on
their own terms. Thousands of new school buildings and
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tive labor. Bad housing still exists, but no homelessness. The
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practice by placing a medical school graduate in each Cuban neighborhood. Helicopters transport emergency patients from remote mountain villages to hospitals, and Cuban surgeons today regularly perform heart and other organ transplants. All Cuban kids go to school, most from day care through ninth grade or beyond, and the population has reasonable retirement programs, job security, and other economic protection. Beyond the statistics, there is this one overriding fact: in thirty years, Cuba has been transformed from a fragment of the U.S. economy into a proud nation. Revolutions begin as liberating acts, not as self-conscious scenarios in which the actors can predict all the consequences. Fidel could predict U.S. behavior, however. In 1953, the Iranian governments attempt to nationalize oil provoked a CIAled coup, and in 1954, a CIA cabal ousted Guatemalan president jacobo Arbenz for trying to tax United Fruit Company holdings. So when Fidel nationalized major US. properties, he knew what to expect, and readied Cubans for a Herce reaction. Fidel organized militia units, block committees, and a repressive apparatus that would endure long after the Revolution faced down the United States. For Cuba, independence from the United States meant socialism and alliance with the Soviet Union. Fear of being swallowed up played a central role in FidePs original linking of Cubais destiny with the Soviet Union. He understood that despite the perils of such a relationship, the Soviets could not annex a far-off island. After thirty years, in fact, the Soviets do not own one inch of Cuban land. Cubas independence was a frontal challenge to U S. power, which carried a high cost. President Dwight Eisenhower, constrained by a Korean War syndrome, did not send troops into what promised to be a prolonged conflict. Instead, under Eisenhower, and john Kennedy after him, the CIA attempted to assassinate Castro. A Senate committee later revealed, in 1975, that ITT and Mafia executives had cooperated repeatedly with the CIA to try to murder him. Fidel himself claims to know of twenty-six serious attempts in all. (The closest call, he says, involved poisoning his chocolate milk shake in 1960, when he was a chocoholic-an attempt that failed only because the venom froze to the freezer wall where it was stored and could not be mixed in the shake.) After several attempts with poison, guns, and bombs were uncovered, Fidel abandoned all semblance of routine in order to protect himself\_a decision that has influenced his style of governance for almost thirty years. Failed attempts to murder Castro or immobilize the Revolution through economic strangulation and dirty tricks led to the Bay of Pigs. In April 1961, some 1,500 ClA-led Cuban exiles invaded the south coast of Cuba and were routed in less than three days. A year and a half later, the world held its breath as the Soviets and Americans faced off in nuclear confrontation over Cuba. The resolution of the Missile Crisis ended the direct military threat to the island, but hardly as-

MOTHER jON1ZS 23

Nearly thirty years later, Cuba is still a cultural collage of Spain, Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America, set amid bizarre relics-U.S. gangsters, gamblers, baseball players, and a novelist who wrote about an old man and the sea\_now juxtaposed with institutional imports from the Soviet Union. The mass meeting I attended on December 5, 1988, marked the thirty-second anniversary of the landing of the Granma, the yacht on which Fidel and eighty-two guerrillas arrived from Mexico to launch their war against the regime of Fulgencio Batista. Usually, every five years, missiles and tanks also pass under the reviewing stand, but they were notnecessnry in 1988. Cuba had proved its prowess, winning a major battle against South Africa in Angola last year, and Fidel felt no need to display such firepower. Half a million Havuneros again showed up to watch the troops march and listen to Fidel speak -for four hours, the last in a downpour. The parade and the turnout served to remind the White House and Pentagon that an incursion against Cuba would he costly\_and to remind Soviet president Gorbachev that Fidelis brand of socialism, not glasnost or perestroika, has wide popular hacking. But underneath the display of military power, a demonstration of support for the commander in chief, Cubans are a complex, troubled, confused, and superstitious people, some of whom still live in bobz/os, the thatched huts with mud Hoots that Columbus iidiscovered." Next to these primitive dwellings, the Revolution has erected five-story apartment buildings. On the way upstairs one is likely to encounter chickens and roosters passing between the fourth and fifth Hoots; some peasant tenants still hide their pigs in the bathrooms of these 22. jui.Y/'AUGU5T 1989 Ln 3 EEQEE  ${\it ma-k}$ 85%28 OE&\_E Z 3 CI) 5.3 ::::: .33 i C: '\_\_\_\_ (t :' L; o co \_\_\_\_ 2:3 8 a 5 /\_\_\_\_ yz ti 3-1 3'; -J g a 5.1.2 m D- o g F CB v E22 5 'Ta 3 5 m s :5 9 E3 C mi : m 8 L; E 2 2 e a LL.) '" E 0 mode 88 E orlpr m g 0 Mich; u- CL Ne; opera arob( nude: plant remen ment, witne: militia march

iOuSiy UIC))CU tuenctypcs ()I 3 nigmy trained Cllte corps. but beneath thousands of the neatly pressed military blouses there are also Santeria heads-the tokens of belief in an Afro-Caribbean religion far more pagan than Christian. Fidel has godlike status among these believers, which helps secure his political position. On the street he is widely known as (31 caballo (the horse), a virile, almost invincible man.

Fidel has pushed Cubans to take seven-league boot strides in some areas; in others, a thin veneer of modernity disguises a form of incompetence, based on values that predate and even Vitiate scientific thought and disciplined economic production. He continues, after thirty years, to preside over both these Cuhas, apparently unable to retire until he feels certain that the Revolution's new ways of thinking and acting have definitively conquered the old. But ironically, Cubans may not be able to break through the current crisis, both economic and Photograph by Marc PoKempner

political, with Fidel as Father, a role that prevents his people from achieving full political adulthood. While some members of the older generation may whisper in private that Fidel ought to step aside, last year some teenagers in a Havana movie theater committed a Virtually heretical act. When Fidel appeared in a newsreel to praise Che Guevara, they began to sing a pop refrain: IIEse hombre estd loco (This man is crazy)? Though those singing teenagers are part of only a small minority, five years ago such a public outburst would have been unthinkable-and intolerable. IN 1959 AND 1960 THE MAJORITY OF CUBANS MAY HAVE believed that Fidel was crazy, but they supported him anyway. Teenage guerrillas, who looked half-mad themselves with their mountain-grown scruffy beards and long hair, watched approvingly as casino employees destroyed one-armed bandits on the streets. Former ITT employees cha-cha-chald their way to the sea to drown a coffin with a phone on it. ITT had invested heavily in Cuba as a communications experiment center, and its executives would never forget the affront of being expropriated. Such insults echoed in the national security offices in Washington. IiYou canIt do thislll the American manager of the large King Ranch told Rene' Vallejo in 1959, just after Vallejo delivered a government expropriation writ. The gentle Vallejo, a gynecologist who directed the Agrarian Reform Ministry in Oriente Province, trembled as the American pointed his finger. IlThe marines will come and take it back!,, Twenty-nine years later, only a fanatic would venture such a threat. Before the Revolution, the saying went, the dictator Batista was only the second most important man on the island, next to the U.S. ambassador. In 1989, a U.S. interest section (the United States does not have formal diplomatic relations with Cuba) still sits where the US. embassy once housed over three hundred functionaries. The lonely handful of people who now occupy the Five-story glass building on the sea look down at a Cuban poster. A bearded revolutionary is taunting Uncle Sam: SENORES IMPERIALISTAS, WERE NOT SCARED OF YOU. The poster annoys John Taylor, the interest-section chief, who knows hels far from being the islands most important man. Taylor scoffs at the Cuban governments claims of great progress under Fidells leadership. I-Ie protests that the RevolutionAs llsupposed great feats in education and health arenlt really that impressive when you compare them with, say, Costa Rica, which had about the same statistics as Cuba before the Revolution and has about the same now? Such attempts to trivialize the Cuban experience fail on their own terms. Thousands of new school buildings and apartments stand as testimony to the achievement of collective labor. Bad housing still exists, but no homelessness. The rural population has access to roads, which have replaced trails that I traversed in a jeep with Fidel in 1968 (and which I remember because of a month of aching kidneys afterward). A multilane freeway now covers much of the island. There are hundreds of clinics and hospitals and twenty-five thousand lllrst went to Cuba when the Revolulion was in its pachanga stage: mind-bending change and continuous exchemeni. doctors (there were six thousand in 1959, half ofwhom fled to the United States). Fidel recently instituted a family doctor practice by placing a medical school graduate in each Cuban

neighborhood. Helicopters transport emergency patients

from remote mountain Villages to hospitals, and Cuban surgeons today regularly perform heart and other organ transplants. All Cuban kids go to school, most from day care through ninth grade or beyond, and the population has reasonable retirement programs, job security, and other economic protection. Beyond the statistics, there is this one overriding fact: in thirty years, Cuba has been transformed from a fragment of the U.S. economy into a proud nation. Revolutions begin as liberating acts, not as self-conscious scenarios in which the actors can predict all the consequences. Fidel could predict U.S. behavior, however. In 1953, the Iranian governments attempt to nationalize oil provoked a CIAled coup, and in 1954, a CIA cabal ousted Guatemalan president Jacobo Arbenz for trying to tax United Fruit Company holdings. So when Fidel nationalized major U.S. properties, he knew what to expect, and readied Cubans for a fierce reaction. Fidel organized militia units, block committees, and a repressive apparatus that would endure long after the Revolution faced down the United States. For Cuba, independence from the United States meant socialism and alliance with the Soviet Union. Fear of being swallowed up played a central role in Fidells original linking of Cubals destiny with the Soviet Union. He understood that despite the perils of such a relationship, the Soviets could not annex a far-off island. After thirty years, in fact, the Soviets do not own one inch of Cuban land. Cubals independence was a frontal challenge to U.S. power, which carried a high cost. President Dwight Eisenhower, constrained by a Korean War syndrome, did not send troops into what promised to be a prolonged conflict. Instead, under Eisenhower, and John Kennedy after him, the CIA attempted to assassinate Castro. A Senate committee later revealed, in 1975, that ITT and Mafia executives had cooperated repeatedly with the CIA to try to murder him. Fidel himself claims to know of twenty-six serious attempts in all. (The closest call, he says, involved poisoning his chocolate milk shake in 1960, when he was a Chocoholicaan attempt that failed only because the venom froze to the freezer wall where it was stored and could not be mixed in the shake.) After several attempts

thirty years. Failed attempts to murder Castro or immobilize the Revolution through economic strangulation and dirty tricks led to the Bay of Pigs. In April 1961, some 1,500 ClA-led Cuban exiles invaded the south coast of Cuba and were routed in less than three days. A year and a half later, the world held its breath as the Soviets and Americans faced off in nuclear confrontation over Cuba. The resolution of the Missile Crisis ended the direct military threat to the island, but hardly as-MOTHER JONES 23

sion that has influenced his style of governance for almost

with poison, guns, and bombs were uncovered, Fidel abandoned all semblance of routine in order to protect himself-a deci-

suaged the rancor of US. national security officials. Throughout Latin America, the Cuban experience came to symbolize courage in the face of US. enmity. Fidells image as a determined leader who insists on accomplishing the impossible has remained intact for thirty years. Last December in Mexico City, mobs of reporters and crowds on the street virtually ignored the new Mexican president who had invited Castro to his inauguration, instead flocking to Fidel to ask him questions, shout his name, and reach out to him. Fidel is known as a savior outside of Latin America as well. While Europe dumped toxic waste in Africa, Cuba sent troops to defend Angola against South Africa\_on its own initiative, not that of the Soviets\_along with teachers to educate and doctors to minister to the sick. Unlike the United States in Vietnam and the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, Cuba actually helped an ally. Aided by Cuba, Angola defeated South Africa in the battle of Cuito Cuanavale last year. Cuban pilots flying Soviet-made MiG 23s forced South Africa not only into a military retreat, with a high body count, but to the negotiating table as well. Castro calls the battle of Cuito Cuanavale the African Bay of Pigs.

I WATCHED FIDEIKS TELEVISED ADDRESS TOUTING CUBA, S success in Africa from the home of a well-known filmmaker in Havana last December. llFidel is a magician in foreign policy? the hlmmaker said as he watched, lTbut I think he cannot magically solve our internal problems by continuing to ltry tol teach us the way to behave in almost every area of life? Consider one example of Fidells omnipresence: A few years ago I watched a televised talk as Fidel extolled the virtues of vegetables and offered detailed, imaginative ideas for cooking them without frying them, Cuban-style, in lard. Fidel described all the varieties of Cuban-grown plants, especially praising anticarcinogenic broccoli and eggplant. This speech drew wide attention. Afterward, I overheard two hotel employees dis-

## opened a secret

that home and car repair is difficult to obtain, that Cuban-produced goods are of bad quality? Its easy to blame the bureaucracy, against which Fidel periodically launches campaigns. Slogans and posters adorn public walls and the media carry commentaries and denunciations, but there are few results save a temporary lessening of public anxiety. Mean-while, the economy stagnates.

llThe refinery was due for completion in 1985, then 1986, and now welve promised the commander in chief well have it done by late 1989.9 The construction engineers face shifted from shame to determination as I interviewed him in June 1987. llThis time? he promised, 8we will keep our word? When I was filming Fidel in a new factory the following month, the lights blew. But they couldn't be readily fixed; one of the workers admitted that they hadnit yet mastered the emergency-generator technology. When I arrived in Cienfuegos to film an oil storage tank, a team of sweepers sat in the shade until the crew approached; then they began sweeping dirt from one place to another. The wind blew it back, but they kept sweeping anyway. TTWellf one sweeper concluded, 81 think welre learning how to make better use of the workday?

While inefficiency is demoralizing, outright corruption has an even more insidious effect. Several old guerrilla comrades appointed by Fidel to run ministries have used their positions to engage in what Cubans call la dolce vita. Others have allowed corruption to spread in their ministries. Jose Fernandez, a junior army officer, was arrested by Batista and imprisoned in 1957 for conspiring to overthrow him. Subsequently, Fidel made him commander of the revolutionary military school. Under Fernandezls reign as minister of education since

the 19705, teachers have sold exams to parents, certain high schools have developed institutionalized cheating, and a flawed promotion system that disregards students knowledge was put in place. (One joke making the rounds in Havana begins with cussing his recipes. 8The only thing he note:

cussing his recipes. 8The only thing he note from Henry Fernandez dead and on line to ent er heaven,

didnlt tell usf one said, l $\mathsf{T}$ was how to get the . . u behind Picasso and Casals. St. Peter asks the

vegetables? I(lssmger. He artists to prove their identities. After seeing A year later, I stopped to film some one a sketch of a dove and hearing a cello renhundred people waiting in line to buy WIMS II. Mlk? Why dition, St. Peter ushers them in. Next,

greens. At the front of the line sat two 16- 9 Fernandez must prove who he is, St. Peter thargic clerks torpidly punching sales codes IIOI'. Will you Mke says, as Picasso and Cas als succeeded in

on computerized cash registers after weighing the produce on balance scales. A woman shopper noticed the camera and shouted at me in Spanish: liLook at the crap we have to put up withfll asked her to repeat what she had said. llAre you with Cuban TV?H she asked. I told her I was a foreigner, and her expression changed. llForget it. I wanted Fidel to see what we have to go through to get a few greens. For foreigners, no.9 How ironic that seemed: Fidel, of course, already knows about the lines, the bad distribution, and the inefficient clerking. And if I had filmed the scene for Cuban TV, it would not have aired. The womanls instinct was protectiveness—an effort to avoid revealing the depth of Cubals problems to outsiders.

Who or what is to blame for the fact that many goods donlt reach the stores, that people stand on line for food and buses, 24 JULY/AUGUST 1989

a nole back?"

doing. s1Who are theyPl, Fernandez asks.
11OkayfT says St. Peter, leoulve proven your
identity")

As the barber clipped away at me during one visit a few years ago, a customer in the neighboring chair asked, 11How do you explain that only one man was involved in such a big operation?" He was referring to the \$1 million scam implicating the head of Cuban civil aviation, a former director of the Communist Youth. 8There had to be more people involved . . . Fidel must know this, but he doesnlt want to upset the masses.n

The barber grunted. 11Fidel knows, Chico, whats happening on the street, and therels a lot of shit on the street, you understand, a lot of shit that he doesn't want the masses to know about. The enemy can take advantage of that, toofl he explained.

