PHI BETA KAPPA

THE KEY REPORTER

SUMMER 2009

42ND COUNCIL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS OCTOBER 1-4

STEVEN SQUYRES AT WASHINGTON AND LEE BY JULIE A. CAMPBELL

THE KEY REPORTER



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Council Review

The Phi Beta Kappa Society is a complex institution. We have almost 600,000 living members. We have 276 chapters and 61 active associations, grouped into seven districts. Every three years we have a Council, comprising delegates from the chapters and associations, as well as the Senate and former officers. There are 24 Senators, 17 at-large and 7 representing districts. There are 17 members of the staff at the national office, and enough committees to populate a fair stretch of the asteroid belt.

All these moving parts are constrained in some sort of order by the provisions of Phi Beta Kappa's Constitution and Bylaws. Those documents are descended through a history of revision and reconstruction from the originals, under which the United Chapters convened a Council for the first time in 1883. In December 2008, Senator Fred H. Cate, reporting for a Senate-appointed strategic planning committee, wrote: "The original Constitution and Bylaws were amended frequently by subsequent Councils, most extensively in 1937 by the 19th Council. In 1988 the name of the general society was changed from the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa to the Phi Beta Kappa Society." In fall 2009, the 42nd Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society will consider a set of constitutional changes endorsed by the Senate on the recommendation of the strategic planning committee.

In general, the proposed changes would simplify certain unnecessarily complex processes and give the Society the ability to respond to emergent situations more quickly and more effectively. The powers of the Council would be enumerated, for clarity's sake, and its voting processes simplified. The administrative role of the Senate would be spelled out more clearly and its ability to move expeditiously to address problems enhanced. In the category of reducing unnecessary complexity, there would be a restructuring of the nominating committee. And in the category of clarifying processes, there would be new language about Council resolutions and about the processes used for nominating district Senate candidates. None of the proposed revisions would change the character of the Society or shift power from one constituency to another. Collectively, however, they will make the governance of the Society and the administration of its programs much more manageable.

One of the most noticeable aspects of members' attachment to the Society is affection for its fixity. As popes and emperors once controlled the calendar, to establish an unchanging matrix in which passing events could be arrayed, so Phi Beta Kappa is often loath to change because it represents the enduring values of excellence in the life of the mind. But if we could move, in 1883, from a loose association of independent chapters to a federated union, and if we could rename ourselves, not so long ago, then surely we can adopt these changes now, for the sake of a Society that can advance its enduring values even more effectively.

John Churchill Secretary

SPOTLIGHT



John Hope Franklin, 1915-2009

The very essence of the life of the mind is the freedom to inquire, to examine and to criticize. But that freedom has the same restraints abroad that it has at home: to state one's position, if impelled by personal conviction, with clarity, reason and sobriety, always mindful of the point that the scholar recognizes and tolerates different views that others may hold and that his view is independent, not official.

> - John Hope Franklin The American Scholar 1968

John Hope Franklin, the scholar who helped create the field of African-American history and dominated it for nearly six decades, died at the age of 94 on March 25, 2009. He served as president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society from 1973-1976.

"John Hope Franklin lived for nearly a century and helped define that century," said Duke President Richard H. Brodhead. "A towering historian, he led the recognition that African-American history and American history are one. With his grasp of the past, he spent a lifetime building a future of inclusiveness, fairness and equality. Duke has lost a great citizen and a great friend."

Franklin, James B. Duke Professor Emeritus of History, was a scholar who brought intellectual rigor as well an engaged passion to his work. He wrote about history - one of his books is considered a core

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| A students relaxes under the arches of University Hall on the University of Denver campus. Photo courtesy of University of | |

42nd Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Austin, Texas, Oct. 1-4

The 42nd Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society will be held in Austin, Texas, Oct. 1-4, 2009.

The Council will meet at the Hilton Austin, adjacent to the Austin City Convention Center in downtown Austin. The state capital of Texas, Austin is a cultural hub celebrated for its arts community, live music scene and good eats.

While the focus of the Society's triennial business meeting will be to vote on the creation of new chapters, the election of Φ BK Senators and proposed constitutional changes, delegates are also invited to visit local museums and attend a Φ BK Visiting Scholar lecture by prolific author and noted historian Thomas Bender.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, participants will have the option to visit the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum or the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center. The Ransom Center will be hosting an exhibit about Edgar Allan Poe as well as displaying one of Frida Kahlo's self

portraits.

On Friday, Oct. 2, there will be an evening reception at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. The museum's exhibits will remain open for attendees.

The Φ BK Visiting Scholar lecture is scheduled for Saturday morning, Oct. 3. Bender, professor of humanities and history at New York University, will speak on "American History in a Global Perspective."

At the concluding banquet on Saturday, the Society presents two of its most prestigious awards. John E. Seery, professor of politics at Pomona College, will receive the Sydney Hook Memorial Award, and Douglas Greenberg, executive dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers University, will receive the Award for Distinguished Service to the Humanities.



Learn about the story of Texas at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin, Texas

Secretary's Circle Gala Weekend, April 17-19

Every spring, the Secretary's Circle meets in Washington, D.C., for a weekend of cultural events and intellectual inspiration. This year's gala weekend, held Friday, April 17 through Sunday, April 19, included a reception at Φ BK headquarters on Friday evening, followed on Saturday by a tour of the U.S. Capitol Building and viewing exhibits on the National Mall.

On Saturday, Secretary's Circle members also joined the Fellows for the annual Couper Luncheon with a lecture by Walter Isaacson (*see page* 5), followed that evening by a black-tie dinner at the Metropolitan Club of Washington, D.C. The formal dinner was emceed by Jack Williams of WBZ, Boston, and featured guest speaker David Martin Darst.

Managing director of Morgan Stanley, Darst serves as chairman of the asset allocation committee and chief investment strategist of the Global Wealth Management Group and

was the founding president of the Morgan Stanley Investment Group. The author of five books on bonds and asset allocation, he also appears frequently on C N B C, Bloomberg, FOX, and PBS. His remarks addressed the current global economic and



At Phi Beta Kappa headquarters (L-R): Scott Lurding, Φ BK associate secretary and Michael Allen, Secretary's Circle gold laureate donor

financial crises with an impeccable degree of expertise.