But who is the enemy in 1989? The CIA? Or the Soviet-style socialist bureaucracy that helps protect such malefactors? After the 1961 Bay of Pigs and the 1962 Missile Crisis, CIAsupplied counterrevolutionaries operated in the Escambray Mountains through 1966. CIAfunded exiles raided coastal installations and burned cane fields, and those who were caught were often shot. The political police also crushed internal dissent. The practices once used to counter U.S. attacks turned inward, blotting out disagreements. The Party was purged twice of factions found disloyal to Fidel. Homosexuals and others deemed socially TTunacceptablell were placed in labor camps without trials. Until the early 19805, Cuban prisons still housed more than one thousand political prisoners. Fidel\_the

consummate communist, the redeemer, the dreamer\_also knew how to crack down hard on his domestic enemies. By the late 19805, new groups of dissenters sprang up, calling themselves human rights activists or environmentalists. These tiny groups, attracting attention from the political police and the foreign press, are permitted limited liberty. But Fidel insists on controlling the limits of debate, just as he manages the information that flows through the media. Fidells critics attribute his obsession with control to absolutist tendencies, but a deeper, more complicated dynamic explains his behavior. Ever since the 18605, Cubals enemies have seized on disunity to prevent the nation from achieving independence. Like all Cubans who study history, Fidel knows that for several hundred years Spain, England, and the United States colonized or tried to annex Cuba. In Fidells view, U.S. capitalism still lurks, waiting to pounce on Cubals first vulnerable opening. Fidel seems uncertain about the ability of the Cuban people to resist the myriad ways in which the United States may yet flood them with shiny culture and glib mass media.

Fidel trusts his old comrades, battle-tested and loyal for thirty or more years. The governing system that he createdwith local power centers, a national assembly, a council of state, plus the multitiered Communist Party organization- is impressive on paper. But without his charisma to guide them, and indeed decide for them, no one knows whether or not they will function-including Fidel. There is no Fidel 11, nor even a reasonable facsimile, waiting in the wings. Fidells younger brother by three years, Ratil, minister of defense and number two behind Fidel, is respected and feared, but he cannot Claim his older brothers authority and legitimacy. Ratil is a shy man, an unimpressive public speaker who has spent his postrevolutionary years as titular head-behind Fidel-of Cubals military apparatus. There are those who worry that Fidells passing would lead to more, not less, re-Photogmpb by Pablo Cabado pression under Raiil Castro.

Though the first stage of revolution liberated creative energies and celebrated spontaneity, offered utopian dreams and historic fulfillment, the following stage added contrary elements: repression, faceless bureaucracy, and economic folly. Revolution was beautiful, counterrevolution ugly; and the poets, teachers, and engineers who led their classes in high school, showing revolutionary pluck and Character, became those on whom it fell to defend the process that Fidel had

initiated. The need to liberate the island transformed itself into the need to repress enemies of the Revolution, a motif revolutions have known for two hundred years. Instead of creating a country where the best minds concentrated on planning, culture, and education, they instead fixed on the murky field of national security. Like any national-security bureaucracy, the Cuban state police-with Fidells blessinglearned to maintain a crisis atmosphere, not an environment conducive to a socialist society with strong spiritual values. JUST AS FIDEL KEEPS THE STATE SECURITY FORCES OPERATING on an emergency wavelength appropriate to an earlier reality, his attempt to deal with economic shortcomings is similarly stuck in the past. On October 8, 1987, I heard Fidel deliver a three-hour speech to an enthusiastic crowd in Pinar del Rio, exhorting them once again to llBe Like Che? (Ernesto llChem Guevara, the Argentine doctor who joined Fidels guerrilla band in Mexico in 1955 and became his most important lieutenant in the ensuing mountain war). Twenty years earlier, just after Chels death, the slogan 8Be Like Chel, covered walls and billboards throughout the country. Taken literally, these words could paralyze. Who could hope to aspire to Chels level of achievement, commitment,

hope to aspire to Chels level of achievement, commitment, and intellect\_especially after two decades of mythologizing? Che stands for voluntary work, sacrifice for the collective good. He chopped sugarcane, spent his Sundays in the facto-MOTHER JONES 25

ry, working and talking with the proletariat that he believed was the rightful agent of transformation from capitalism to socialism, from individualism to eollectivism. When Fidel urged the people to think like Che and model their lives after him, it was more than exhortation. This was Fidelis answer to glasnost and perestroika; Cubans would llrectit'y" their mistakes by resolving to "Be Like Chef an answer that required transporting themselves backward. In 1960, a popular joke put Fidel at a meeting with his rump cabinet to appoint a new National Bank president. Ills there an economist in the room?" Fidel supposedly inquired. ltYest Che responded and, as a result, Fidel made him Bank chief. After the meeting, Fidel said, "Che, I didn't know you were an economist.w tlEconomist?" replied Che. "I thought you said communist? As president of the National Bank and minister of industries in 1960, Che did, in fact, chart a socialist course. His driving ambition was to have every Cuban worker become a participant in the transformation that Marx and Engels had predicted. He favored the Soviets nationalization of property but was critical of the divorce of the Party and the masses that had occurred in the Eastern bloc. Yet the only economic models available to CubaIs chief economist at the time were those developed in the grim days of Stalin. Borrowing pieces from the Soviet, Czech, and East German planning systems, Che helped create a melange that might have worked-had most of the administrators been like him. But then, almost any system might have worked if administered by Che Guevara clones. III served under Che in Pinar del Rio during the Missile Crisis? a Cuban friend told me. "He sent us home, saying that lifnuclear war was going to come, what good would we be defending the country with riHes? He was incredible to be with, but he had no stomach for the internal struggle that was taking place.H My friend was referring to Fidells appointments of former guerrillas and members of the old Cuban Communist Party to fill positions in the government during the first years of the Revolution. Unlike Fidel, the master politician, Che could not abide the venality of some of the Cuban Stalinists whom Fidel named to fill the gaping holes inside the fledgling state apparatus. Che believed in tough and reasoned discus sion among eomrades-a notion dismissed as a bourgeois idea by those officials. Chels deatln in a remote Bolivian ravine in October 1967, cost Fidel more than a comrade and long-time friend. Fidel believed, until 1969, that guerrilla armies would carry revolution throughout Latin America. Che was (Continuation page 46) 26 jUIiY/AUGUST i989 Contraaiha'ona A Decade in Documents-By Peter Kornbluh VER SINCE THE SANDINISTA Revolution toppled Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza ten years ago, U.S. relations with

that tiny Central American country have dominated the ethical landscape of Amerw ican foreign policy. From 1979, when the Carter administration began trying to stop the Sandinistas, through the recent vote in Congress to sustain a standing contra army in Honduras with \$57.5 million in ttnonlethalII aid, US. officials have pursued a policy of unrelenting punishment.

The resulting war has brought death and destruction to the Nicaraguan people and lawlessness and scandal to the United States. What follows are excerpts of key policy statements and once-classified documents that chart this decade-long anti-Sandinista campaign:

1979: The Sandinistas Triumph
. lWJe run the risk of having events
overtake us if he ISomozal does not leave
soon. . . . The benefits we derive from
orchestrating his departure will slip from
our hands, and the survivability of any
elements of the GN lNational Guardl will
be unlikely. Indeed, we will be placed in a
very vulnerable position if we are seen offering Ial safehaven to a Somoza Heeing
from Nicaragua under military attack.
We will be viewed as having saved his

departure. . . .

US. Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo,
in a july 13 secret cable to Washington.

1980: Seeds of Counterrevolution
We deplore the Marxist Sandinista takeover of Nicaragua and the attempts to destabilize El Salvador, Guatemala and
Honduras. . . . We will support the efforts
of the Nicaraguan people-to establish a
free and independent government.

The 1980 Republican party platform.

neck rather than as having negotiated his

I981: The Reagan Doctrine Emerges
This Administration has made strong representations to the Nicaraguans to cease
military support to the Salvadoran guerrillas. Their response has been positive.
We have no hard evidence of arms movements through Nicaragua during the past

State Department release on A pril 1, which also announced termination of bilateral economic assistance to Nicaragua.

few weeks. . . .

I hereby find that the following operation in a foreign country (including all support necessary to such operation) is important to the national security of the United States. . . . Support and conduct Ideletedl paramilitary operations against Nicaragua.

President Reaganls December 1
"Finding" authorizing the beginning of
the contra war against Nicaragua.
1982: The Contra Army Takes Shape
In the 100-day period from 14 March to
21 june, at least 106 insurgent incidents
occurred within Nicaragua. . . . Incidents
during this period involved the following
types of operations:
xSabotage of highway bridges and at-

xSabotage of highway bridges and attempted destruction of fuel tanks at a military facility using explosive charges . . . xAttacks by small guerrilla bands on individual Sandinista soldiers, and the assassination of minor government ofhcials and a Cuban adviser.

From a secretjuly 16 Defense Intelligence A gency analysis of the contraforces.

He asked me to serve on a seven-member directorate of the FDN. . . . He promised this directorate would have the full backing of the United States government and that we would match into Managua by july 1983. When I said that struck me as very little time, he conceded that the victory might take until the end of the yean

Former civilian contra leader Edgar Chamorro. describing his hrst meeting in November with CIA recruiter uTony Feldman. "

I985: Escalating the Covert War
. \_ . IL et us be clear as to the American attitude toward the Government of Nicaragua. We do not seek its overthrow.
Our interest is to ensure that it does not infect its neighbors through the export of subversion and violence. Our purpose, in conformity with American and international law, is to prevent the flow of arms to El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

President Ronald Reagan, in a nationally televised speech, April 27. It is possible to neutralize carefully selected and planned targets, such as court judges, magistrates, police and state security officials etc.

CIA instruction manual written for the contras in October.

1984: Subverting the Law

On the night of February 29, ideletedl emplaced four magnetic mines in the harbor at Corinto, Nicaragua. . . In accord with prior arrangements, ARDEts ttBarracuda Commandosh took credit for the operation. . . . Our intention is to severely disrupt the flow of shipping essential to Nicaraguan trade during the peak export period.

Top-secret March 2 memorandum from Oliver North to Robert McFarlane. McFarlane noted on the memo that President Reagan had been briefed about the plan.

If we are just talking about negotiations with Nicaragua, that is-so far-fetched to imagine that a communist government like that would make any reasonable deal with us, but if it is to get Congress to support the anti-Sandinistas, then that can be helpful.

Ronald Reagan, during a secret national security policy group meeting on june 25.

During fiscal year 1985, no funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.

The Boland Amendment, passed in October.

1985: Ollie North Takes Over We should make an approach to the Hondurans which emphasizes our commitment to their sovereignty and provides Photograph by Katherine Latour incentives for them to persist in aiding the freedom fighters. . . iTlhe incentives should include: the release of some economic support; expedited security assistance deliveries; landl enhancements to existing CIA programs. . . . From the February 19 quid pro quo authorization for Honduras, initialed by Reagan and forwarded to George Bush. The third and final phase would have the following objectives: 1. The defeat and demobilization Of Sandinista and Sandinista armed forces.

- 2. Implementation of the UNO/FDN political program.
- 3. Repatriation of all foreign advisors and foreign supporters (to include the Sandinista Tsicl Americans).
- 4. Identification and defranchizing isicl of residual Somoza supporters . . .

5. Immediate implementation of U.S. and foreign economic aid, social assistance . . . and military assistance . . . From an Oliver North plan written in july for contra leader Adolfo Calero, the only copy of an explicit plan to overthrow the Sandinista government revealed publicly. 1986: The Iran-Contra Scandal Breaks \$12 million will be used to purchase critically needed supplies for the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance Forces. This material is essential to cover shortages in resistance inventories resulting from their current offensives and Sandinista counter-attacks and to "bridge" the period between now and when Congressionallyapproved lethal assistance . . . can be delivered. The paragraph in an April Oliver North memorandum on arms sales to Iran, which cited the diversion ofprofits. The discovery of this document precipitated the Iran-contra scandal. 1987: Battles on Capitol Hill And I still, to this day, Counsel, don't see anything wrong with taking the Ayatollahls money and sending it to support the Nicaraguan freedom fighters. Oliver North, testifying before the Iran-contra committees in july. To permit the President and his aides to carry out covert actions by using funds obtained from outside Congress undermines the Framerls iof the Constitutionl belief that 11the purse and the sword must never be in the same handsfl . . . Suffice it to say here that, under the view of North and Poindexter, a President whose appropriation requests were rejected by Congress could raise money from private sources or third countries for armies, military actions, arms systems, and even do. mestic programs. That is the path to dictatorship. The report of the congressional committees investigating the Iran-contra affair, commenting on the ultimate danger of the NSCTs illicit operations. 1988: The War Winds Down No amount of monetary reparation can truly compensate for the devastation wrought upon Nicaragua by the unlawful conduct of the United States. No such reparation can revive the human lives lost, or repair the physical and psychological injuries suffered by a population that has endured an unrelenting campaign of armed attacks and economic strangulation over seven years. . . . Nicaragua has, nonetheless, quantified its losses as far as it is possible to do so. From the Memorial on Compensation submitted by the Republic of Nicaragua to the World Court on March 29, asking for approximately \$12 billion in reparations from the United States. 1989: Reaping What Was Sown On the basis of this evidence, it is clear that individuals who provided support for

the Contras were involved in drug traf-

ficking, the supply network of the Contras was used by drug trafficking organiza tions, and elements of the Contras themselves knowingly received financial and material assistance from drug traffickers. In each case, one or another agency of the US. government had information regarding the involvement either while it was occurring, or immediately thereafter. The conclusion of a report issued by the Senate Subcommittee on Narcotics, Terrorism, and International Operations on April 13.

The charges in this case, you well know by now, are very serious ones. They go to the very heart of our self-government. . . . Government by deception is not a free government. . . . Government by deception is not a government under the rule of law.

The tragedy of Oliver North is that a man who says he cared so much about freedom and democracy in Nicaragua forgot about the demands of freedom and democracy here at home.

Special prosecutor john Keker, in hnal arguments in the North trial, April 18. Peter Kornbluh is a senior analyst at the National Security Archive, a research library where the declassified documents cited above are part of a collection on U.S.-Nicamguan relations.

MOTHER JONES 27

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Wbywe need them. How to get them. ttA MAN 15 RICH IN PROPORTION '10 THE NUMBER OF things he can afford to let alone," wrote Henry Thoreau. He could have been describing modern Japan. Nut country has placed some 9 percent of the worldk most expensive real estate in a national park system. In contrast, the United States has set aside about 4 percent of its land for the same purpose. There was L1 time, in the curly twentieth century, when the United States was a pioneer and leader in national parks. But if national parks are an indicator of :1 nattmfs economic rise, they may also be symptoms of decline. Like the midwestern 51ch mills that

Et'osystt'ms at risk,- (lzldornmk dt's'cr! (above),
 ()rcqon's' Si5kiyou Forest.
BYHAVIIJ RAIN WALLA

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. Photographs by Lang Ulrich, Phil??? M
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japanese competition has now buried, the US. park system, once state-of-the-art, is a victim of capital investment that didnlt keep up with the times. The losses mount: Condors no longer fly over Sequoia National Park as they did only a few years ago. Fewer than thirty eastern cougars survive in the Florida Everglades. The two hundred or so grizzly bears of Yellowstone are struggling to reproduce even that tiny number.

Part of the problem is the way in which we imagine a national park: not as a preserve designed to protect the entire ecosystem that supports eondors Or grizzlies, but as the setting aside of only the most spectacular elements of those ecosystems\_the biggest and best waterfalls and peaks and geysers. As the less spectacular land outside the parks gets degraded, the wildlife inside the park inevitably suffers. Costa Rica knows this. The small Central American country, which began its park system in 1970, has already placed 8 percent of its land in national parks-twiee the US. commitment. In that period, the U.S. system grew hardly at all, outside of Alaska. And today, while this countryls parks have more roads and visitor facilities, Costa Rieas have more ecological significance and integrity. Like japanese steelmakers designing a postwar mill, the Costa Ricans used state-of-theart science in making a park system. As a result, theirs includes the best examples of most of the countryis ecosystems: Caribbean coral reefs and rain forests, cordilleran cloud forests and lakes, Pacific dry forests and mangrove swamps. One Costa Rican park, Guanacaste, protects a transect Of the entire northwest corner of the country, from sea-turtle nesting beaches to the volcanic peaks of the continental divide. An equivalent US. park would stretch from the Olympic Peninsula t0 the Montana Rockies.

Needless to say, condors, eastern cougars, and grizzlies would have a better chance of survival if the United States had such parks. But scientists estimate that nearly half of the United States most important ecosystems are not protected in national parks. We have no parks for tallgrass prairie, Mississippi bottomland forest, Midwest mixed-mesophytic Photographs by David Muem'hN/lllSrrla'h Harvey Payne (right) forest. ltls as though Brazil or Peru had left parks in Amazonia out of their systems. It represents a dusty, nineteenth-century concept of parks as llbeauty spotsll rather than storehouses for the biotic diversity that is rapidly declining worldwide.

What japan and Costa Rica realize is that national parks are not about entertainment so much as savings. Although they cost money to maintain and (sometimes) acquire, national parks are a form of save ings because the ecological llgoodsll in them-minerals, soil, air, water, plants, animals#arenlt consumed. (This is different from the lands of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, whose chief mandate is to make timber, forage, recreation, and other goods available to humans, not to protect biotic diversity.) The long-term, national-park way of saving conflicts with the spendthrift mood that has gripped the United States since World War II. It is a mood that stands in the way of modernizing our park system, just as it prevents the modernization of our economy. Today, we have a huge national debt and one of the lowest income savings rates among developed nations. Today, commercial interests are determined to consume the goods on virtually all our potential parklands. Landowners refuse to sell land for parks, even at fair market

prices, because big subdivisions loom. On public land, mining, grazing, and logging interests rush to quash any park proposal. Such interests have always fought parks, but the existence of our one hundred or so major park units shows that those interests AAA

Maines Mt. Katabclin left) could author a New England Yosemite. Commercial interests oppose parks in the Oklahoma prairie (below) and the Mojave Desert See pages 55 and 56.

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Mobile-Tensaw Bottomlands, Michiganis Two Hearted
River, Nebraskais Sandhills, Coloradois Purgatoire River,
Oregonis Hells Canyon, Californias Smith River.
Photograph by Larry Ulrid;
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Maine's Mt. Kataljdin (left) could tmclJor a
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By David L. Kirp vvvv

From the moment he arrived in the slow-motion southern town of Fletchei's Crossing in March of 1985, fifteen-year-old Marcus Robinson was a curiosity and a threat. If you had asked him back then whether he was gay, Marcus would have said no. But his gaudy appearance gave him away, the manicured fingernails gleaming red, the He mved m dangling earring, the fluttery walk, a search of a home. dance on spidersl legs performed by this very black and painfully thin He teSted HIV adolescent. positive. His Marcus Robinson was soon to sex life had become something else: a troubled, runaway child made a ward of the suddenly become state. And then, a ward of the state the responsibility who, it would be learned, carried the virus that causes AIDS. Public offi-

cials would find themselves facing a southern town 8 of a small truly novel problem, for this is the bureaucrats. first time any community in the country is known to have taken responsibility for a teenager exposed to AIDS through gay sex. School, family, and sex-above all, Marcusls sex lifeswould become the governmentk business. Illustration by Anthony Russo

THERE is NO TOWN ON THE MAP NAMED FLETCHERS CROSSing, although the place is very real. And lTMarcus Robinson?
like all the other characters who inhabit this story, actually
goes by another name. That camouflaging is necessary because vital details are drawn from the usually sealed records of
the juvenile court, which insisted on the pseudonyms; and
even now this teenagers life would be wrecked if his identity
became public. (Any similarity of the names to real persons or
places is purely coincidental.)

Among teenagers AIDS is an epidemic. By some knowledgeable estimates, on the streets of New York City 10 to 30 percent of adolescent runaways may be HIV-positive. And while the number of AIDS cases among youngsters thirteen t0 nineteen remains relatively low-350 as of February 1989that number significantly understates the magnitude of the problem. The long incubation period of the virus, estimated at up to ten years, means that most of the twenty- to twentynine-year-olds with AlDS-Zl percent of all AIDS casesactually contracted the disease during adolescence. TO the newly re-puritanized United States, adolescence spells the unchecked id; and black adolescence translates into threat as well. Gay teenagers look especially menacing, immoralists with sex and not social responsibility uppermost in their minds. A boy like Marcus Robinson, black and gay, a teenager with a history of anonymous and unsafe sex with older men, becomes the magnet for all these emotions. MARCUS ROBINSON IS ONE SMART BOY; HIS 117 1Q ONLY confirms what everyone agrees on. As long as anyone can remember, he had also been different from the other kids on the block, a boy raised by a woman who really wanted a daughter, and who taught him knitting, crocheting, and cooking. When he was growing up in Philadelphia, most of his friends were girls. But when he hit puberty, Marcus discovered boys.

TlI got beatings for staying out? says Marcus, yet that didn't keep him home, for umom had no control over me? As an impressionable ten-year-old, he discovered that the woman he called Tlmomii wasnit his mother\_his real mother had actually died from a drug overdose and limomll was in fact his aunt. iTYou ainlt my mother? he announced. llYou cant tell me what to do?

The first time he had sex with another boy, Marcus was twelve years old. Ill was shocked then. I went on like nothing had ever happened. . . . My mom had told me that homosexuals are bad people, and so I thought this means Ilm bad? But soon enough there was lots of sex, usually with older men he would pick up at the neighborhood park. 1111d stay out all night, start walking around, get into something with someone, come home. I never thought much about it? When Marcus was thirteen, his aunt petitioned the court to have him declared an uncontrollable child. TTWe sat together in court, my mom and 1, the judge reading the case. My mom started crying; I did too. I was hurting. lWeRe going to have to take him away from you; the judge told mom. After the hearing was over 1 was in a room alone, waiting for them to take me, when I saw the Open door and ran home.n Two years and much heartache later, there was no reprieve. Marcus was on his way south, sent to live with his elderly aunt and uncle. Perhaps spending some time with Aunt Bess, known in the 34 JULY/AUGUST 1989

family as the praying aunt, would straighten him out. In Philadelphia, Marcus Robinson was used to the freedom of the streets. What he found in Fletchers Crossing was a tradition-minded, God-fearing family. 1TWe disagreed about everythingf says Marcus. He was desperate to return home, and when his aunt in Philadelphia wouldnit give him bus fare, he took off. In june 1985, Marcus appeared in Fletchers Crossing juvenile court as a runaway.

The judge tried to send him north, only to be informed that the woman who had raised him wasn,t even his legal guard-

ian. When Marcus learned he wasnit returning to Philadelphia, he tried to kill himself with an overdose of sleeping pills. Three months later he was back in court, again as a runaway. This time he was locked up for three days in the holding tank for juveniles.

From that moment until he was finally sprung from Fletchers Crossing 21 year and a half later, Marcus was tinged by grown-ups who pried into his life and made conflicting plans for his future. He took to petty crime during the succeeding months and landed in a halfway house for juveniles, where he wrote a suicide note specifying to the minute-8z39 P.M.\_-the time of his intended death.

Marcusls screams for attention kept escalating. What he got, by order of an anxious juvenile-court judge, was a month in a nearby private psychiatric hospital. Inside the institution, Marcus quickly worked his way out of the locked facility, earning the privileges-the Chance to smoke, to take meals in the cafeteria and not in the ward-that come with following the rules. Still, he refused to open up. Even though Marcus continued to deny ever having had any sexual relations, homosexual or heterosexual, the hospital psychiatrist decided to llcheck him for AIDS just in case there has been some homosexual experience? The test results showed that he carried the HIV antibody. Instantly, he became a pariah.

ON MARCH 2.7, 1986, WITH NO OTHER PLACEMENT AVAILable in the entire county, Marcus Robinson was dumped into a boardinghouse filled with derelict adults, which agreed to take him only because another resident had AIDS. The man who ran the place llkept hitting on mef Marcus remembers. Three months later, clinically depressed, he was sent to the county hospital psychiatric ward.

While there, Marcus repeated professions of Chastity to his social worker, an ex-marine and tough-love advocate named Jim Parsons, a man fascinated by black history and made visibly uneasy by homosexuality. Yet to his psychiatrist Marcus admitted he had continued to have sex for several months after his diagnosis, including one-nighters with two local teenagers.

After being released from the county hospital in July, Matcus was placed in the home of Grace Lamont-his last, best hope in Fletchers Crossing, for no one else in town would have him. For over three decades, Lamont-a brassy and durable black woman, uneducated and God-fearing, called llmamali by the dozens of children who have lived with herhas taken in the hardest cases: a six-year-old who is blind, retarded, and wheelchair-bound; an eighteen-year-old who is just :1 judges whim away from prison. She has made their reclamation her project.

TlYou better behave or youlte out on the streetsf Lamont constantly told Marcus, and that summer and fall she tried to

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llstraighten him out?
liThat boy can type anything? says Ills
Grace Lamont. IlHes good at making up
poems, stories. He can crochet and knit too.
could plausibly be called home (contacting
nearly two hundred different organizations
in her search), andjudge Smithersl commit-
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One day in October, rifling through Mar- not Put him plish wonders_or at least set wonder
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cusis desk, Grace Lamont came upon the
scribbled draft of a love letter addressed to
another boy in Fletchers Crossing. It is as
sweetly evocative and, in the context, as
suggestive of impending tragedy as any-
thing a modern Romeo would write. ((50 I
saw you down on Main Street. I called a
friend and told him how you looked-hou/
cute you are to me, wearing white pants
with a gray twoetone shirt. . . . My heart
almost stopped when you waved and said
hi. I want you and I love you.n That note was never sent, but
an outraged Grace Lamont delivered it to Parsons, who began
to have nightmares about Marcus spreading AIDS among the
teenagers of his town.
There was full-scale panic that same month when Marcus
came home one afternoon with his undershorts all bloody. He
had had surgery for rectal abscesses a few weeks earlier, and
bleeding is common after that operation. But neither that fact,
nor the unbearable pain that would accompany sex so soon
after surgery, allayed Grace Lamontis suspicions. She toldjim
Parsons that she wanted the boy out.
In fact, during the months he spent with Lamont, Marcus
began to grow up emotionally. His psychiatrist was persuaded
that he had finally stopped denying both his homosexuality
and the implications of AIDS for his life. But social worker
Parsons was unconvinced.
iithis boy has to be locked up someplacef, parsons
told Judge Robert Smithers in November 1986. The county,s
mental-health director said the same thing: ilMarcus Robin-
son currently demonstrates a lack of appropriate social judg-
ment and irresponsible sexual behavior. His presence
in the community represents an immediate danger to other
juveniles?
Judge Smithers wasn,t about to be stampeded. He was the
judge who had sent Marcus to his first psychiatric evaluation.
While new options were being floated now-training school,
the listructured therapeutic environmenth of a state mental
hospital, jail_none of them seemed right. In the middle of the
interminable court proceedings, Jim Parsons popped up with
a solution Swiftian in its simplicity: IIWhy donlt we put him
on a bus and ship him where he came from? To that pro-
posal, Joan Browning, the longtime head of the states Family
Services Unit, delivered a blunt answer: sVI/e do not put chil-
dren on buses?
III am not subject to pressures to do anything that I donit
think ought to be done? says Browning. thats my job? It
was Joan Browningls insistence on searching out a place that
on a bus and
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ship him Where

he came from?"

motion. That is what happened in the case of Marcus Robinson. The cumbersome social-services machinery, prodded by the juvenile court, launched a new life. But by February 1987, four months after the latest round of court hearings had begun, those wonders werenit visible to Marcus. His hopes had been raised, then carelessly smashed, and he had just about given up.

A month earlier had come the good part. Marcus had spent a wondrous weekend in Lorraine, a city several hundred miles from Fletchers Crossing. He stayed in the cheerful, family-photo-filled home of Carole Walker, a preschool teacher in her late forties who was his prospective foster mother, and her grown daughter. He met Walkerk son and daughter-in-law. He was introduced to neighbors, went shopping at the flea market, and even willingly attended

church. From the start, Marcus and Carole Walker hit it off. She had endless questions to ask, not to judge but to understand. She wasnit nervous about taking in a boy with AIDS, Walker told Terri Breen, the social worker at Caring for Kids, the university-affiliated organization that was going to manage the case; she had already read up on how the disease wasand was not\_transmitted. Marcusis past behavior was another matter: Illf heis going to stay with me he will have to be part of the family and follow the rules? ill wanted the challengef Carole Walker says. Ill knew I could win? After the weekend, Walker told her family what she was going to do. mI-Ie has what? my son said, more amazed than asking a question. Then he walked around and walked around some more. Finally he shook his head and said, IMom, you must know what youire doing., I The minute he got back to Fletchers Crossing, Marcus wrote the Walkers a letter: III cant wait to come back? But then, for many weeks, nothing happened. The Caring for Kids board of directors balked at first: some of the board members feared bad publicity and lawsuits, others quoted Scripture to express their antipathy to Marcusis gayness. One of the members quit when his colleagues made their decision: accepting the hardest cases was the organizations real mission. Then Lorraine, s high-school officials waffled On accepting Marcus, and that stalled Judge Smithersi decision. On February 26, 1987, with temperatures dipping into the twenties, Marcus got dressed in short-shorts, a tank top, and plastic flip-tlops, and went parading in the neighborhood. An hour later, he came back to Grace Lamontis and collapsed. That night, he was admitted to the county hospital, diagnosed MOTHER JONES 35

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as having AIDS Related Complex (ARC).
Marcus Robinsonk desperation walk
changed the equation. With his pediatrician
unwilling to release the boy from the hospi-
tal until a better home could be found for
him than the Lamontsl, judge Smithers ap-
proved the move to Lorraine, even without
a firm commitment from the school admin-
istrators there. jim Parsons, wondering
aloud how to get reimbursed for the gas,
drove Marcus to his new home.
ffTHE. FIRST TIME I MET MARCUSF SAYS
Terri Breen, the social worker at Caring for
Kids, lfbe reminded me of a pup that had
been beaten too much. He was super-thin.
He spoke in a whisper-you had to put
your ear right alongside his mouth to hear
him. He answered questions in mm-hmms
and un-unhs. As I watched him with Car-
ole, he started opening up, getting back his
confidence. Now you can't stop him from
talking. The more Marcus told her, the
more Carole said ll still like you, thatls okay; the more the real
Marcus came out, teasing and cracking jokes, sitting up
straight and stating his opinions?
flThat first Saturday morningf Marcus told me when I
talked with him for the first time, in the fall of 1987, III began
laughing: fYoulre all so crazy, so sillyf II During that summer,
the Walkers took a trip to Florida. ffWe saw everything, Saint
Augustine and Disney World and Jacksonville. The only time
I got bored is when I had to go to bed. And the one time I got
upset is when I lost my best shoes at Jacksonville Beach? The
family went fishing, too. ffMarcus didn,t know how to bait a
hookf Carole Walker says, Ilbut he caught a fish? Back
home, every night the two of them would walk three miles
around the track at the nearby high school.
Carole Walker urged Marcus to tone down his act so that
he could fit in better, and he acquiesced; the nail polish and the
earring became history. The two would talk for hours on end,
thoroughly sifting events and feelings, pleasures relived and
pains explored. When Walker cut herself with a kitchen knife,
she reminded Marcus that Ian open wound is the one thing
we have to be careful withf Ill know? he replied. Ifl'll be real
careful. I wouldnk want what I have to happen to anyone,
especially to you?
Even sex, the most delicate issue for Marcus to manage in
his day-to-day life, was on the table. He hasnlt had sex since
the summer of 1986, Marcus says, and its all but impossible
that he is lying. Even if he wanted to, he couldnt conceal the
briefest encounter from Walker, so intense was their rela-
tionship. ffltls not so hard anymore, not to have sex? Marcus
says, ffbut I still think a lot about it. Itold lCarolel about this
boy, what he looks like. I could talk to him, but hes going to
want to do more than talk and then I have to make up lies."
IIWe talked about safe sex? says Walker, ffabout condoms,
but he said therek no way. Kids here didnlt think AIDS had
anything to do with them?
In Lorraine, the Marcus Robinson who emerged was
someone who wanted to give_give back, he says_some-
thing of value. When a man named Frank, who had be-
36 JULY/AUGUS'I' 1989
Bein
normal became
Marcus's constant
preoccupation,
and this meant
"passing": not as
white, but as
healthy, and
heterosexual .
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friended him in the AIDS support group he went to, was hospitalized with pneumocystis pneumonia, Marcus Visited him every day. ffOther people may be scared of AIDS, but llm not. llve got the disease. I can bring something to people who are all alone and dying, even if its just reading a book out loud? Safe in this place, safe too from the pull of his past, Marcus Robinson was, in a sense, reborn.