The weekend concluded on Sunday morning with a private briefing

by ΦBK Secretary John Churchill about the Society's direction and initiatives. ■

Sophie Freud Speaks in Φ BK Lecture Series at MIT, April 23

64 He was not a warm and fuzzy grandfather," Sophie Freud recalls. "It wasn't in the culture." But by this time in his life, her famous grandfather, Sigmund Freud, was suffering with cancer of the mouth, and every word was used in economy. Of her escape from the Nazis, she says, "It was a strange adventure." It led her and her mother, Esti, to France in 1938, after the annexation of Austria. When the Germans took Paris in 1940, mother and daughter fled to Casablanca, and from there to New York.

Twenty years after her mother's death, Sophie Freud's memoir, *Living in the Shadow of the Freud Family* (Praeger, 2007), interweaves personal remembrances and family stories with a chronicle of historical events, creating a fascinating window into the dynamics of her famous family.

On April 23, Φ BK members in the Boston area had an opportunity to learn more about the Freud family from Sophie Freud as part of the Phi Beta Kappa Lecture Series held at the Roy



Sophie Freud, center, with members of the lecture planning committee (L-R): Ryan Norbauer, Boston association; Scott Lurding, Φ BK associate secretary; Molly Eckman, Boston association president; Katie Strunk, Boston association; Allison Read, Boston association vice president of communication; and Nancy Upper, Boston association vice president of events

and Maria Stata Center on the MIT campus.

The Φ BK Lecture Series was established by the national office of the Society to provide members with greater opportunities for intellectual fellowship and to allow the Society to return to its historic role of participation in larger, national dialogue about the important issues of our time. The current lecture was organized by the Society's national office in conjunction with the Φ BK Association of Boston and the Φ BK chapter at MIT.

Walter Isaacson Gives 2009 Couper Lecture, April 18

The annual Couper Luncheon was hosted by the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., Saturday, April 18. This year's Couper Lectureship was awarded to distinguished journalist and biographer Walter Isaacson.

Isaacson is the president and CEO of the Aspen Institute, a nonpartisan educational and policy studies institute based in Washington, D.C. He has been the chairman and CEO of CNN, managing editor of *Time Magazine*, and is the author of best-selling biographies of Benjamin Franklin and Albert Einstein.

Isaacson's topic pertained to the decline in print newspaper readership and the corresponding decline in the economic health of the newspaper industry. He suggested that newspapers have to adopt a more sensible business model — charging for on-line access — in order to survive.



L-R: Murray Drabkin, president of the Fellows; Walter Isaacson, journalist and biographer; Jack Williams, Fellows member, news anchor and reporter for WBZ, Boston; and Linda Greenhouse, long-time Supreme Court reporter for *The New York Times* and current Knight Distinguished Journalist-in-Residence and Goldstein Senior Fellow at Yale Law School

The Couper Lectureship is an endowed program through which the Fellows recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the values espoused by the Society. It is named for the late Richard W. Couper, past president of the Fellows.

Economic Crisis Theory Another Look at Karl Marx

By Amy Wendling

The current economic crisis has provoked needed reflection about the norms and values associated with conducting business as usual. We question how we spend, save and regard money. We look again at our use of energy. We examine how we deploy technology, and for what ends.

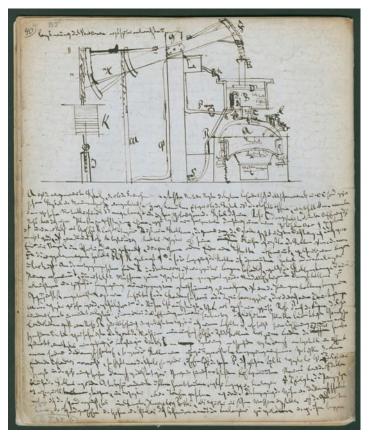
To be fair, we had been warned. This warning was formulated in one of its most trenchant ways not five or even 15 years ago, but more than 100 years ago in the writings of Karl Marx. Marx gave the economic system we call capitalism its name. In his 1867 magnum opus Capital, a work that is also the most mature expression of his philosophical worldview, Marx argues that periodic crisis is inherent to the nature, fabric and structure of capitalism. He demonstrates how capitalist uses technology damage of human beings and the natural world. He also shows that capitalism causes us to be alienated from our products, our activity, nature and one another. And as capitalism has developed, so has this alienation.

Because of the world economic crisis, Marx's *Capital* is one of the best selling non-fiction works in Germany. He himself could scarcely have imagined this triumph. As an

impoverished expatriate in Victorian London, Marx had to write newspaper articles for the American press to survive, since his scholarly and journalistic efforts on the European continent fell on ears deafened by his own political infamy.

This infamy was only exacerbated in the following century. Like JeanJacques Rousseau whose ideas he admired, Marx is one of the few political philosophers whose work had immediate political consequences.

After Marx died in 1883, his manuscripts moved from London to Berlin to Russia then back to Berlin until, thanks to a handful of gutsy expatriating intellectuals (themselves escaping Stalin or Hitler), they landed in



Drawing of a steam engine made by Karl Marx in 1851, Karl Marx Archival Excerpt Notebooks, reproduced with the kind permission of the International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam.

Amsterdam. Today they are archived at the International Institute of Social History, a specialized leftist library that houses many important collections, including the papers of anarchist luminary Mikhail Bakunin and many of the historical records of the German Social Democratic Party.

My research in the Marx archive in

Amsterdam explores his lesser known manuscript materials. I was led to the material by asking a simple question: what did Marx think about technology? Marx's theory about how technology works in capitalism has not been well understood since only a portion of Marx's writing about technology is well known. Because of this, Marx is regarded, mistakenly, as a technologi-

cal determinist. With funding from the Fulbright Association and the Social Science Research Council, I spent 11 months in Amsterdam collecting some lesser known material that debunks this myth about Marx. Far from regarding technology as the driving force of society, Marx understood that society's norms and values also shape the path along which technologies develop or fail to develop.