IT WAS EARLY IN JULY 1987\_Hls THIRD day on the job, Lorraine school superintendent Sam Hannon recalls\_when his deputy brought the news that a student with ARC was planning to enroll at Lorraine High. Hannon had been through some tough encounters during his career, but AIDS was in another league entirely. So far as Harmon knew, no child with AIDS had enrolled in any public school in the state.

The deputy superintendent argued for keeping Marcus Robinson out. He recalled

the Eghts over integration a few years earlier, when white parents had pulled their youngsters out of Lorraine High-for a while the school was dubbed Congo High\_and he feared a repetition. flThis will cause all our children to withdraw? he said

The possibility of panicky parents didnlt entirely sway Hannon. A professional who prides himself on being guided by his head, he was reassured when local medical experts confirmed his understanding that AIDS was not easily spread. Moreover, he knew that Marcus was legally entitled to be in school. Yet what the superintendent had learned about the would-be studentls personal history was deeply worrying. Judging from the record, Marcus Robinson was a sexually active gay teenager entirely capable of spreading a deadly disease to unknowing classmates.

llAs long as the boy behaves responsibly and wants a new lease on life, llm not going to stand in his wayf Hannon informed social worker Terri Breen. \$th with the first evidence that be isnlt acting up to standards, out he goes? The Lorraine High principal spelled out to Marcus exactly what these expectations were. Not only was unsafe sex forbidden, anything that might look like sex, safe or unsafeanything that might even lead to sex\_was unacceptable. There was to be no flirting with boys, no dating. Indeed, it would be best not to hang around with the gay crowd. The principal was sure he could keep tabs on Marcus's not-soprivate life outside as well as inside the school. The clean of boys at Lorraine High, the disciplinarian whose door carries a sign reading THE OFFICE OF THE AFFAIRS OF MALE STUDENTS, also organized the towns rec program, and that gave him instant access to the adolescent grapevine. thoulve got to be superhuman? Carole Walker told Mare eus when she heard how he was expected to comport himself. As THE sChooi. YEAR BEGAN, THINGS SEEMED TO BE GOING according to Hannonls best-case scenario. In Closed session, the superintendent had quickly gotten the school board to endorse his decision, and he had launched a series of talks on

AIDS for students, teachers, and parents. Hannon was sitting in his office at the end of the second day of classes, his feet propped up on the desk, feeling tolerably pleased. Then, with one phone call, all the orderly arrangements collapsed. IIWe have an unsigned letter that a student with AIDS is in your school? said the editor of the Lorraine Gazette; apparently one of Marcusis teachers, though pledged to secrecy, had gone to the press. IIDo you care to comment? ITll give your reporter all the factsf the superintendent promised, even as he feared what might come. Just one week earlier in Arcadia, Florida, the enrollment of three young brothers, hemophiliacs with the AIDS virus, led to a massive student boycott and, ultimately, to the torching of the family,s home. That act drove them away, even as it made Arcadia the national symbol for know-nothingism. Would Lorraine be another Arcadia?

What actually transpired in Lorraine, though, was better than anyone could have dared hope for. The Gazettels page-one story about an unnamed high-school student with ARC did not try to track down the student. Instead, it stressed the scientific evidence that the virus could not be casually spread. Moreover, a panel of experts, the Gazette pointed out, had found no reason to bar the teenager.

That evening, Superintendent I-Iannon went on TV to deliver a message of reassurance. He was joined by the countyis health-department director and its AIDS specialist, whose own Children attended Lorraine High. The story topped the news and ignited no protest. School attendance figures remained normal.

IINO one seems bothered? one sophomore told a TV reporter. III donlt feel like Fm in danger. Ilm just not going to get around peoplels blood? By weeks end, the Gazette could publish an editorial patting everyone in Lorraine on the back: school officials for their Ilsensible approach? parents for not IIoverreactingji and the community for its licompassion? THE MORNING AFTER THE GAZETTES STORY RAN, MARCUS Robinson was in school-scared, he says, that IIhundreds of parents might find out who I was and come after me? He was walking down a corridor, at that moment the only student in the hall, when a bevy of reporters appeared. Quickly, he slipped behind a door.

Other students would point at him during those first days and whisper, ITll bet thatis the one. Hetll be dead soon? And some students warned the county health worker who had delivered the AIDS lectures that IIif anyone finds out who the person is, theylll kill him?

Yet the whispering soon oied down. IIPeople usually like mef says Marcus. From his first semester at Lorraine High, Marcus Robinson was an honors student. One teacher who had once dismissed him as a Ilsissy little kidll changed her mind. sIThe day of that news story, with the TV all around, it must have taken a mountain of courage to walk through those doors and act normal. I-IeIs the bravest person I know? There was a sadness beneath the surface, Marcusis teachers recall. Being normal became his constant preoccupation, and this meant IIpassingh: not as white, but as healthy, and heterosexual. The smallest incidents-not drinking from the water fountain, turning down a bite of a classmates candy bar (or not being able to offer a bite of his candy bar)-came laden with significance. Though Marcus knew AIDS wasnlt transmitted this way, he shied from even the remotest possibility of danger. Besides, peoplels understanding, while broadened, was still not broad enough, and Marcus feared a backlash if classmates learned that he had the virus. ITm glad people donlt know. This way, they treat you as a normal person? In Lorraine, for the very first time, Marcus Robinson allowed himself to have ambitions. III want to be in the yearbook ten timesf he said in the flush of his success. III want to make an impression on the world before I die? x III '25:

MARCUS ROBINSON TURNED EIGHTEEN ON MARCH 4, 1988.

Now he was legally an adult, eligible for disability benefits because of his health. No longer would he be under the custody Of the social-services officials, no longer would he be Ilplacedll in a succession of homes. Now his whole life was Filled with choices.

Only in geometry or Fiction do lines run straight. The paths of real lives are constantly turning back on themselves, coming upon emotional daylight and then slipping away again. In June, at the very end of his junior year, Marcus was ha? 'way through his final exam in English when, without a word of explanation, he bolted from the classroom. Teachers and friends telephoned to find out what was wrong. Why would a gifted student do such a crazy thing?

Marcus felt held let people down at school, held l t everyone in Lorraine down. til broke my legf he told them, just for something to say.

Marcus Robinson never returned to Lorraine High. In a matter of days he had left town. He was headed not for his first home, Philadelphia, for there, he thought, everyone would tell him how thin heid gotten, everyone would guess he had AIDS. Instead he went back to Fletchers Crossing. Although just fifteen months earlier Marcus couldnlt bear the place, he had convinced himself that IIlife could be better there than it used to be. At least I have friends there? III felt like I needed more freedom? said Marcus when I talked to him again in March of this year, IIneeded to be part of the gay life, to make up my own rules? His teachers at school were watching him too closely, he felt, and Carole Walker was holding the reins too tight. Though people in Lorraine offered him love, it was love that came with a high price tag. He was expected to be celibate, and even more, to deny his own sexuality. He was supposed to act middle-class, white, straight, southern, Ilnormalfl

III can't be the person yould like me to bef Marcus told Walker. III can no longer live under your roof, because I don't have my freedom?

IIIf you leave? she answered, llthatls it. You canit turn around and come back? By then, however, Marcus felt held pushed things too far. He needed to find out who he really was, and with some urgency, because he was already exhibiting AIDS-related symptoms.

On his last day in Lorraine, social worker Terri Breen came to see him. IIWhatIll you do in Fletchers Crossing? she asked him. IIMaybe 111 just lay down and die? he replied, shoving the hard words in her face, and Breen drove off, angry. Half an hour later, she came back and handed Marcus a single rose. Breen is sad about what happened. She also sees the events through the distancing lens of a social worker. IlWhen an adolescents self-image is damaged enough, he feels he doesnlt MOTHER JONES 37

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38 JULY/AUGUST 1989
deserve success. As soon as things start
going well, heill sabotage his life." At those
moments, there isnit much that even the
ablest child-minder can do.
WHAT MARCUS RECALLS ABOUT His LEAVE-
taking is that he wept on the bus all the way
from Lorraine to Fletchers Crossing. Once
there, life didnit match his fantasies, and two
weeks later, he phoned Terri Breen, asking
whether he could return to Carole Walkeris
home. "Carole was away that weekend,"
Marcus remembers, "so I wouldnt hear of-
hcially itil Monday, but I kept dancing and
saying, Tm going home? ii Walker, howev-
er, was true to her conviction that actions
have consequences-even for adolescents.
"I still love you," she said, "and I care for
you, but you cant come back?
"I hung up the phone," says Marcus,
"and I ran out and I was crying, crying; I
never thought she would say no.2 \,
Marcus and Walker talk on the telephone
every week, reminding one another that the
good feelings are still there; that conversa-
tion is the emotional centerpiece of Marcuss
week. The rest of the time, he mostly hangs
around his apartment, watches TV, and
talks to his girlfriends. The telephone, with
two extensions, calleforwatding, and call-
waiting, is his lifeline.
No longer does Marcus talk about want-
ing to make an impression on the world.
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"Now its a matter of day-to-day. Maybe this story will make me famous," he says, forgetting that no one will know that the story is about him. Sex is still only a memory and a dream. "Theres no way in the world I would mess up anybodyis life," he tells Walker. "When I even think about sex, the first thing that comes into my head is what youid think?

youid think? Last Halloween, Marcus went to a party in drag, wearing thtee-inch heels, a sequined blouse, and a size-four black leather miniskirt. It was his first time, and he was a smash. Now, perfectly made up and able to pass for a girl, Marcus sometimes goes to a straight bar with one of his girlfriends. The paraphernalia of drag offers Marcus a new mask, and a new way to acknowledge that he is, in fact, a sexual being. But drag, like AIDS, also creates a link between sex and the possibility of death. ultis fine in the bar, " Marcus says, wtil some guy starts talking to me and I open my mouth. Once this dude came after me, calling me faggot; and I had to run for my life." ON THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL IN SEPtember 198 8, Marcus Robinson returned to Fletchers Crossing High. But in the halls, he thought students were pointing at him, whispering that he had AIDS. Not wanting word to spread, he quit for good. Now he talks about going for his high-school equivalency degree, about enrolling in community college. So far, though, its only talk-like the promises to get back on AZT, which he stopped taking when he left Lorraine. Among the people Marcus hangs out with, only his girlfriends know he has ARC. It pains him that he cant even talk honestly with a buddy who recently came down with AIDS, canit help someone come to terms with an illness he knows so well, but that would mean letting his secret loose in the world. "He gets drunk a lot and heid start blabbing, " Marcus says of his friend, "and pretty soon everyone would know." Not a day goes by that he doesnit think about Lorraine. "I was watching The jeffersons on TV and Mr. jefferson had this magic clock. He could rewind time, start it over. IfI could do that, lid be back in Lorraine right now. I should have been born there, it seems so right-more right for me than my real family."

In all the phone conversations with Carole Walker, though, Marcus has never confessed the depth of his true feelings. ii Cause I cant," he declares. "When you break up with someone you love, its hard to go back.n

Events, not a sense of purpose, run his life today. Thereis no one looking out for him in the unbenign universe of Fletchers Crossing, so he hides out in his room, physically removed from the world for days on end. It is AIDS-the secret more than the disease itself -that is really in control.

Marcus can imagine one more bend in the road. "Maybe Hi just get myself on that bus and go surprise Carole. Now wouldnit that be something.
David L. Kirpis new book, Learning by
Heart: AIDS and Schoolchildren in America's Communities, from which this story is adapted, is published by Rutgers University
Press.
For counseling and local referrals regarding teenagers and AIDS:
Teens Teaching AIDS Prevention
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1-800-234-TEEN
AIDS Hotline for Kids
Tiburon, California
(415) 435-5022
Hetrick-Mattin Institute, Inc.

New York, New York (212) 6338920

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Para, December 1988
N A MEETING HALL FESTOONED
with fleur-de-lis banners, a
young man steps up to the dais,
clears his throat, and stares out
at a sea of four hundred well-
scrubbed faces. ill will not begin my
speech by saying the French Republic is a
drooling, stinking bitchfl he states with a
coy smile. No one else in the room smiles
back. Ill will not say it? his voice rises,
llbecause everyone knows itll, A conser-
vatively dressed man seated beside me
looks at his wife in relief, then joins in the
thunderous applause. For one spine-
tingling moment, the speaker sounded as
if he were going to say something nice
about democracy.
JlRoya Pain
"Laance v
I. 9;; oi. oi. vac oi. 9;. vi. oio 96. '3. tie av. 93. .3. oi: oi. 03. .3o .8. '5' oi: oi
: oi. 0.. 9.. v.3 pie '.0 oi. oh ;x
King Louis XVI awaits execution,
Tossed off the throne
two centuries ago, F rench
monarchists are ready to
stick their necks out again.
.P q. u" q. or of. ad. l
.. q. .6. do "a 9.. 0..
when his eyes fall on the notepad in my
lap. Could I be one of the hounds from
hell who thinks Action Francaise is com-
posed of crackpots? I manage a silly grin
meant to reassure, then look vaguely up
toward the speaker, who is now building
to a polemical paroxysm about Arab im-
migrants. The guards of honor in front
of the podium, twenty or so cane-wield-
ing skinheads in leather jackets, pay no
attention to the speech. Theylre busy
studying the audience for people reluc-
tant to applaud.
Then the inevitable occurs. A young
woman walks up the aisle, stops a few
feet away from me, and takes my pic-
ture. Dad stares at me in undisguised
contempt. The crowd, oblivious to our
That 'ven the nature of the crowd ) rivate crisis, is now chantin Y in unison
, g1 , By Stephen OS/3ea P_{\rm H} . 75 _{\rm I} 'I
would have been an enormous blunder. With the speaker, Villa 16 roz. Vzue le roz.
The meetings sponsor, a movement Wm) 16 roilliThelast timelfelt this way,1
known as llAction Frangaise, has long .A';, had appendicitis.
likened la Republique to a trick played
on the French nation by people in league
with the Antichrist. N ow in full throttle, the speaker begins to
vent his spleen about the upcoming bicentennial of the French
Revolution. As the crowd listens in indignant pleasure, he
barks out, llThis bicentennial is nothing less than an obscene
commemoration of a pagan baptism in bloodPl My neighbor
roars his approval, and his wife and two pretty teenage
daughters smile indulgently: Dad is in his element.
Dad eventually turns to me, searching for the knowing
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look of a fellow traveler. His hands abruptly stop clapping  $.\mathtt{v}.\mathtt{v}\mathtt{t}$ 

THAT,S RIGHT: VIVE LE ROI. FRANCE. 15 not, as most foreigners fondly think, the great, unrepentant regicide of Europe. In the history of the modern age, 1789 is commonly considered a historic cataclysm, an unprecedented rupture from the past, as democrats defeated feudalism on its home turf and established the prototype for both radical revolution and the modern state. But while officially the ethic of llLiberte-Egalite-Fratemitem holds sway here, there are many in this age-old nation who view the French Revolution as an embarrassment, a temporary corrective that somehow Photographs by Lionel j-M Delevingne

ended up trashing the countrys past and crippling its future. There were, after all, 105ers. Unlike the American Revolution, which by its two hundredth birthday had been sanitized into a love-fest with all the controversy of Mothers Day, the French Revolution has left a bitter, ambiguous legacy. In France, where current events are often viewed as recurring events, there is a sizable group of people for whom the Republic is just a national mid-life crisis. To them, France is not France without a king. Of the royalist movements, Action Frangaise is perhaps the most notorious for its ungenerous, far-Right nationalism. Started in anti-Semitic splendor during the turn-of-thecentury Dreyfus Affair and noted in the interwar period for a rabid brand of French chauvinism, it is shrugged off by most French as little more than a satanic toastmasters, club. But every now and then the antics of these radical royalists make headlines. In January, at a solo recital of revolutionary songs intended to kick off ParisIs bicentennial celebrations, a flying squad of ardent young reactionaries came out of the mists of history to wreak havoc. Midway through the performeris lyric recital of bloodthirsty revolutionary hymns, royalist yahoos stormed the stage and sprayed tear gas into the face of the startled singer. Having taken the precaution of cutting the theateris phone lines, they made their getaway long before paramedics and police arrived to escort the coughing singer to a hospital. Police linked the attackers to Restauration Nationale, another name used by Action Frangaise. Official condemnation of the attack was swift, but, as with any interesting prank played in the capital, public opinion was mixed: if were going to celebrate the Revolution, ran the reasoning, shouldn,t we at least invite the losers? The French, it should be remembered, revolted against themselves-and by so doing, created classes of republicans and reactionaries that lasted for generations. The fires of resentment over the Reign of Terror are still smoldering-and not just among skinhead royalists. In the Vendee, a western province of France where a grass-roots counterrevolution that briefly united the local aristocracy and peasant supporters in 1793-4 was savagely repressed, the word iirepublid, has always had diabolical connotatlons. Since the mid-19705, the village of Puy-du-Fou, in the heart of the Vendee, has hosted an outdoor sound-and-light show featuring an all-volunteer cast that plays out the tragedy of the doomed revolt for thousands of rapt royalists on warm summer evenings. The Puy-du-Fou spectacle, complete with period costumes, fireworks, and horses, is now the Oberammergau of the militantly nostalgic, those people fond of revisionist historians who compare Danton to Pol Pot and call the valiant resistance in the Vende'e a IIFranco-French genocide? This year, as much of France is celebrating the fall of the Bastille, the Puy-du-Fou should be especially well attended. With the Vendee upholding the stalwart traditions of antirepublican sentiment, the monarchical principle has spread throughout the country. The year 1987 marked the thousandth anniversary of the accession of Hugh Capet to the 40 JULY/AUGUST 1989 or a sizable group of people the Republic is just a national mid-Iife crisis. To them, France is not France without a king. French throne (Hugh was the first king in the Capetian-Valois-Bourbon ascendancy that ruled France for eight unin-

terrupted centuries), an event that gave rise to solemn celebra-

tions in the cathedrals of France and allowed royalists to sniff at the puny two-hundred-year pedigree of republican pretensions. By 1987, a full 17 percent of respondents in a national poll declared themselves IIunopposedIi to a restoration of the monarchy. Further proof of republican backsliding came last December, when a state-owned television network held a retrial of Louis XVI in which viewers could vote for either his death or his acquittal. In 1793, the hapless Louis got the Chop on the strength of just one vote. In the retrial he was acquitted by 55 percent of the TV audience, despite the handicap of having his case argued by Jacques Verges, the lawyer who defended Klaus Barbie for the sheer pleasure of digging up dirt about wartime France. Clearly, some of the children of the guillotine are losing their edge.
Paris, january1987