During the 1850s, Marx was investigating the technological infrastructure of the Industrial Revolution. While most people know Marx as a political philosopher, few understand the depth or range of the studies he undertook in order to diagnose and explain capitalism and alienation. The studies of technology that Marx made in the 1850s are scientifically detailed and draw on the most cutting edge scholarship of his generation.

Marx was one of the

first philosophers to speculate about which technologies get developed in the capitalist mode of production and which are suppressed or ignored. Today, these speculations have only become more important as we look at the costs of fossil fuel technologies in order to consider technologies that capitalism has not invested in as readily, *Continued on page 11*

The Most Litigious People in the World Land Disputes and Legal Culture in the Palau Islands

By Jeffrey S. Rasley

When I went to the Palau Islands in the South Pacific in 2001 for the first time, it was to fulfill a dream of scuba diving and solo-kayaking around the Rock Islands. The Rock Islands are one of the most pristine diving and kayaking locations in the world with coral-covered reefs, tropical fish and

secluded beaches. However, as a Phi Beta Kappa I was not content just to enjoy paradise. Some companions accuse me of always seeking the thorns among the roses. But my liberal arts education at the University of Chicago taught me to analyze and study the environments and cultures I encounter as part of the pleasure I find in the experience.

During my second visit to Palau, I met 84year-old Klerang Melimerang, who

lived alone in the jungle. She claimed her rights to the land on which she lived all her life through seven generations of matrilineal descent back to "Temtik, the one who first found this land." Klerang's dwelling was an openair shelter, where she lived until her death in 2006. She bathed in a stream that ran behind her home. She tended her taro patch in the day and enjoyed the call of birds and the beauty of the stars at night. She told me she had only one worry — that the lawsuit over the title to her land would not be resolved before she died. It wasn't.

About 12,000 native Palauans live in Palau, and 6,000 live off-island. Land ownership in Palau is legally restricted to Palauans. Yet, so many real estate disputes exist in this independent nation within greater Micronesia that a court devoted solely to land claims was established in 1996. Senior Judge Dan Cadra of the Land Court didn't know, when I asked him, how many cases have been filed with the court, but he speculated that there were 12,000 yet to be docketed. Mark Doran, an attorney in private practice

tion, I began to investigate the cause of the litigiousness on this island paradise. The roots were in Palau's colonial history. Germans began taking land from Palauans in 1899, and the Japanese engaged in massive confiscations after they succeeded the Germans in 1914, until they were ousted by the Americans at the end of World War II.

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The Land Court Judges on the bench in 2002 (L-R): Senior Judge Dan Cadra, Judge Jerrlyn Uduch Senior and Judge Ronald Rdechor. Photo by Jeffrey S. Rasley.

in the capitol city of Koror, estimated that 10,000 cases had been filed and that 20,000 more will be filed; that is, 30,000 cases among 18,000 Palauans. One of the Land Court judges dryly told me, "Palauans are the most litigious people in the world. Land fights are the national past-time."

Craig Rosillo, legal counsel for the State of Koror, claimed that 99 percent of Palauans are involved in land claims. I believe it. Every Palauan I met there was directly or indirectly involved in real estate litigation. For example, the taxi driver who drove me to the Land Court regaled me about the real estate litigation in which she had been involved for years.

After my third kayaking expedi-

clan, while residential and cultivated tracts were controlled by individuals and families. Palauan clan customs varied as to who would inherit land rights. In some clans it was typically the eldest son, but in others the "strong member" would decide, and in others the family would decide by group consensus. The "title record" of property was only known by the oral history of the clan.

A written registry of much of the land in Palau, called the "Tochi Daicho," was created by the Japanese prior to World War II. After the war, the TTA used the Tochi Daicho as the starting place for determining land ownership. Land registered to the Japanese in the Tochi Daicho would be public land controlled by the govern-*Continued on page 10*

Astronomer Steven Squyres Gives ΦBK Lecture; J. Brown Goehering Award Dedicated at Washington and Lee

By Julie A. Campbell

If anyone is looking for an engaging speaker to make the connections between the liberal arts, adventure and science, Steven Squyres is your man. The Goldwin Smith Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University, who is the principal investigator of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover Mission,

delivered an insightful and humorous address to the March 12 Phi Beta Kappa convocation at Washington and Lee University, in Lexington, Va. An enthusiastic audience of students, faculty, staff and families relished every word.

Squyres, who became a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Cornell University in 1977, gave new meaning to the word "trouper." Fitting his Washington and Lee engagement into a packed schedule that had him flying in and out the same day, he

also was suffering from a bad cold and the aftereffects of a tumble on the ski slope. He gave his all to the talk, however, and the audience was unaware that only determination, his good nature and prescription painkillers kept

A t its Phi Beta Kappa convocation on March 12, the Gamma of Virginia Chapter at Washington and Lee University surprised one of its mainstays, J. Brown Goehring, by renaming its sophomore award in his honor.

Goehring (Φ BK, Davidson College, 1955) was a chemistry professor at Washington and Lee for 38 years. For 22 of those years, he served as secretary/treasurer of the Φ BK chapter. When he took on the role, he him at the podium. Marcia France (Φ BK, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988), Washington and Lee professor of chemistry and president of the Gamma of Virginia chapter, invited Squyres.

After seeing Squyres hold his own against Stephen Colbert during a June 7, 2006, appearance on *The Colbert Report*, France knew he could deliver made an alumnus member of H.F. "Gerry" Lenfest, a member of the undergraduate class of 1953 and the law class of 1955, and it named Marguerite Lenfest an honorary member. The memberships recognize the Lenfests' outstanding contributions to the worlds of business, education and the arts.

The chapter gave its sophomore award for highest



L-R: J. Brown Goehring, retired Washington and Lee chemistry professor and long-time Φ BK chapter officer, with speaker Steven Squyres, Goldwin Smith Professor of Astronomy, Cornell University. Photo by Patrick Hinely, courtesy of Washington and Lee University.

the goods to a Phi Beta Kappa audience.

Before Squyres' talk, the Gamma of Virginia chapter welcomed 47 members of the classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010 into its ranks. The chapter also

had no administrative help, so he and he alone prepared spreadsheets of grades for elections, took key orders, handled the paperwork for the national office, collected membership dues and paid the bills. (Three people do that work today.) Goehring was, and remains to this day, the institutional memory of Phi Beta Kappa at Washington and Lee.

At the celebratory banquet, Marcia France, chapter president, exhibited a small cardboard box ty can often lead to surprising and useful results. The "twin robot geologists" Spirit and Opportunity, as the project's Web site (*marsrovers.nasa.gov/home/ index.html*) describes them, blasted off for Mars in June and July of 2003.

stuffed with paper slips, which the chapter uses to record votes during elections. "I am not sure when Brown cut up all these paper ballots," said France, "but we've been using them since I arrived on campus 14 years ago, and we have enough that no secretary/treasurer will need to make more until well into the 22nd century."

— Julie Campbell and Marcia France

announced the renaming of that award after J. Brown Goehring, a retired chemistry professor who served as the chapter's secretary/treasurer for 22 years. (See below for more on Goehring.) Squyres drew pertinent examples from his work with the Mars

Exploration Rovers

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Andrew Tessier, Jr.

At the same time, it

They landed in January 2004, with a mission to explore the history of water on the red planet.

Squyres described the thousands of mistakes that his team made before and after the robots arrived. For example, Opportunity landed in what they thought was a strange place that had no rocks to study as planned, just soil. But then the researchers grew entranced with the small, gravel-like spheres that Opportunity was examining. They realized they were concretions, which in geologic terms means there had been water at that spot. Score one for Opportunity and for taking a wrong turn.

Later, Opportunity got stuck in a dune. On Earth, Squyres and the team spent more than two weeks simulating the predicament with mounds of fake Martian dirt. As it turned out, "the best technique was to put it in reverse and gun it," confided Squyres. "Sometimes you just have to get lucky."

Spirit, meanwhile, wound up with a dead wheel that dragged as the robot cruised the planet's surface. Not what Squyres and team had planned, but then that faulty wheel dug up silica and opal that indicated "Silica Valley," as they dubbed the area, had once been inhabitable. "Serendipity works for you," Squyres told the students.

Overall, Squyres emphasized, "You are going to spend a lot of time not knowing what you are doing." And that is just fine. Seek adventure. Make the most of your opportunities at school and after graduation. Take risks. Sample diversity. Try new things.

Case in point: At the end of his junior year as a geology major, Squyres took a risk by enrolling in a graduate-level course in astronomy. He visited the classroom dedicated to Mars, planning to stay a few minutes and browse through some photos. Four hours later, he emerged and "knew exactly what I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

For Squyres, the rest of his life so far, anyway — has meant research on the large solid bodies of the solar system: the terrestrial planets and the satellites of the Jovian planets. He analyzes data from spacecraft, telescopes and geophysical modeling. He focuses on the tectonics of Venus, the history of water on Mars and the geophysics of the icy satellites of the outer planets. He has served on the teams of several planetary spaceflight missions, including the Voyager imaging science team, the Magellan mission to Venus, the Mars Observer gamma-ray spectrometer flight investigation team, and the Russian Mars 1996 mission. In addition to his Mars Rover work, he is a coinvestigator on the Mars Express mission and on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment. He belongs to the Gamma-Ray Spectrometer Flight Investigation Team for the Mars Odyssey mission, and to the imaging team for the Cassini mission to Saturn.

Given that résumé and his clear enthusiasm for his career, it's no wonder Squyres ended his talk with a quote from Helen Keller: "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."

Julie A. Campbell is associate director of communications and public affairs at Washington and Lee University. She became a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Arizona State University in 1979.



Phi Beta Kappa Membership Items

Phi Beta Kappa's distinctive key design, the symbol of membership in the Society, is featured on a range of new additions to the collection of membership items, including the crystal stein shown here.

Also, a complete line of solid gold and gold-plated key jewelry, as well as other items bearing the Society's insignia is available. Keys are made in three sizes in either 10-karat solid gold or 24-karat gold electroplate. The medium-size key is shown here actual size with matching 18-inch neck chain.

The Phi Beta Kappa lamp features a deeply carved key insignia and is made from solid maple hardwood. Each lamp is personalized on the back with the member's name, chapter and year of election. Delivery of the lamp takes four to six weeks.

To order, complete the form below and mail it with your payment and a copy of your mailing label from the back cover showing your membership number to Hand & Hammer, 2610 Morse Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22192. You can also place an order or request the complete product brochure by calling (703) 491-4866 or by faxing (703) 491-2031. You can also order on line at www.hand-hammer.com. A three dollar shipping and handling fee is added to each order.

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Elizabeth Warner Thomas Receives ΦBK Key 64 Years Later 1945 College of Wooster Graduate Honored at Induction Ceremony, May 10

By John Finn

Ah, the coveted Phi Beta Kappa key — a national symbol of academic excellence in the liberal arts and sciences. But for Elizabeth Warner Thomas, it was little more than an illusion. Although the former biology major had been inducted into the prestigious honor society on April 14, 1945, the shipment of keys was delayed, so she never received one. A week later, she married fellow student Robert Thomas and left campus without the key.

Over the years, Thomas longed for her Phi Beta Kappa keepsake and was continually reminded of its absence by her two sons and five grandchildren who went on to earn degrees at Wooster.

And so she waited — patiently but persistently — for more than six

PALAU Continued from 7

ment. However, if an individual or clan claimed that their land had been taken without just compensation, or by force or duress, then the claim would be presented in court.