A ROYALIST FRIEND, ALWAYS EAGER TO WIN NEW CONVERTS to the cause, has brought me along to a mass for the soul of Louis XVI at St-Eustache Church. It is January 21, the day two hundred years ago when the revolutionaries sent his kingly noggin tumbling into a basket at the nearby Place de la Concorde. A few hundred nobles shiver in the chilly Gothic sanctuary, listening to a young cure wax erotiC-historic about IIour dear, our sweet, our tender Marie Antoinette? Never mind that she was one of the most hated queens in French history, the priests precious embroidering of reality draws wistful looks from the assembly of aristos. In the back of the nave, three young women, strings of pearls and Hermes scarves proving their allegiance to wealthy western Paris, kneel on the cold stone floor in an attitude of abject piety. They are far from the front pew, where a senior aristocratic thoroughbred, the prince of Orleans, prepares to rouse the morale of his troops. The regal spokesman rises to the altar and reads a declaration invoking Godis mercy for the soul of Louis XVI and asking forgiveness for Louis Philippe, Louis XVIIs cousin, a man who betrayed his class and voted in favor of the kings execution.

Outside in the snow a few moments later, amid the crash of flashbulbs from a few royalist fanzine paparazzi, the aristos huddle together to one side of the churchs facade; on the opposite side, twenty or so homeless people watch in fascination. The two orphans of the contemporary Republic, the disentitled and the titled, do not deign to mix.

The Orleans prince greets his entourage and glad-hands any prospective supporters. Most people address him as IIMonseigneurI, (IIMy LordII), instead of the customary French AIMonsieurII (IISirII). A creaking duke, his nose a road map from too many evenings spent swilling Armagnac in the family chateau, steps up and seizes the princes hand. IITake hope, my lord. There is always hope? At this, the faces of the princes lackeys give new meaning to the notion of bittersweet.

At last the crowd has thinned enough for my friend to judge t.

Prince Henri Robert Ferdinand Marie Louis Phihppe d/Orleans, :1 Ian the Count of Paris, d istant cousin of

Louis XVI. He set offa hattlefor the succession by refusing to anoint his son the next Ki ng oji France,

it time for a commoner like myself to meet the prince. I say the words IIGood evening, sit? out of habit, not out of lese-majeste. The princeis hand freezes in midair, until my friend stammers something about an IIAmeriean magazine? A smile of compassion at my lowly station in life, then the regal paw Closes over mine.

IThere was something I didnit understand in your speech? I admit. IIWhen you mentioned Louis Philippe, surely you didn,t mean King Louis Philippe, of the July monarchy? The prince now holds my hand with both of his. iiNO, not that Louis Philippe. I meant his father, the one they called Philippe-Egalite, the one who was a cousin of the Ring, the one who was a revolutionaryf He pauses, then continues slowa. uThat man was my ancestor, and he was responsibleII \_his eyes grow cloudy and his head bOWS\_iifOf the death of our beloved Louis XVIYI

We are alone in the snow; the man holding my hand seems genuinely distressed. IIIIm sorry? I say. The prince regains his composure and walks to a waiting car. Then it hits me: what in the world am I apologizing for? (continued on page 49) MOTHER jONIIS 41

Postmodern Tours IZLCOMII TO THE MANCHURIAN TOUR group. Now you too can wear the same black tunic and eat from the same bowl and spoon issued to Pu Yi, collaborator with the japanese! Bathe in the slimy communal tub where the final throne-holdet of the Manchu dynasA ty was forced to reveal his godlike body! Glimpse the bedroom reserved tot uneonsummated conjugal Visits! Get TTre-educated" with a show of local folklore in the prison rec room-all for thirty ymm, or less than four dollars at the black market rate. In the new Chinm you have to go L1 long way to find traces of :1 national hero. I went all the way to n frigid Manchurian prison cell\_not the former home of some martyr ot the Red Guards, but of a blueblooded figment of the silver screen, Chinais very own blast Emperor.n Though still staffed by a full complement of Peoplek Liberation Army officers, the Fushun Refotm-Through-Labot Camp for War Criminals did its last reforming in 1975;1nd keeps its grim gates open only to serve the tourist trade. Out hosts from the Liaoning Province Department of Are there any genuine Chinese heroes left? An insistent tourist disrobes the last Emperor. 42. JULY/AuousT1989 TRIPS By John er'cb Tourism hardly seemed concerned that they might be launching their Last Emperor tour just as the images of the Oscar-winning 1987 film have begun to fade from America's tickle memory. What was a year or two among ChinaTs seven thousand? After forty years of repudiating its feudal past, China is busily, if not very thoroughly, dusting off any remnant that can help revive "the China mystique? Since Hollywood has cashed in on Chinese exoticism, why shouldnt China return the favor? The local cadre is eager to play the ancient Chinese game of catering to the Wests need for a mysterious East. While ChinaTs students are taking inspiration from the outside world in their ongoing challenge to Party authority, those authorities are themselves using outsiders to buttress Chinais sense of itself. Tourism provides China with far more than foreign currency. It gives a country with a shattered selfimage the chance to pick up the pieces, even nominate heroes where none can be found. The old heroes have fallen: The first blazing Mao likenesses I saw were slipped out from under a pan of wriggling worms at one of Beijingis bird markets. The permanent exhibits at BeijingTs Museum of the Revolution have been closed due to ideological debate and replaced with costumes from a Chinese miniseries about their prerevolutionary ruler.

Photograph by Geoffrey Hiller

For a cost of between \$1,500 and \$2,500, a Last Emperor itinerary promises Ounforgettable adventure? and udining as in the Qing Dynasty, a ticostume party where tourists can dress in court robes? perhaps even an audience with Pu Yi,s fourth wife, billed as Othe Last Imperial Concubinef, Instead, on our debut press j unket through the bleak North, we discovered that the real-life settings of the Bertolucci epic are strewn across a territory where brown smokestacks and frozen fields donit require technicolor. Aside from being the town where Pu Yi was incarcerated, Fushun has the largest open coal pit in Asia-and is one of the most polluted towns in a country with few pollution standards. Changchun, a brown city of smokestacks and deliriously straight boulevards, once the capital of Japanese-occupied Manchukuo, is now famed as China,s Motown, host of the nations oldest and largest auto plant. Pu Yiis residence during his reign here was the office of a provincial salt monopoly, so that local subjects referred to their ruler as Oa piece of salted meat in the salt barn." Looted by Kuomintang and Red Guards alike, this mansion is at least a year from being restored to its former modest decadence. The so-called Opuppet palace, i next door, which Bertolucci brightened remarkably for his ballroom dancing and toesucking scenes, doubles as an archaeological museum. Paleolithic fossils till the Last Emperors billiard room. We never did get to meet the Last Imperial Concubine, that old tease. Hardly a Joan Chen lookalike, sheis now a bespectacled, over-sixty librarian and member of the local Peopleis Political Consultative Conference,

China, the country with the highest rate of one-time visitors, may not even be living up to its own image of what others think it once was.

STILL, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC HOSTED A million and a half visitors during the first six months of 1988, a jump of nearly 20 percent over the same period in the previous year. Revenues from tourism exceeded a billion dollars. Reforms are slowly being instituted that will create a rating system for hotels, a computerized booking system for the newly revamped Air China, closer coordination with foreign travel agencies. Yet in the name of comfort and convenience, independent travelers are often segregated in tisoftii waiting rooms, dining rooms, and train carriages. Our group learned what many travelers have before us. The Chinese prefer stage-managed and breakneck group affairs as a means of doing what theyive always done\_namely, keeping people as far as possible from China.

A trip from Shanghai to Suzhou, vaunted

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time is what tourists hopef as the Suzhou
tourist map puts it-advising stops at some
of SuzhouB 150 classical gardens or the vari-
ous itt'actoriesh for silk printing, sandal-
wood fans, and jade carving that have been
set up largely for retail purposes. The touted
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highlights in China are the ones to avoid, since the only real show is China itself: in Suzhous case, that magical combination of canals, the rolling welter of bicyclists that

makes the City sound like one enormous wind chime, the outdoor barbershops, dry coils of noodles set out in baskets, carnival shows by shaved strongmen, blind musicians plucking away in the bazaars. Let a thousand travel posters bloom! There is nothing elegant or showy on Suzhouls Grand Canal-only an endless flow of barges hauling gravel, rice, and entire families. a tide of struggle on which one must i keep floating or die. What makes this sight unforgettable, like so many others in China, are the people.

Thats why youive got to go to China knowing that every guidebook is wrong. . Thats why most seasoned voyagers head for Tibet or Yunnan, Chinais least packaged areas. Thatis why many who come here feel that there ought to be more out there, that 1 China must be just beyond the next hill or beneath the last billboard slogan. Thatis why China is the place you can go where youlre most likely to feel youive never been. ttTh-Jtis the real China out there, the one we can never get tot" remarked a drunken and homesick Swiss engineer whod bribed his way onto our groups train back from Munchuria, pointing to brick Village clumps barely distinguishable from the harsh landscape. Until we get there, China will continue to test stock images on its foreign guinea pigs constantly stumbling on itself, casting off the latest false pose, stuhbing its toe on reality. then retreating into another reensting of the ttoldest civilization" myth. After repudiating both noble and ignoble pasts, the Chinese can only display someone elsels ideal of what it must be like to be Chinese. Where the command was once OThe Helmsman Sets the Ocean Courselll, the watchword is now "Let the Last Emperor Be Your Tout Guide!u john Kric/fs latest book is El Beisbol: Truvt els Through the Pan-American Pastime, published by the Atlantic Monthly Press.

Social Ventures Can business serve people, and profit? A new breed of socially responsible capitalists reclaims I'he spiril of Illustration by Richard Sula OTENTIAL INVESTORS LOOKING FOR an opportunity to steer their money into socially responsible enterprises will be glad to hear about new investment options that offer more than pure profit. Venture capital firms, which pool their clients money and then invest in promising companies, are introducing a social agenda into their investment practices, mixing entrepreneurship with an attempt to solve environmental, social, and health-care problems.

llWe want to create a vehicle where we can fund projects that have a social vision? says Wayne Silby, founder of the Calvert Social Venture Partners, a \$3 million investment fund based in Washington, DC. llMost people just think about making money, but not about the way they do it. This is about social vision and making money. There are a lot of entrepreneurs who want to be seen for what they contribute to the world?

Silby points to his recent investments in a company producing liners for steel drums (the liners enable the company to recycle the drums, which hold oil, chemicals, or other substances) as an example of a typical small-scale business venture that backs an environmentally useful product.

Another venture capitalist with a social agenda is Douglas Ades, cofounder of the New York City-based Beacon Fund for Human Service Enterprises.

Beacon invests its \$25 million in enterprises that con-OUT OF POCKET

By Richard DY Hylton

tract with the government to address social problems, such as the need for remedial education and innovative drug therapies. It also supports private day-care centers and home services for elderly and disabled people.

Ades comments, llA lot of social issues sometimes can be dealt with more efficiently by using the profit motive. What were attempting to do is hold together two seemingly but not necessarily contradictory principles: that you can do well financially and do good socially?

In deciding whether to invest in a business, this new breed of capitalists looks at the social usefulness of the businessls product; the management process, which generally is interpreted to mean some level of worker participation; and the use of profits, which should either contribute to the local community or to general philanthropy. An enterprise that fulElls any or all of these requirements is usually eligible for investment.

Normally, a venture capitalist shoots for something in the range of a 25 percent return on an investment after five to ten years. Perhaps a half dozen socially responsible venture capital funds now operate in different parts of the country; most are too young to assess whether they can match the return rate of their traditional competitors. But the success of socially responsible mutual funds (see Mother jones, June 1989) has given Wall Street an incentive to keep an eye on the development of these new entrepreneurs.

IN PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, MICHAEL KIESCHnick, one of the founders of the Working Assets Money Fund, started the Sand County Venture Fund last year with \$1.5 million. Since October, Kieschnick has invested in a chain of specialized child-care centers for ill children of working parents, and in an environmental lab that tests groundwater and soil for contamination. By backing such small and socially productive enterprises, Kieschnick hopes to demonstrate that a close working relationship between investors and entrepreneurs ultimately will be far more productive than the impersonal relationships likely to exist between most investors and mainstream venture capitalists. Wayne Silby emphasizes that many typical venture capitalists are more concerned with turning a quick profit than with helping to develop a solid and worthwhile business. Those who are just as concerned with what the company does as how much it makes, he argues, are less likely to try to opt for the quick buck at the expense of the entire enterprise. llMany entrepreneurs donlt want a partner who is just going to take more and more from themj, says Silby. llWelre good partners for people who want to preserve a certain amount of integrity? On his part, Douglas Ades believes that having a social screen actually gives his company an advantage, because it forces him to search for unconventional, though MOTHER JONES 45

profitable, opportunities overlooked by the rest of the industry.

Unique among these new venture capital firms is the Womenls World Growth Fund, founded by Michaela Walsh, president of Womenls World Banking in New York City. Walsh now controls \$10 million in assets and is seeking to provide financing for projects headed by women in less industrialized countries. Walsh says her fund aims to promote leadership roles for women in countries that Ilhave never had access to the technological advances of the modern world." Her other criteria is that the businesses not be damaging to the environment. Thus far, the fund has invested in alternative energy projects and small-scale fruit-processing operations in countries such as Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Thailand, Kenya, and Ghana. This kind of niche investing is seen as a distinct advantage by many fund managers. According to Woody Tasch, who is starting the \$15 million Southport, Connecticutbased Commons Capital Partners, IIThe venture capital industry has been maturing, and its becoming increasingly skewed to institutional-grade, large-scale investment. We saw that there was a gap in the area of smaller investments. When all the dollars are  $\,$ going one way, its not such a bad time to look the other way?

Tasch is busy finding investors each willing to contribute a minimum of \$100,000 to his fund. uWelll be looking for everything from the next Ben & Jerryls to, at the other end, traditionally managed companies in the health-care area. Welre going a new route, but without burning our bridges to traditional companies. We don, t just want to be a marginal group of rich individuals dabbling in do-gooder investments. We want to be a credible, financially viable firm? ALL OF THE FUNDS DESCRIBED HERE ARE members of an umbrella organization of money managers, philanthropists, and entrepreneurs known as the Social Venture Network. The network encourages the development of socially responsible businesses and attempts to steer the forces of Hnance in a progressive direction. Potential investors or small-time capitalists can write to the network for further information about the firms mentioned here, or about the growing movement to harness the energy of private enterprise to socially beneficial ends: Social Venture Network, 140 E. 58th St., New York, NY 10022.