The Palauan Congress, called Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK), enacted the Land Registration Act of 1987. The act was intended to create a system of ownership recognition on a tract by tract basis for the entire country. Instead, the act created the opportunity for Palauans to drink deeply from the well of real estate litigation.

The volume and unpredictability of claims is a nightmare in case management for the Land Court. Cadra complained that the number of cases filed with his court is more comparable to the docket of courts in Los Angeles than the docket of a court with jurisdiction over a citizen population of 18,000. Statistics provided by the court reveal that about two cases are resolved each working day. Yet, many cases are decades old, and new cases are filed every day.

In land cases, discovery is not per-

decades until Paul Bonvallet, assistant professor of chemistry and secretary of Wooster's Phi Beta Kappa chapter, became aware of the decades-old oversight. "The Office of Alumni Relations connected me with Elizabeth's son, Roy, and I did some checking," said Bonvallet. "I was able to determine that she was, in fact, inducted in 1945. We even had the roll book with her signature, so I made a request online, and the key arrived this spring. At last, we could carry out an institutional promise that was made a long time ago."

On Sunday, May 10, the extended wait came to an end as the energetic 87-year old grandmother not only received her key but also served as the keynote speaker at the annual Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony. In offering the charge to the initiates, Thomas said, "Wooster has prepared you to make a difference in the world. Promote justice, reason, and inquiry, and strive to make the world a better place. Treat others with decency and always continue to learn."

After her remarks, Bonvallet presented her with the key, which brought members of the audience — including the 32 current inductees — to their feet for a standing ovation.

Thomas remained in Wooster overnight so that she could attend to one final piece of unfinished business: Her granddaughter Rebecca's graduation the following Monday — and you can bet that Thomas didn't allow her to leave campus without her diploma.

John Finn is the director of public information at the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

formed and the rules of evidence are relaxed. The only record of land holding other than the Tochi Daicho is oral history. So, according to Doran, "Cases are won by who tells the best story." Some hearings resemble bardic competitions more than formal judicial proceedings. Palauan case law recognizes that custom and tradition must be proved by expert testimony, and Palauan elders seem happy to serve as expert witnesses relating the oral history of their clans (and turn a buck in the process).

The hearing I observed was an interesting synthesis of tradition and formality. An elder employed by one of the parties chanted a clan genealogy like a chapter from Moses' Book of Numbers, while attorneys for the contesting parties sat at counsel tables in suits and the black-robed judge presided from the bench.

Cadra laughingly agreed that hearings in the Land Court can certainly try the patience of the judges. Traditional Palauan legends are hundreds of years old, but are recited in court as evidence of a particular clan's claim.

Outsiders may be surprised to dis-

cover the extent and complexity of land disputes in this small island nation, but to some Palauans, it is tragic. Judge Jerrlyn Uduch Senior expressed heartache over seeing families torn apart by land disputes. "It used to be, land was just a place to put a house. Now, people want land for its commercial value." She fears consumerism and commercialism are replacing communalism and living in harmony with nature as Palauans' core values.

The traditional creation myth of Palau is that its islands were formed by the painful death of the giant Uab. He fell into the ocean face down after he was burned to death by Palauan villagers. The islands of Palau were formed by the parts of Uab's body that remained above sea level. Perhaps it was fated then, that the descendants of those villagers who created the land out of Uab's painful death would find the land painful to own. ■

Jeffrey S. Rasley (ΦBK , University of Chicago, 1975) is an attorney, world traveler and a Life Member of the Fellows of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

ΦBK Vice President Judith Krug Dies



Judith Fingeret Krug, 69, passed away April 11, 2009. Advisor, author and public servant, she was a remarkable leader in the struggle to educate the public concerning the right to the free expression of ideas.

Krug served as the director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association for over 40 years, was vice president of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and executive director of the Freedom to Read Foundation. She worked tirelessly to guarantee the rights of individuals to express ideas and read the ideas of others without governmental interference.

Through her unwavering support

Economic Crisis Theory Continued from 6

and especially at alternative energy sources such as biofuels and solar and wind powers. Since capitalism values maximizing profit at all costs, it becomes wedded to technological infrastructures that are already in place, such as fossil fuels. Far from advancing technology uniformly, capitalism often hobbles or cripples those technologies that do not conform to its regime of value. Capitalism also occludes moral questions about final social and moral goods, particularly those goods that do not maximize profit, since maximizing profit is the only good that capitalism admits.

Looking at Marx's texts in a more careful and more objective way is made possible through a certain historical juncture, a juncture enabled by the of writers, teachers, librarians, and above all, students, she has advised countless numbers of librarians and trustees in dealing with challenges to library material. She has been involved in multiple First Amendment cases that have gone all the way to the United States Supreme Court. In addition, she was the founder of Banned Books Week, an annual week-long event that celebrates the freedom to choose and the freedom to express one's opinion.

"With the passing of Vice-President Judith Krug, the Phi Beta Kappa Society and American society have lost a truly great champion of intellectual freedom, a cardinal ideal of both," said Allison Blakely, president of Phi Beta Kappa. "During her years as an elected officer of Phi Beta Kappa her integrity, dedication and irrepressible optimism left an indelible imprint on all those she worked with, that will continue to inspire us to follow her example."

Krug's legacy is a lifetime of passionate commitment, advocacy and affirmative actions to protect the Constitutional rights of citizens granted under the First Amendment.

end of the Cold War and the current

economic crisis. These phenomena

have freed scholarly attention to

Marx's texts from the immediate polit-

ical pressures that plagued an earlier

generation of intellectuals and

activists. They have also allowed us to

see Marx as the philosopher he truly

was, a philosopher whose texts we

have perhaps just begun to mine for

insights about how to explain our pres-

ent condition, especially our reliance

on outdated technologies, the alien-

ation many experience in their work

lives, and looming environmental and

economic crises. Studies in the history

of science and philosophy — far from

simply being scholarly exercises —

have become crucial ways of under-

standing how the artefacts of the

worlds we inhabit are shot through

with norms and values, norms and val-

John Hope Franklin Continued from 3

text on the African-American experience, more than 60 years after its publication — and he lived it. Franklin worked on the Brown v. Board of Education (1954) case and joined protestors in a 1965 march led by Martin Luther King, Jr. in Montgomery, Ala.

He is perhaps best known to the public for his work on President Bill Clinton's 1997 national advisory board on race. But his reputation as a scholar was made in 1947 with the publication of his book, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African-Americans*, which is still considered the definitive account of the black experience in America.

"My challenge was to weave into the fabric of American history enough of the presence of blacks so that the story of the United States could be told adequately and fairly," he said when the 50th anniversary of the book was celebrated in 1997. "That was terribly important."

"ΦBK is just one of many organizations where Franklin broke down longstanding racial barriers to leadership," said ΦBK President Allison Blakely.

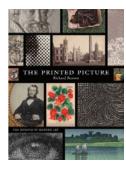
Read the Society's official statement on the death of Franklin on the Φ BK Web site at *www.pbk.org*.

ues that we must call into question.

Amy Wendling became a member of ΦBK at Southwestern University in 1998 while majoring in philosophy. She continued her education at The Pennsylvania State University, where she earned her Ph.D. in philosophy following a Fulbright grant to Amsterdam. Her first book, Karl Marx Technology and Alienation on (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009), has just become available. She is an assistant professor of philosophy at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb. Currently, she is working on the connections between aesthetics and politics. For more information, please see her Web site: http://puffin.creighton.edu/Amy Wendling

From Our Book Critics

By Svetlana Alpers



The
Printed
Picture.Printed
Richard
Benson.Benson.The
MuseumMuseumof
Modern Art, New
York, 2008.York, 2008.338
pages.

What's in a book? What can the pages of a

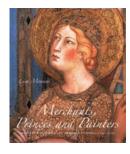
book display? It is an odd fact that at the very moment when there is so much concern about book publishing and sales, a number of illustrated books have appeared that surprise and delight with the visual knowledge that books in particular can offer.

Richard Benson, a renowned printer, photographer and a long-time lecturer at Yale University, has written a rigorous study about the look of printed pictures by examining the manner in which they are made. This well-illustrated, well-designed and notably wellmade volume is an historical handbook with the idiosyncratic voice of an experienced practitioner to guide us through.

Benson's stated assumption, by no means self-evident, is that printing, photography and digital technology, as applied to pictures, are all aspects of a single ancient process which creates multiple copies of fixed visual forms. His organization is chronological from woodcut to inkjet print — with each process and subtypes given its page and its picture. The illustrations are reproduced by conventional process-color printing in off-set lithography. (Read the book and you will find out what that is.) The many enlarged details of printed images offer astonishing evidence of what the human eye is able to process.

People, landscapes, statutes, architecture, a blue print and some five dollar bills are among the prints. This is not high art but rather things Benson found in books or as individual photos and collected for pleasure and for teaching. We all possess comparable things. I learned that the remarkable black and white pictures of sculpture in the 1957 edition of H.W. Janson's *The Sculpture of Donatello* are collotypes. Benson tells you how a collotype is (or was) made. Technology advances, but he believes that for the artist there remain old paths not taken. Curiously, his final image is of an oil painting. It is there, oppositionally, as a reminder of the activity of the human eye/hand/mind that is fast becoming irrelevant.

The book is designed as a reference book to put on a shelf. But you will enjoy looking through it and reading around in it first.



Merchants, Princes and Painters: Silk Fabrics in Italian and Northern Paintings, 1300-1550. Lisa Monnas. Yale University

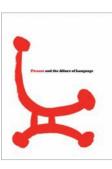
Press, 2009. 352 pages. \$75.00

This book is a big and beautiful presentation of impressive scholarly research. It is also strange to look through. The second plate is a detail of the right side of Rogier van der Weyden's *Descent from the Cross* in the Prado in Madrid. The printed image makes a bold cut through the thighs thus truncating the body of the dead Christ. The aim of the cut is to focus in on what is described as "the cloth of sumptuous gold figured in dark brown velvet with details picked out in bouclé gold wefts" draped over Joseph of Arimathea. But a cut it remains.

The author, an art historian who transformed herself into a leading expert on renaissance textiles, uses depicted cloth as sources for the classification of Italian Renaissance silks and to study their social role.

Another photograph focuses on the red velvet cloth of gold in a design of foliage with pomegranates making the hat worn by Niccolò da Tolentino just off center in Paolo Uccello's wellknown *The Battle of San Romano* in London. The text explains in detail how the painter executed his imitation cloth. The image of a chasuble of similar velvet on loan at the Victoria and Albert Museum is on the opposite page. Juxtaposed photographs compare the design formed by black velvet pile enriched with bouclé wefts of gold of the gown in Agnolo Bronzino's famous Uffizi portrait of *Eleanora di Toledo and Her Son* with a fragment of astonishingly similar material preserved in Turin. Research has shown that Eleanora was rarely so extravagant in her dress and that the cloth was made in Florence after a Spanish design.

For the general reader what catches the eye and sticks in the mind are the many juxtapositions calling attention to the mysterious relationship between depicted cloth and the real thing. The strangeness lies partly in the fact that one is not used to looking at either in this close-up, intensive manner. But, in addition, one gradually becomes aware that viewing painting through cloth as proposed here is entirely dependent on the testimony of color photographs printed on the pages of a carefully designed book.



Picasso and the Allure of L anguage. Susan Greenberg Fisher; With Mary Ann Caws, Jennifer R. Gross, Patricia Leighten, Irene Small, S. Zelda Roland and Katherine M.

Wyman. Yale University Press, 2009. 272 pages. \$40.00

The contents of this book are somewhat of a mixed bag. It has the air of being the brainchild of some smart people playing a game: On what basis can we put together an exhibition and book out of the treasure trove of works by and around Pablo Picasso that have been given over the years to Yale University? The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library has the Gertrude Stein Archive and also printed art books, and Picasso objects are in the Yale University Art Gallery. Curators and scholars at Yale were joined in the project by scholars at Duke University. It is a bringing together of different institutions in a productive way.