Richard D. Hylton is a free-lance business writer in New York City who writes for the New York Times, Forbes, and Institutional Investor. He is formerly an editor at Black Enterprise magazine.

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## CASTRO

(Continued from page 26) to h i m w h at Sucre was to Bolivar, what St. Paul was to Christ. Che was also a Latin American Lord Byron, a rootless, cosmic poet who never felt at home in provincial Cuba.

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Che was killed while attempting to turn the Cuban experience into a hemispheric revolution, fighting for this ideal in the mountains ofBolivia, and he became the virtual saint of Cuban revolutionary lore. Revolutionary youth began making pilgrimages to the place of his death, although the Bolivian government, on the advice of CIA officials, made sure that there would be no grave marker. (Che was murdered by orders of a Cuba-born U.S. adviser, Felix Rodriguez, a man who turned up as a player in the Iran-contra scandal.)

Even after Chels death, Fidel insisted that guerrilla warfare remained uthe instrument of revolution to liberate Latin America? In the summer of1968, as we bounced through the Sierra Maestre trails where the Cubans had waged war against Batista, peasants waved and shouted when they recognized him. IlThe armies of these countries must be defeated, and our experience showed it could be donef, he said. I asked him if he thought that the United States would allow another Cuba. lIThe Vietnamesef he explained, bare showing the limits of American power? As if to accentuate his message, billboards throughout the island bore Chels memorable slogan: CREATE ONE, Two, MANY VIETNAMS.

By the summer of 1974, though, the world had changed. I was with Fidel just after he opened a secret note from Henry Kissinger, a diabolical man in Fidells view. llKissinger wants to talk? Why not?u he said to Frank Mankiewicz, who delivered the message. 11Will you take a note backPII By then Fidel seemed to have accepted Chels death and the end of the guerrilla experience. As we traveled together east of Havana, I was trying not to breathe deeply -Fidel had rolled up the windows to show off the efficiency of the air conditioner in his black Soviet-made limo and then promptly lit a cigar-when he suddenly began reminiscing about Che. IlChe' was reckless. It was his one flawj, Fidel admitted. ltI-le was \$0 brave that he would stand up in the middle of a Erehght. I told him that his value was inestimable and that it was irresponsible to behave that way. He was wounded on several occasions, precisely because of that fearless qualityfl

Yet twenty years after Chels death, Fidel has revived his image as the model by which to reform the Cuban Revolution. Che accurately symbolizes spiritual integrity, hard work, and commitment to the collectivity, of course. But heIs also part of Cubals pastnot its future.

LIKE OTHER FOREIGNERS WHO VISITED
Cuba in the early revolutionary years, I discovered there the wonderful possibilities
that Jean-Paul Sartre and C. Wright Mills
popularized for the European and American
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Even as Fidel turned to the Soviets for

survival amid the brutal U.S. attacks on the Revolution, his love of debate and the very radiance of his character seemed to promise that the Cuban Revolution would reopen to its fuller expression once the immediate threat of attack had been removed. But in 1989, Cubals problems are no longer excusable or attributable to CIA subversion and the U.S. economic embargo. Political reopening remains, still, in the airy realm of hope.

In the absence of other kinds of freedom, jokes sometimes best reveal truths in Cuba. One story making the rounds in Havana recently has Fidel visiting his barber each week. The barber asks: IlFidel, what do you really think of glasnostPIl Fidel does not respond. The barber repeats the question each time Fidel visits, and finally an annoyed Fidel responds, IIWhy do you keep asking me that questionPIl lllt makes your hair stand on endf replies the barber, lland its easier to cut?

Fidells unwillingness to embrace Sovietstyle change (llFor us to adopt perestroika would be like living in our home with another manls wifefl he told journalists) springs from his conviction that social justice and relative equality cannot be achieved in an atmosphere of material incentives and other capitalist tools. The work that remains in perfecting Cuban society, in Fidells view, is not to adapt his model to the Cuban Citizenry, but to perfect the citizenry to adapt to the model. IISocialism still has many defects and shortcomings? Fidel told a Mexican reporter in 1985, nbut these dehciencies are not in the system, theylre in the people? Fidel, like Louis XIV, is the state. After visiting Cuba on a regular basis for more than thirty years, it seems clear to me that free discussion and sound development, including some Cuban form of political debate and economic restructuring, cannot take place when such power resides in one manwith the apparent consent of the majority of

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Cubans. Fidel never tires of describing how the masses participate in defense, womenk organizations, block committees, and so on. But participation without choice is a flawed political foundation.

811m tired," said one Cuban writer about the circuitous process of thinking one way, speaking a second, and acting a third. This writer said he would like his thoughts, words, and actions to correspond, which would require a political entity that can tolerate and even thrive on differences of opinion. He said he was tired of sacrificing because of a system that doesnt work welleven though Fidel says it would if Cubans all would simply improve somehow.

Even the Cuban bureaucrats 1 interviewed in late 1988 conceded that something has to give. Fidells rectification campaign to recharge the economy during the past few years has coincided with a sharp drop in Cubaas gross national product, which declined from a 1984-85 ngre 0f4.8 percent growth to 1 percent in 1985456 and minus 3.5 percent in 1986-87. While rectification slogans and posters abound, sloppy work continues, empty trucks outnumber full ones, and the bureaucracy remains impenetrable.

Today Cubans are educated, healthy, and politicized; they are also ready for a political debate, whose results cannot be preordained by a single great man. Few Cubans I spoke with in 1987 and 1988 favored creating multiple political parties. Most of the Party members who offered their views wanted to keep the system on course and apply rectihcation, just as Fidel favored. But others wanted a Communist Party open to the diversity of viewpoints that exists in the general population, and caucuses that could ade vocate positions and organize both within and outside of the Party. Some mentioned their desire to cut the implicit link between dissent and treason.

uWhy canlt the Party represent the views of the majority of its members,, asked one professor, llrather than acting as transmitter for the Politburo line? Instead of insisting on ritualistic displays of unity that mask peoples thoughts and feelings, the Party could foster diversity, allow for independent newsletters, encourage discussion of (US.-operated) Radio Marti broadcasts, and even open debate with exiles. Fidel has often paraphrased Antonio Gramsei: Revolutionaries should not fear the truth, for the truth is always revolutionary.

1N 1968 1 TRAVELED FOR NEARLY A WEEK with Fidel through the mountains of Oriente. I sat in his jeep by day; at night we dined in his tent. Fidel showed me the dank, dusty odor of poverty as we listened to 48 jUI.Y/AUGUST 1989

mountain silence broken by radio static mixed with pop music. By day we sloshed though the sometimes flooded trails that the people of the Sierra Maestre called roads. We met peasants coming down the hills with burros loaded with coffee beans. We saw parasite-infested children, twenty-five-year-

old women who looked sixty, illiterate and tuberculosis-ridden men and women. This was Sierra life through the ages-until the Revolution succeeded, by the 19705, in making this gut-wrenching poverty a part of the past. The light in Fidel's tent stayed on late each night during our wcek-long rural tour as he read agricultural-science texts, history books, and biographies.

One morning a ninety-eight-year-old man tried to enlist Fidel to help him get a house. Fidel said, llThe old politicos did personal favors, old-timer, but times have changed? In the ensuing repartee Fidel asked the villager if he had ever voted for the old politicians. 9FOr Batista, never. He was rottenf1 llDid you vote for any good ones?" Fidel asked with a smirk. 91 voted for Alfredo Zayasfl the man said, referring to Cubals president from 1921-25. 9And what did he accomplish? Fidel inquired of the crowd that had assembled, before answering his own question. 9He built a statue, thatls all? llAhf the old man said, she did what he could, the poor fellow? Fidel, it is true, overshadows past Cuban presidents. His problem is that he does too much. Almost twenty years later, we traveled together again, for a day, around the outskirts of Havana. Fidel demonstrated the same insatiable curiosity, the same pace and rhythm, getting out of the jeep quieklyt chatting with people, and rapidly re-entering the jeep for the next location. People surrounded and touched him at each stop, their mouths agape. We filmed Fidel chatting with a young woman, a family doctor in a poor neighborhood in western Havana. Fidel questioned her about the number of obesity and diabetes cases and asked if she believed exercise should be used to treat overweight people. The doctor replied, straight from her medical school education, that diet and exercise were the most important remedies. Fidelt now the foremost promoter of both a healthy diet and regular exercise, has abandoned his trademark cigar to lecture on the perils of smoking. We then filmed him talking with con-

struction workers who reported that they needed a new winch. He promised them he would try to End one. He grimaced later in the day as he discovered that the new lens factory outside Havana had quality-eontrol problems. He glowed when the surgeons at the children's heart hospital described their successes, and demonstrated at the geneticengineering laboratory his knowledge of genetic cloning and the moral issues involved in this new and delicate science. In an exchange at the laboratory, he decried the use of science for weapons production, and pleaded that researchers instead dedicate themselves to dealing with problems such as the thinning ozone layers, environmental pollution, and the advancing desert in Africa. He amazed some of the geneticists with his statistical knowledge about the spread of AIDS in Africa. (Cuba has several hundred cases, and AIDS sufferers are quarantined by law.)

Fidel,s presence continues to transfix Cuba. The people who have grown up with Fidel understand that the institutions and Constitution he shaped can never be tested until he has left the scene. Without intending it perhaps, Fidel undermines all decisions that are not his, because he can, at will, change a law, a ruling, an economic plan-or even the design for the construction model in the family doctor program (which was improved, incidentally, by his intervention). During his recent on-camera interview with me, Fidel feigned surprise when I asked him about Cubals role in Central America. 9How can a small nation have a role? he demanded. 9We have no economic or strategic interests. Only the United States has a role in Central America? But he praised the courage of the Salvadoran guerrillas, who he said had llwritten an indelible page in history by being able to survive the power of the United Statesfl Fidel also discussed the economic rectification campaign with hearty assurance.

As Fidel talked, I allowed myself to listen closely and feel that peculiar sensation that I experience in his presence, as ifl am meeting with a force of nature, a man so filled with the energy of historical mission that he is almost of a different species. Power radiates from him, emitting acute awareness of his needs-and a realization, as well, of how closely these needs have related to the destiny of his nation.

Fidel's leadership has been critical in forging a nation that has taken its place in the world. But has Cuba emerged as the kind of entity Fidel and his early supporters desired? As we filmed, I caught myself thinking of what happened to Mao Tse-tung in his declining years, when he could no longer shape his countryls future. The Cuban people have achieved sufficient maturity to govern themselves, I thought, even without the presence of their teacher, their guide, their Solomon and Hercules.

I took a deep breath and, overcoming a wave of fear, asked him: uAnd when you retire, what will . .

He leapt from his chair, almost tearing

the microphone chord from his lapel. TTLeave that for the next film,n he chided. Saul Landau is a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies. His latest film on Cuba, The Uncompromising Revolution, was completed in 1988. His book The Dangerous Doctrine was published by Westview Press and PACCA, also in 1988.

(continued from page 41) IN THE TWO hundred years since the Revolution, France has had five republics, two imperial governments, two monarchies, and, in 1875, barely missed yet another restoration on the strength of-you guessed itjust one vote. Thus any man who would be king usually takes the long view of history.

The source of pretenders is, predictably, the same as it ever was: the families of Bourbon and Orleans. As there is no direct descendant of the last Bourbon kingthough someone married to a waitress in northern Ontario insists that he is, in fact, a great-great-grandchild of the son of Louis XVI-the offspring of the parallel lineages are the fellows fighting it out among themselves. The Orleans, descended from the younger brother of Louis XIV, are the hjunior branchii of the Bourbon line. As for the Tisenior branchf, they descend from the younger brother of the father of Louis XV. This gives them dynastic dibs in claiming the throne of France, but, as chance would have it, they are Spaniards. The reigning juan Carlos of Spain belongs to this clan, and it is his cousins whose blood is closest to that spilled in the Revolution.

To make matters even more Byzantine, the pretenders have been bewildering their supporters recently with spectacular disappearances, public disownings, and legal disputes. The octogenarian head of the House of Orleans, Henri, Count of Paris, enraged his conservative followers by issuing an edict last spring urging his subjects to vote for Frangois Mitterrand, Whose regal way of governing suited the countis taste. The previous year, during the celebration of the Capetian millennium, the Count of Paris flouted tradition by naming his grandson, jean, Count of Amboise, as his immediate successor. The ostensible reason for this generational skip lay in his sons divorce and remarriage outside of the Catholic church. Not to be robbed of his birthright, the son, Henri, Count of Clermont, brought the matter before the courts. Last year, Henri sued the Spanish Bourbon pretender, Don Alfonso, Duke of Cadiz and Anjou, for the right to bear the title Duke of Anjou, which is usually reserved for the dauphin (i.e., the next-in-line to the throne of France).

As royalist France breathlessly awaited the verdict last fall, republican France snickered at the sight of a Bourbon and an Orleans pleading their dynastic suits before a democratic tribunal. To raise the historic cholesterol level even more, the Paris courtroom in which the battle royal took place was the same one used for the trial of Marie Antoinette. The modern judge proved more lenient than his revolutionary predecessors: he wisely threw the case out of court on the grounds that the disputed title was absolutely meaningless under the laws of the Republic. Thus, by default, the family feud was resolved in favor of the Spaniard. Don Alfonso got to keep his fancy, if meaningless, title, and Bourbon backers everywhere tejoiced.

Unfortunately, soon afterward, Don Alfonso, the former husband of Generalissimo Francisco Francois granddaughter and inveterate jet-settet, suffered a setback of the permanent variety. During a ski holiday in Colorado last jan-ASK FOR 0

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uaty, on one particularly swift downhill run, the descendant of the kings of France careened into a cable slung just a few feet over the ground. His neck snapped and he died instantly. A spokesman for his bereaved entourage, fully aware that this is the two hundredth anniversary of another distasteful event, felt compelled to preempt ghoulish speculation by issuing the statement: TTWe should stress that the accident did not result in the decapitation of the duke?

Paris, October1988

HENRI, COUNT OF CLERMONT, THE BATtling and embattled dauphin Of the House
of Orleans, has granted a brief audience at
home to a plenipotentiary from Mother
jones. We are seated in a small study cluttered with oil paintings of illustrious ancestors. On a small side table stands a
scale-model replica of a bejeweled royal
coach. Henri, a slight, balding man in his
fifties, remains behind his desk toying
with a monogrammed letter opener for
the duration of our parley. Not once does
he let me eat cake, for the simple reason
that none is offered.

TTThe people are tired of political parties disputing among themselvesf he says in his curiously high-pitched voice. TTThey T , ii SANDAL REPAIR SERVICE

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want to be ruled.,, Does this mean abol-
ishing party politics and democracy?
ttNo, not at all. Royalism is above all that.
It is not a political party, it is a state of
mind?
Henri speaks softly and carries a big
shtick. The French, he maintains, are now
ready for 11 king. Thatls why, after years in
the army and banking circles, he has re_
cently embarked on this quest for recogni-
tion in the service of the nation. Isnlt it
worrying to have loonies like Action
Franeaise on your side? His eyes flash, but
the voice remains serenely contralto. 11As a
prince of France, I represent all
Frenchmen?
Even the revolutionaries? How are you
going to celebrate the bicentennial of the
French Revolution? mCelebrate, is not
the word, w he says with princely under-
statement. til am going to commemorate
't I Enthusiasm Hnally creeps in. liBesides,
it was our families that led the Revolution,
only it was diverted by other forces. The
French Revolution was interrupted by
what is called the Terror. It is now time to
complete it?
Iim beginning to understand. The
French got rid of their king because they
wanted a king. Simple, really. Henri rises
and-noblesse oblige-shows me to the
door. When he smiles farewell, I try to
imagine his face on a postage stamp. May-
be he does the same thing when he looks
in the mirror.
HENRI DOES HAVE A POINT, THOUGH:
the French seem to like their kings.
Franceis most prominent and, arguably.
most reasonable royalist, Bertrand Re-
nouvin, head of the centrist Nouvelle Ac-
tion Royaliste, puts it quite succinctly:
ilThe Constitution of the Fifth Republic is
entirely monarchical in inspiration.w
Most of the royalist cadre find the result
of this situation to be immensely dis-
tasteful: the man who would be king ap-
pears to be, at least by behavior and posi-
tion, none other than Francois Mitter-
rand. Recently, the press has taken to
calling him ltGodfl given his Pharaonic
ways of announcing major projects for his
capital and fondness for appearing above
the vulgar tray of partisan politics. In Mit-
terrand, the royalists have their most for-
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Ι

midable enemy\_not because he wants to govern as a socialist, but because he tries to reign as a monarch.