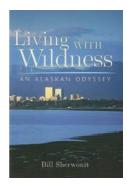
As an object, the elegant paperbound book is a delight to have and, literally, to hold. The cover blazes with a red calligraphic flourish reproducing one of the splendid lithographic illuminations Picasso devised soon after World War II to accompany an elegant publication of *Le Chant des Morts* by Pierre Reverdy. The introductions by Mary Ann Caws to five thematic sections and the catalogue entries for works grouped in each are informative about Picasso's friendship with poets and his devotion to words.

There are many printed pictures (to hark back to Richard Benson's title) of paintings and of yet more of those photographs of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas at home in Paris. But the heart of the matter is the interest Picasso had in images made to appear with or as words. Often we are not looking at pictures in a book but at images that may be described as at one with a book: Ovid's Metamorphoses or Honoré de Balzac's "Le chef d'oeuvre inconnu" as pages with drawings; Buffon's text with Picasso marginalia; a Stein calling card scooped up into a collage.

Of course the game did not work out neatly. Some items at Yale do not fit the rubric, and works are included which are not at Yale. But something of Picasso's delight in putting marks on book pages finds its way into the vivid array of images printed on the pages here.

Svetlana Alpers, an artist and renowned art historian, is professor emerita of the history of art at the University of California, Berkeley and a visiting scholar in the Department of Fine Arts at New York University.

By G. Cornelissen-Guillaume



Living with Wildness: An A l a s k a n Odyssey. Bill S h e r w o n i t. University of Alaska Press, 2008. 232 pages. \$21.95

Bill Sherwonit's careful

choice of title sets the stage for this beautiful book of essays. It's not just another book depicting the breathtaking landscapes of the northern frontier nor another documentary about the wildlife of Alaska. It's a great deal more, delving into the complex relationship between nature and civilization and how we can enjoy and learn from nature almost anywhere, any time. In the introduction, the author provides an in-depth explanation of the difference between "wildness" and "wilderness." In a nutshell, wilderness relates mostly to a place and an idea; wildness represents a quality, a state of being. The central theme of the book, then, revolves around the question of how we can nurture our wildness rather than subdue and tame it.

The author's down-to-earth writing style easily conveys the lessons learned from his outdoor adventures, whether they take place in his native Connecticut neighborhood, his surroundings at Anchorage's Hillside, his excursions at nearby Chugach State Park and Anchorage's wild coastal fringes, or his solitary travels to the mountains of Alaska's remote Brooks Range. In each case, Sherwonit recounts his experiences with humility and awe. Whether his encounters are with wood frogs, chickadees, sandhill cranes or bears, all are treated with the same reverence.

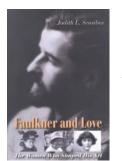
A major take-home message of this book is the essence of paying attention as a prerequisite to connecting with nature — not only on special trips to a park or wildlife reserve but close to home in everyday life — in order to enjoy the special pleasures offered by each season's changing landscape and to find our own place in nature among other animals and plants with whom we share this world. Special encounters with an arctic wolf, with a grizzly bear and with a halibut on a fishing trip are witnesses of the collision of man and nature, but they are also a reminder of the miracle of being part of this larger spectacle and of our connection with our planet. They embody the importance and value of experiencing the wonder and mystery of life.

Sherwonit poetically describes the wonders of the night sky, the flashing, shimmering flickering, aurorae. Contrasting their fiery lights burning across the Denali sky with the nightly auroral forecasts in the Anchorage newspaper, he chooses "rhapsody over rational thought, poetry over physical phenomena." This is yet another testimony that we are constantly immersed in wildness and carry wildness within us. To him, our imaginations, our dreams, our emotions and our ideas are wild. Such qualities as spontaneity, the feeling of connectedness with the larger world, free-spiritedness and the sense of the sacred when in nature all hint at our inherent wildness.

Reading this book was a lesson in humility and made me appreciate all the better the treasures nature has to offer.

Germaine Cornelissen-Guillaume is a professor of integrative biology and physiology and co-director of the Halberg Chronobiology Center at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

By M. Thomas Inge



FaulknerandLove:TheWomenWhoShaped HisArt.JudithL.Sensibar.YaleUniversityPress,2009.616 pages.\$40.00

One would

think that with the large number of biographies of William Faulkner in print, some of them running into thousands of pages with compendious notes and turgid interpretations, that just about everything of value has been said about the Mississippi novelist. Not so, says Judith L. Sensibar, in her compelling and profound study *Faulkner in Love: The Women Who Shaped His Art*. In seeking out the forces that influenced his fiction, critics have tended to turn to his family history, the paternal figures in his life and the Southern culture that nourished him.

Instead, Sensibar shifts the focus to the central women in his family who have been treated generally as shadowy figures or presences of little consequence in understanding his work: Caroline ("Callie") Barr, the ex-slave who raised the writer; his iconoclastic mother, Maude Butler Falkner, who inspired his interests in art and literature; and his wife, Estelle Oldham Faulkner, usually seen as a hindrance to his success but here viewed as a major creative collaborator in his artistic achievements.

Using hitherto unavailable documents and archives, and especially extensive interviews with Faulkner's daughter, Jill Faulkner Summers, Sensibar weaves throughout her rich narrative attention to three biographical issues: William's and Estelle's experiences with both the black and white women who nurtured them; the cultural and psychological role of alcohol in their world; and the relation between their "collaborative fantasy, Faulkner's creativity, and his raced and gendered self-representations."

Those who think they know Faulkner biography are in for a few surprises as they move through Sensibar's lucid and illuminating pages, such as the family and life that Callie Barr had beyond her white charges; the serious and worthy efforts of Estelle to fashion a career for herself as a writer; and the importance of art, photography and visual aesthetics in their lives. Especially striking are a series of snapshots taken by Faulkner of his two-year-old daughter which recreate the central image behind the writing of *The Sound and the Fury*, an image which he once said was "the only thing in literature that would ever move me very much."