Yet this year the ruler will not have an easy time of it-precisely because the commemoration of the Revolution looms so large on the political calendar. Mitterrandls Socialists try to glorify Danton and the Rights of Man, while their more conservative opponents, such as jacques Chiracls Rally for the Republic, ignore the more radical of their republican ancestors and play up the notion of 21 France united against foreign invaders. The Communists, if they do not eschew the whole affair as a bourgeois sideshow, usually plump for Robespierre. With all these conflicting views of the Revolution, the organizer of the commemorative festivities has had to move cautiously. But this has proved hazardous: two Mitterrand appointees to the post have already died in ofhce. Mindful Of what happened to the Bourbon pretender on the ski slopes of Colorado, the metaphysical royalists, a group of extreme-Right Catholics who publish a newsletter called Anti-89, remarked of the deaths of Mitterrandls men: liThe Lord works in mysterious waysfi

Paris, February 1989.

THE MARQUIS, WHOSE DEALINGS WITH the present government are, he assures me, itsensitivef, consents to talk on the condition that his name be withheld. An aristocratic mole in a republican system, the short, well-dressed fifty-year-old launches into a lesson about political llluciditytt at Angelinas, a Belle Epoque cafe on the Rue de Rivoli famous for its hot chocolate and its blue-blood clientele. 'IFrance needs a prince now. The French cannot accept other European countries having royal families and outclassing them, so to speak?

He adjusts his glasses for additional lucidity. TlBut we don't necessarily need a Bourbon or an Orleans? His friend, Stanislas-who consented to the publication of his first name-gasps in astonishment, then dresses down the marquis for suggesting that tradition be so vilely flouted. "It was Louis XIV who messed everything ule the marquis explodes. s'And Louis XVI\_no one asked him to be a good king, they just wanted him to be a kinglil

The argument rages well into the nine-teenth century. 'llf we don't have a Bourbon or an Orleans? Stanislas says at last, ltthen who could we possibly crown? The marquis senses victory. He pauses for effect, then utters, llThe Bonapartes are still a very able family? I nod approvingly, the nod of a conspirator. I hate to admit it, but Fm beginning to take this seriously. Stephen OISIJea writes from Paris for Elle

and Premiere, and has contributed to the Penguin Guide to France. This is his first story for Mother Jones.

Tenements to the Stars hen painter Martin Wong wants to feel comfortable, really at home, he lumbers into his regulation-issue Hremanls coat. Though he looks weighted down by the coatis lead-heavy bulk, he breathes easy: its something he knows.

Wong, 43, also knows New Yorkls Lower East Side, which for many of its disenfranchised residents-blacks, Hispanics, and Asians-is not unlike that coat: confining but at least a familiar place in which to take the heat. The difference is, their suffocating surroundings canlt be shucked off. These are the circumstances Wong chronicles in his paintings: people cast into a damnable place and, despite that, hanging on with a certain resolute dignity. In Wongls works, which he hopes will travel to Moscow this summer as part of a group show featuring contemporary U.S. artists, certain images recur. The foremost among them is no surprise: firemen-twin firemen at that-often standing shoulder to shoulder and, in one arresting instance, kissing. llThey represent Hypnos and Thanatos, Greek identical twins, sleep and deathf says Wong. High above the firemen and the inevitable downtown tenements is another frequent image: the night sky, with each constellation delineated. What do these carefully diagramed starry, starry nights have to do with the ghetto? 111 feel sometimes in society, especially in my neighborhood, you're trapped in the system? says Wong. TTA lot of people Martin Wongls get into what they get into because they really don't see any alternative? constellation Less easily understood is Wongls take on another of his motifs, skateboarding. of urban uI think people skateboard so much here because they canlt surf; the waves go in experience, the wrong directionf, Come again? Right, says Wong. 110n the West Coast, all the waves come in. On the East Coast, they all go out." This stated, the artist jams his hands into his hremanls coat and, like the people in his paintings, holds to his position as if there weren't any other possibility. -Iirila I'Iedegizard MO'l'HILR j()NliS 5 I

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A Good Shot of W/ywkey
IF THE RIVER WAS wmsmav, by T. Coraghessan Boyle,
Viking, 224 pages, $17.95.
73x7 Coraghessan Boyle is a writer of extraordinary range.
i ll His first two collections of stories, Descent of Man and
l j Greasy Lake, revealed a protean comic imagination.
1 Boyle told malevolently'funny, disturbing, and lyrical
: tales: an imaginary Lassze episode in which the faithful
pooch abandons little Timmy to fornicate with a mangy
coyote; the last day of blues legend Robert johnsonls
life, captured with restrained passion; a pathetic reset-
ting of Gogolk liThe Overcoatll in modern Russia. A
master both of deadpan, surreal slapstick and of haunt-
ing mood pieces, written in prose by turns straightforward
and cunning, Boyle is almost disconcertingly versatile.
His new collection of stories, 1fthe River Was Whiskey, is
slicker and sharper and at times more superficial than his first
two. In some of these stories Boyle attempts explicit and
52 jULV/AUGUST 1989
topical social satire-with disappointing
results. llSorry Fugull is a witty but shal-
low onevnote joke about a food critic with
no taste. llModern Love? a satire on con-
temporary fear of sexual disease, features
a llbody condomli as its big shtick ( it isnlt
big enough). liThe Little Chillll is a puerile
exercise in grotesque cultural stereotyp-
ing. These are just finger exercises, amus-
ing but glib,
without reach.
наррі 1.v,
there is more
substantial mat-
ter here. uPeace
of Mind, " about
a home-secur-
ity-system sales-
womanwho
crosses deadly
paths with a
psycho redneck, and liMe Cago en la
Leche (Robert jordan in Nicaragua),,,
about a punk kid who goes to hght the
contras, are icily precise nightmares remi-
niscent of John Collier or Roald Dahl at
their nasty best. lll-Iard Sellf about the
p.r. marketing of the Ayatollah, is one of
the funniest stories live read in years.
(Now the big thing about a fanatic; a
muses the fast-talking, silk-suited huck-
ster-narrator, llis hels sexy_lool( at Hitler,
Stalin, with that head of hair of his?)
And the book contains two minor
masterpieces. llThawing Outll is a glow-
ing little gem of a love story. The title
piece, about an alcoholic facing the end
of his marriage, is dreadful and compas-
sionate. The man-wracked with the
shakes, frightened, hopeless-goes out
fishing with his son, Tiller. A fish strikes
the manls line, and suddenly llTiller saw
something in his eyes he hardly recog-
nized anymore, a connection, a charge,
```

as if the fish were sending a current up the line, through the pole, and into his hands and body and brain? Then the moment passes.

That night the man is drunk again. He knows his wife will leave and take his son. He dreams he is out in the boat with Tiller. llThen all of a sudden they were going down, the boat sucked out from under them, the water icy and black, beating in on them as if it were alive. Tiller called out to him. He saw his sons face, saw him going down, and there was nothing he could do."

Social satire can be a dangerous muse for a serious writer. As a culture critic, Boyle is hit-or-miss: his narrative versatility can betray him into writing facile comedy best suited for the semi-hip universe of glossy magazines. But that versatility also enables Boyle to break through the conventions of satire, to turn jokes into disquieting dirges. At its best, as in the title story, Boylels fiction has more than admirable range: it has a terse, unsparing power that comes straight from the heart. -Gary Kamiya Boyle's slick style makes his stories go down too smoothly. Illustration by Karen Barbour smoothly- almost!

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M USIC with some truly original lyrical material: a paean to the
_ painter Hieronymus Bosch (llOK Hieronymusll), reflec-
tions on the inevitable approach of his daughters first sexu-
) al experience (The Girl Isnlt Readyll), and an ironic ode to
Graham Parker S what for Parker has always seemed elusive, llSuecessT
After a well-attended thirty-city concert tour last spring,
' ' and with the popularity of his last two records, success may
Acoustlc AC1d no longer be a topic for irony. But Parker, who is shielded
even onstage behind dark, movie-star shades, remains phil-
osophical about the ever-shifting tides of the record busi-
hen Graham Parker stands alone onstage, accom- ness. llThe point in my career right now i
s just to make
panied only by his acoustic guitar, the acerbic bite music honestly. . . . People who get
 it, theylre going to see
of his music hits the audience full force. Parker, a what a scathing and funny thing it i
s Ilm doing. And its also
wordsmith whose jumpy, nervous rhythms used to got a melody, which the guy from the Washi
ngton Post
be hlled out by backup bands, has managed to strip canlt have; you know, he cant give you
 a melody?
down his sound from electric to acoustic without -Mar/2 Schapiro
mellowing an inch. He gibes at the record industry
(llPassive Resistancell), and his latest record, Live!
Alone in America, released earlier this year, includes
a call for hope amid political absurdities like airplane
hijackings (llDonlt Let It Break You Downl,),
and one of the most eloquent songs in rock,
about the difficulties of a man facing a loverls
abortion (llYou Cant Be Too Strongll). One re-
cently released single from the album, llSoul
Corruption? an explicit swipe at racist hypoc-
risy, was banned by MTV, which objected to his
use of the word llniggeW in the lyrics: (lT/Jeylll
never let any nigger in, whyd you think ifs called
the White House?" Parkerls next record, due out
this fall, promises similarly incisive music.
Parkerls reverse-Dylan move puts him in the
company of a new breed of musicians who are chal-
lenging the music industryls notion that only a
souped-up sound sells. Performers like Tracy Chap-
man, John Hiatt, R.E.M., and the Cowboy Junkies
llhave proved that therels an alternative audience out
there that can offer a million listenersf he said.
Always a cantankerous figure, Parker has been beat-
ing counter-rhythms to the music business since
launching himself from a London squat thirteen years
ago. Forging radical, new-wave melodies with bands
like the Rumour and the Shot, he quickly became associ-
ated with Elvis Costello as one of the artists who would
lead rock back to its rebellious roots.
Still, after a brief but intense success (Squeezing Out
Sparks was one of the seminal
" 1 ho et it albums of 1979), Parker faded
Peop e W g , from the attention of all but his
I ' most loyal fansaa victim, he
they re gOIDg to claims, of record industry pres-
- sure to produce music for the
see What a scathmg hit parade. Others attribute his
. decline to writers block and a
and funny thlng softening of his lifestyle_kick-
   ,, ing the bottle, getting married
I m dOIng' -but, whatever the reason, his
thirteen years of foundering in
the musical shadows left its mark. Parker ricocheted
through four different labels before hnally landing at RCA,
which offered an unusual deal: a tiny advance and total
creative control. The result was The Mona Lisals Sister,
released last year and Parkerls best album in a decade. The
record features more musically sophisticated tunes along
MOTHER JONES 53
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Photograph by Marc Geller

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The Murderer
Next Door
n a balmy night in june 1982, Vincent
Chin, a first-generation Chinese Amer-
ican, sat drinking with his buddies in
the Fancy Pants, :1 Detroit strip joint. A
fight broke out between Chin and two
white guys, and Chin decked one of
them. A few minutes later, the two
caught up with Chin. This time they
had a baseball bat. While Michael Nitz
held Chin down, Ronald Ebens took
home-run swings at Chin's head. Vincent
Chin died a few days later.
Proving that Asian life is cheap in the
United States, Ebens and Nitz each paid for
the death of Vincent Chin with a three-year
probation and a $3,000 fine. 11Had it been a
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bered Ebens, an autoworker, yelling at Chin,
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tions? says Tajima. Illt doesnlt do any good

MOVIES

to set it up as hero and villain? And indeed, perhaps the most fascinating -and horrifying-aspect of the Elm is the interview with Ronald Ebens. A golfer, car enthusiast, and family man, Ebens lives with his wife on a tree-lined suburban street. He remembers waking up the morning after the murder feeling like ha jerkl, because it was Fathers Day and he was in jail. Ebens has less regret about his killing of Chin. 111tls not something you plan on happeningf, he says, llbut it happens? Tajima and Choy have shown the film at such venues as the US. Film Festival and New Yorkis New Directors/New Films, and it received an Academy Award nomination this year. Now that they, ve had a taste of success, will the two have an easier time getting money to make other films? Choy thinks not. 110ne day youlre very famous. Next day youlre nobody. Why should I have those kinds of illusions? -Dana Sachs

## The Blues Bothers

MUSIC

nother night on the road in Anytown, U.S.A. Youlve unpacked your suitcase, eaten the complimentary fruit, and read the entertainment guide from cover to cover-nothing looks promising, and you, ve got hours to kill in uncharted territory. Singing the blues? The antidote might be found in a song, but, as the Empress herself might have put it, a good club has been hard to hnd . . . until now. The Blues Foundation, dedicated to "the preservation and perpetuation of the blues? has just introduced a toll-free hot line, offering information ranging from the inside track at local clubs to the dates of national conferences, competitions, and festivals. With over one thousand members across the United States and Canada, the 800 number can get you down and digging anywhere from Elils Mile High in Oakland, California, to Blues Alley in DO SO, although you may have to suffer if you want to play the blues, thanks to this red-hot hot line, youlll no longer have to suffer if you want to hear them. Call 1-800-727-0641.

- Valerie Calegari Illustration by 105 Sancez will need more support if they me our next four national parks. fornia Desert National gged and uninhabited, Califorlojave Desert is called lithe emp-' live never had a stronger sense ternessll of desert than in the Mountains around Mitchell he looks out from the ridgetops :h small but surprisingly varied cacti toward pinkish gray-green sh flats that end only in more led mountains. Nothing is visi-: past and present, and one halfsee, approaching through the he of the nomadic bands of i people who spent their sumd the Mitchell Cavern springs. Tavern, a band left the bones of a )s a shaman, crouched in a niche wn a limestone cliff. au of Land Management admin-1St Mojave, with a federal mantect the desert ecosystem while iccessible for mining, grazing, and other iimultiple uses? But 1SOIl some like to call the BLM l of Logging and Mining? The o-commercial bent has fueled a national-park bill. Klan Cranstonls California Des-)n Act would create three new '16, upgrading Death Valley and f national monuments to park uments may be created and de-)residential proclamation, while 'e an act of Congress) and estab-F million-acre East Mojave nabetween Barstow and Needles. have remained in the public dose nobody else wanted to own 3mmercial interests hold tightly 'emotest of potential parklands: 1m of mining, livestock, and ehicle interests has stopped )ill from passing so far. lojave National Park 3th St. t 92311 )esert Protection League ;th St, Apt. 323 , CA 90029 Cocaine White Gold Rush in Peru a new book by Edmundo Morales "Only when citizens of the US. understand how profoundly the drug trade is part of Peruvian society can they understand the difficulty in stopping the problem This book provides excellent research and background material for arriving at such an understanding." (Booklist) "All concerned citizens and policymakers had better read this book, and soon, for the time for mere palliatives and theatrical heroics is past." (Eric R. Wolf, City University of New York) The University of Arizona Press 1230 N. Park Ave., Tucson AZ 85719 VlSA/MC orders. call 1-800-426-3797

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examine why
MOVIES
The Murderer
Next Door
n a balmy night in june 1982, Vincent
Chin, a first-generation Chinese Amer-
ican, sat drinking with his buddies in
the Fancy Pants, at Detroit strip joint. A
fight broke out between Chin and two
white guys, and Chin decked one of
them. A few minutes later, the two
caught up with Chin. This time they
had a baseball bat. While Michael Nitz
held Chin down, Ronald Ebens took
home-run swings at Chinls head. Vincent
Chin died a few days later.
Proving that Asian life is cheap in the
United States, Ebens and Nitz each paid for
the death of Vincent Chin with a three-year
probation and a $3,000 Hne. llHad it been a
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## **PARKS**

(Continued from page 31) tativeRob Smith calls Lujan iione Of the nicest guys and worst environmentalists in Congress? Smith says Republican Lujan sometimes supported New Mexico park proposals to stay popular in a largely Democratic district, but voted the antienvironmentalist party line on the national level. Still, prospects for new parks could hardly be as dim now as they were under Reagan, when there was much talk of iicompletingii the park system in its present stunted and withered form, even of 9decommissioningli existing parks. As usual, the pressure to expand the park system will have to come from the unappointed and unelected. Yet even environmentalists are not united about significantly expanding the park system. A iiBlueprint for the Environment" presented to Bush by thirty environmental groups didnit propose new parks. There hasnlt been a nationwide coalition pushing a national-park proposal since the powerful Alaska Coalition of the 19705. Conservationist David Brower, head of the Earth Island Institute, thinks environmental groups havenit done enough iito get the public into the legislative act? The real goal, he says, is shifting jurisdiction over federal lands away from agencies that are captives of commercial interests. One thing is certain: the park system wonit grow significantly unless its acquisition budget does. Brower suggests one way to outflank the budget monster: iiWhatis the total capital worth of the big foundations like Ford and MacArthur? What if they took a tenth of that and put it in land? The Nature Conservancy la highly effective private landpreservation groupl really got started with a \$6 million line of credit from the Ford Foundation? Since industrial wealth ultimately comes from natural ecosysrems, it would be prudent to plow some of the profits back. As Brower says, iiParks are the best device so far for preserving the encyclopedia of how the planet works? Sierra Club,s Doug Scott thinks that the best way to expand the park system is for ordinary people to push for them. uConservation groups aren,t here to tell the country what parks it needs? he says. iiTheyire here to support viable grass-roots proposals, to make them happen? Here, then, is a place for ordinary people to start. Presented on these pages are four of the most promising, and needed, potential national parks. All would add greatly to the systems biotic diversity. All work a special magic on the visitoHs senses. All are opposed by powerful commercial interests. All are supported vigorously by grass-roots organizations. All will need more support if they are to become our next four national parkst 1. California Desert National Park. Rugged and uninhabited, Californiais East Mojave Desert is called iithe empty triangle? Iive never had a stronger sense of the iiothernessli of desert than in the Providence Mountains around Mitchell

Caverns. One looks out from the ridgetops

studded with small but surprisingly varied shrubs and cacti toward pinkish gray-green creosote bush flats that end only in more cactus-studded mountains. Nothing is visible to divide past and present, and one halfexpects to see, approaching through the creosote, one of the nomadic bands of Chemehuevi people who spent their summers around the Mitchell Cavern springs. Inside that cavern, a band left the bones of a man, perhaps a shaman, crouched in a niche partway down a limestone cliff. The Bureau of Land Management administers the East Mojave, with a federal mandate to protect the desert ecosystem while making it accessible for mining, grazing, recreation, and other iimultiple uses? But thereis a reason some like to call the BLM the iiBureau of Logging and Mining? The bureauis pro-commercial bent has fueled support for a national-park bill. Senator Alan Cranstonis California Desert Protection Act would create three new national parks, upgrading Death Valley and Joshua Tree national monuments to park status (monuments may be created and decertified by presidential proclamation, while parks require an act of Congress) and establishing a 1.5 million-acre East Mojave national park between Barstow and Needles. These lands have remained in the public domain because nobody else wanted to own them. But commercial interests hold tightly to even the remotest of potential parklands: a consortium of mining, livestock, and off-road vehicle interests has stopped Cranstonis bill from passing so far. Friends of Mojave National Park 1129 Elizabeth St. Barstow, CA 92311 California Desert Protection League 3550 West 6th St, Apt. 323 Los Angeles, CA 90029 Cocaine White Gold Rush in Peru a new book by Edmundo Morales "Only when citizens of the U.S. understand how profoundly the drug trade is part of Peruvian society can they understand the difficulty in stopping the problem. This book provides excellent research and background material for arriving at such an understanding.' (Booklist) "All concerned citizens and policymakers had better read this book, and soon, for the time for mere palliatives and theatrical heroics is past." (Eric R. Wolf, City University of New York) The University of Arizona Press 1230 N. Park Ave., Tucson AZ 85719 VlSA/MC orders. call 1-800-4263797 Music, to be born by A musical soundscape for the delivery room and beyond. i EM? at: x We V - xM , . YR, Produced by Grateful Dead percussuonnst Mickey Hart, MUSIC TO BE BORN BY is built around a recovding of Hart's son Taro's fetal heartbeat. Wilh subtle musmal overiays added, MUSIC TO BE BORN BY becomes a comtoming and rhythmic audio environment Invaluable to baby and mother beiore, during, and after childbirth 'The rhythms, the repetition, and the melodic line almost become internalized within the listener, For a laboring woman caught up In the intensity oi her experience, the repetition of these pleasing sounds can have a calming effect, and can help her pace herseti emotionally, For those around her, the steady rhythmic pace can help them remain calm and confident. This must helps to set an appropriate tone and ieeiing m the place of bmhf -- Penny Simkin, P.T.

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2. Old Growth National Park. St) committed to commercial logging that it usually sells its trees to timber companies at a loss to taxpayers, the National Forest Service opposes new national parks in two ways. First, it competes for additions to the public lands, and national forests generally find more favor with timber companies and developers than do national parks. Second, the Forest Service has proven unwilling to give up its land, of whatever quality and importance, to new national parks. This unwillingness is felt most in the Pacific Northwest, where our last stands of unprotected virgin forest are. Although most national parks lie west of the Mississippi, they include relatively little of the coastal forest that once stretched from Washingtonls Puget Sound to Californials Point Conception. The largest unprotected remnant of this forest is the 110,000-acre North Kalmiopsis in southwest Oregonls Siskiyou Mountains.

With a climate milder than most of the Westls, the Siskiyous harbor ancient species that have disappeared from cooler, drier regions. This is a refuge for a fifty-millionyear-old temperate forest ecosystemwelsewhere 001d growthll is impoverished by glaciation, desertification, and urbanization. The Siskiyous contain the Rogue, Chetco, Illinois, and Smith rivers, popular white-water streams that serve as key salmon and steelhead breeding habitats. The Oregon Natural Resources Council, a statewide umbrella group, supports a one million#acre Siskiyou national park from just north of the Roque River to the California border. Yet the Forest Service has been working steadily to liquidate old growth forest in the proposed park. Since the early 1980s, the Forest Service has been trying to build a logging road, the Bald Mountain Road, which will split the unprotected North Kalmiopsis area off from an already established Kalmiopsis wilderness area. L0-Cal conservationists have blocked the roads completion so far (often by lying down in front of bulldozers), but the Forest Service has slated timber sales that will clear-cut the area and foul its supposedly protected lllinois River with silt.

I walked across the North Kalmiopsis to Bald Mountain in the summer of 1988. Even blackened by the fires of the previous year, 56 jUI.Y/AU(;UST 1989

Bald Mountain was (me of the loveliest places live seen, a maze of rich, slanting meadows and ancient Douglas fir groves.

Much of the meadow and forest understory vegetation had already recovered, and I could see how centuries of natural fire had shaped the meadow and grove landscape by removing second growth and brush. Most of the thick-barked trees had survived the fires. A big black bear grazed one meadow near a colony of Aplodontia, ancient burrowing mammals found only in West Coast forests.

Fires have not lessened the Forest Services determination to get at the North

Kalmiopsisk big trees by carving the area into a network of dirt roads. The fires destruction of streamside vegetation in some areas has had the effect of temporarily making stream water warmer, which in turn has reduced the salmon breeding habitat. Now the Forest Service plans to threaten that fragile ecology all the more, in the name of usalvagingll fire-killed timber and TTrestoring" the area. Siskiyou Regional Education Project PO Box 13070 Portland, OR 97213 (503) 249-2958 Headwaters PO Box 1075 Grants Pass, OR 97526 5. Hardwoods Forest National Park. Imagine vast, almost uninhabited forest lands, a substantial northeast hardwoods national park within a days drive of forty million Americans. In northern New England the opportunity exists, along with a chance to re-establish the woodland caribou, eastern cougar, pine marten. and wolverine-all species fading or gone from the east. The lands have been in the hands of timber companies for centuries, but fierce competition will probably force the companies to sell many of their holdings soon. With public support, it could cost relatively little to create a park. The Diamond International Corporation recently offered ninety thousand acres in Vermont and New Hampshire at \$211 an acre. The state of New Hampshire bought half the land, but the rest ended up in the hands of developers. That is not the way national parks are made. llWhat may happen? according to Wilderness Society northeast regional director Michael Kellett, liis that resort and secondhome developers will buy up all the good stuff, all the lake and river frontage and scenery, and leave the public with a bunch of cutover timber land, which the government will buy as a bailout to the timber industry. Therels a lot of talk about keeping a working forestl here. What good is a working forest' to taxpayers in Connecticut or Missouri? If we had another Yosemite here, though, they could come for vacations? A prime candidate for New Englandls Yosemite is the 1.5 million-acre area around Baxter State Park in north central Maine. With stately Mt. Katahdin at its center, the region contains the scenic and nationally significant Penobscot, Seboeis, Pleasant, and Aroostook rivers as well as 108 lakes. llTherels a huge demand for wilderness

here? Kellett says. llBaxter State Park is overrun and at capacity now, the same for the White and Green mountains. Acadia National Park ion the Maine coastl is the second most-visited park in the country? Whatever happens, Kellett and other Observers agree that a lot of timberland in northern New England is going to change hands soon. Into whose will it go? According to Bill Lienesch, director of federal activities for the National Parks and Conser-

vation Association, if wilderness isnlt protected now, llin a decade, welll be amazed at how much development has occurred.n The Wilderness Society Northeast Office 20 Park Plaza, Suite 536 Boston, MA 02116 (617) 350-8866 4. Tallgrass Prairie National Park. Tallgrass prairie is the quintessential North American ecosystem; nothing quite like it exists anywhere else in the world. A mix of giant grasses such as big bluestem and Indian grass and hundreds of herb and wildflower species, it once covered 400,000 square miles of the Midwest and supported

immense numbers of wildlife. Fifty years ago, when the possible disappearance of this

one-of-a-kind ecosystem became manifest, the National Park Service began looking for a place to establish a tallgrass prairie national park. It is still looking. An early choice was the Flint Hills of east central Kansas. Too steep and rocky for com, the hills still support prairie sod. Cattle have replaced bison and elk, but the hills retain a wild beauty. I was there in June once, not the peak time for tallgrass prairie because most grasses and wildflowers bloom in late summer. Yet even though the bluestem was only knee-high (it can reach eight feet), the prairie was dazzlingly green, colored here and there with wild geranium, white penstemon, golden ragwort, and blue spiderwort. Upland sandpipers-prairie birds that winter in South America-whistled and fluttered over the slopes, getting ready to nest in the grass. It was a haunting place, with the peculiar sense of endlessness that only wild prairie has. I didnTt walk far in the Flint Hills, however. They remain private property, well posted with KEEP OUT signs. Local landowners have fought to a standstill decades of attempts to establish a park. Their expressed reason for doing so-a wish to maintain the region as a ranching community-is doubtless sincere, although pressures on the livestock industry will increase the temptation to subdivide ranches in coming years. Hopes for a park recently shifted to another flinty region, the Osage Hills of northeastern Oklahoma, where owners of several large ranches expressed a willingness to sell to the Park Service. Other landowners, more interested in ranching and oil drilling, have resisted, however. Among these are the Osage tribe, which owns subsurface mineral rights to the ranches for sale. Park proponents responded by downgrading the proposal from national park to national preserve status. This would allow more leeway for grazing, oil production, and hunting. The government wouldn1t even own much of the land, merely buying easements on development rights instead. Yet Congress is in no hurry to pass even the preserve. Meanwhile, one of the ranches originally for sale has been sold to a private buyer, and the prairie suddenly seems not at all endless. Sierra Club, Oklahoma Chapter c/o Paul Gray PO Box 703 Sand Springs, OK 74063 (918) 245-7813 David Rains Wallace is author of The Klamath Knot and The Turquoise Dragon. His latest book, Bulow Hammock: Mind in at Forest, is just out from Sierra Club. CLASSIFIED Art 303nm American Indian art: Pueblo pottery. Hopi kachinas. Northwest lndian masks. Graphics. Navajo rugs. Write or call: PO Box 55277, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413; (818) 789-2559. Associations

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Mother Jones Classifieds

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going on her uncle 5 boat and could I come. "You can
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who she told me I was perfect for
I went down into the kitchen to 35k my mother and then re-
111embereditwa5our Saturday ofcleaning, our main day together.
She had already poured the SpiL and Span into two yellow buckets
and filled them with hot water. All the rags and 5Lrubber5 and
gloves were 111 L1 perfeLt Iine L1Lr055 the I(itLhen table. IIIDon t tell
me that 5 what you re wearing, I she said when
she saw me 111 my new pink tank top and shorts.
IIThey'II get ruined." She opened the back door.
"Let in some fresh air. jesus itIs gorgeous out.II
Cleaning always puts my mother in her best
mood. "Go strip the beds and get the wash
started. I want to dry the whites outside today. II
A man on the radio started singing "Down in
the west Texas town of El Paso, II and my moth-
er raised her arms up and sang with him. Then
she looked at my face and stopped. IIWhat?II
she said. IIWhat now?II
IIMom, II I said, and asked her the question
that I knew would make her start yelling at me.
She said I could go, but how she said it was
IIDo whatever the goddamn hell you please.II
So I called Vicky back and told her my mom
said no. IIWhat a bitch, II Vicky said. IIBeg. Se-
riou5Iy. Beg her.II But I told her I eouIant, then I
tore the sheets off the beds and carried them
into the basement. When I came back upstairs
the radio was off.
IIYou and your father both, II my mom said.
IIHe was just the same. just take off and do
whatever the hell he wanted. II She slammed the
mop so hard against the baseboard it ripped a
scratch right through the paint. IIIIm a machine.
just a goddamn machine around here. IIIpleI(ed
up a bucket and some rags and tried to walk
past her. IIWhth 1n the hell do you think youIre
doing?" she said. IIIIm doing the bathroom,
okay?" I said baLk. "Oh no youIre not. II She
grabbed my arm and water spilled all over the
floor. You and that goddamn Vika. SheI 5 rich! What does she
care about anything? I bet she doe511It even wipe her own butt!
You want to be like her? (30 ahead! (Jet the hell out of here!" She
shoved me against thL door and then I coulan tbelieve what I did.
I turned around L111L15houteLI at her to get fuLked For one second
everything from then she slapped me and shouted, IIDon t you
talk to me like that! I am your mother! I and started crying and
kneeling on the IIoor.
I remember staring at the white band of light shining straight
across the spilled water and listening to her crying about God and
me and her life, until she finally got up and walked past me, and I
heard her bedroom door closing. I remember everything around
me Iooking completely dead. Then I thought of VickyIs Iife versus
mine, and I went out the door.
When I got to VickyIs she saw me and shouted, IIAII rightIII and
ran up the grass bank. Her mother started the car and yelled,
"Hurry up!II Vicky threw her arm around me and pointed at the
tan guy in cutoffs wearing aviator glasses and did the music of
IIHere comes the brideII into my ear.
On the boat I sat on the hot deck with Vicky and her cousin
Kenny while her parents and her aunt and uncle drank green
drinks out of a pitcher. IITh151s living. Isn t this
IivingPI I heard at least fifteen million times
Kenny mainly talked about himself and what
car he was going to get when he turned sixteen
and Vicky acted like she had never heard any-
thing so amazing in her life. Everything every-
one was saying sounded so stupid.
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I could feel Vicky getting madder and madder at me for not talking and when Kenny got up to get another Coke she leaned over and said, IIWhy are you being such a bitchPII Finally I just closed my eyes and pretended to be asleep. IIYeah, Vic,II I heard Kenny whisper, IIjust like you said. She's the funniest person I ever met.II And then he laughed.

It was dark when they dropped me off at my house, and there were no lights on, not even the porch light. I went around the back and the door was wide open. I could see the outline of my mother at the table and the red glow of her cigarette. The mop and the tags and tipped-over bucket were still on the floor. I stood there for a second not knowing what to do. Finally I knocked. IIMom,IIIsald. IICan I come in?II IIWhy 110th she said. IIItIs your house.II I wanted to tell her that I was sorry, but as soon as I sat down she got up and walked out of the room.

IISomeday, youIII see," I heard her saying on the stairs. "You think life 15 easy. Ha! You just wait."

In the morning I put on my oldest T-shirt and cutoffs and went downstairs. I picked up the bucket and measured the Spic and Span into my hand, and then turned the hot water on it fuII-blast and the powder flew up and made me start coughing. IISIowa,II I heard my mother say behind me. IIHow many times do I have to tell you? SIowa, or youIII get too many 5ud5.II

IISorry,II I said.

IIHonestIy.II

She went into the basement and I heard the washing machine start. When I picked up the mop I saw the long, dark scratch across the baseboard. And then, before she could come back up the stairs, I reached over and turned on the radio.

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