Room must be made on the book-

shelf of Faulkner biography for this exhaustively researched and brilliantly argued new study. Although it covers the author's life mainly up to the publication of *The Sound and the Fury*, it will make several of the earlier efforts irrelevant, and nothing written about the subject hereafter will risk not taking it into account.



Louisiana Colonial Era to Colonial Era to Katrina. John Lowe, editor. Louisiana State University Press, 2008. 327 pages. \$49.95

New Orleans,

in many ways the quintessential American city, in other ways is unlike any other. As editor John Lowe indicates in his superb introduction to this excellent collection of essays, the city is an amalgam of African, Caribbean and European influences which have fed into a culture, society and way of life quite distinct, if not unique, in its character but clearly representative of American multiculturalism.

While a part of the South and all that the region represents, Louisiana has also been a "hub of a vast Caribbean wheel, where Cajuns, Creoles, Cubans, Haitians and others are part of a New World configuration, the components of which prosper from the contributions of the African, Jewish, Asian, French and Hispanic diasporas. New Orleans emerges from the new concept as a transnational city."

Under the skillful hand of the editor, these ideas are explored in 14 essays written by a selection of our most perceptive scholars, critics and creative writers in the states and Europe, all focused on the history and life of the Crescent City, from the time of the Louisiana Purchase through the recent devastations of Hurricane Katrina. Slavery, Creole culture, racial identity, politics, jazz and music are among the topics of essays, as well as literature from and about New Orleans by such authors as John Kennedy Toole, Ellen Gilchrist, Kate Chopin, George Washington Cable, and the former poet laureate of the state, Pinkie Gordon Lane.

The volume is appropriately dedicated to "the memory of our fellow citizens who lost their lives in the hurricanes of 2005, to those who are still displaced from their homes and to all those who continue to work to restore our land and our culture." Sad to say, Katrina having occurred during one of our worst federal administrations in U.S. history, almost four years later, we are nowhere near a full restoration of the city. But the community is too vibrant, lively and culturally aggressive to remain dormant for very long, and these essays indicate why eventually we will witness New Orleans again in all its resplendent glory.



Fourth The **Ghost:** White **Southern Writers** and European Fascism, 1930-1950. Robert H. Brinkmever. Jr. Louisiana State University Press, 2009. 413 pages. \$49.95

Robert H. Brinkmeyer, Jr., our most accomplished critic of Southern literature and culture now writing, takes on in The Fourth Ghost: White Southern Writers and European Fascism a highly controversial and inflammatory topic and acquits himself with admirable distinction. The title refers to the three racial "ghosts" that Lillian Smith said haunted the psyche of the Southern mind: the black woman as an object of sexual desire by the white man, the mixed race child that resulted, and the black mammy first loved and then necessarily rejected by the white child. The "fourth ghost" added by Brinkmeyer is the specter of European Fascism. During the 1930s and the 1940s, the racial politics of Nazi Germany seemed to parallel and reify the segregationist and racist attitudes of the Southern social system.

Most Southern writers during this period felt compelled to address this disturbing conjunction of ideas, from what seemed like an open embrace by the Agrarian contributors to pro-fascist Seward Collins' journal *The American Review* to William Faulkner's vehement rejection of fascism through "a profound reconfiguration of his understanding of art and the artist, to affirm the artist's responsibility to society and democracy."

In ten chapters devoted to the Nashville Agrarians and major figures such as W. J. Cash, William Alexander Percy, Lillian Smith, Thomas Wolfe, Faulkner, Katherine Anne Porter, Carson McCullers, Robert Penn Warren and Lillian Hellman. Brinkmeyer sensitively and intelligently surveys their writing to determine and critique their political beliefs. This is intellectual history at its best, thoroughly researched and carefully considered, published at a time when charges of so-called "political correctness" serve to mask an effort to eradicate what little progress has been made in civil rights and race relations. The chapter on Faulkner makes more sense out of his complicated and contradictory political beliefs than have any number of monographs on the subject, and the treatment of the Agrarians, charged with being racist and fascist, is eminently balanced and fair.

This is a brave and disturbing book, for Southerners and all Americans in general, who believe that the past should be put away and left unexamined. As Faulkner reminded us, the past is never past, and the specters of white supremacy and fascism remain a part of our cultural landscape.

M. Thomas Inge is the Robert Emory Blackwell Professor of Humanities at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, Va. He is an authority in American studies best known for his work in Southern literature and the art of the comics.

By Jan Lewis



2666: A Novel. *Roberto Bolaño. Natasha Wimmer, translator. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2008. 912 pages. \$30.00*

In five parts, 912 pages, and countless digres-

stories-within-stories. sions and Roberto Bolaño tells two loosely-connected stories about people who have disappeared. One is about an aged, reclusive German novelist who calls himself Benno von Archimboldi. Four European academics who have made their careers studying his work hear that he has been sighted in the Mexican border town of Santa Teresa; three of them set off to try to find him. The other story is about the brutal rape and murders of hundreds of women in Santa Teresa, most of them poor, many of them workers in the maquiladoras or factories that have sprung up to produce goods for the export trade. As many reviewers have noted, Santa Teresa is loosely based on Ciudad Juárez, the site of more than 400 such murders in the past decade.

The academics, it turns out, are more assiduous although not necessarily more successful in the pursuit of their quarry than the Mexican police are in their search for the women's murderer or murderers. Bolaño's account of the discovery of the bodies and the ineffectual efforts to find the killers are at the heart of the novel. While waiting for the coroner to arrive, a detective sits on the couch, reading the victim's magazines. Bolaño takes his epigraph from Charles Baudelaire: "An oasis of horror in a desert of boredom," but just as often we see people seeking escape in the most mundane of activities.

Those who expect a conventional detective story will be disappointed; that, I suppose, is much of the point. When a jaded police officer discovers that an eager young detective has been reading the classic *Modern Criminal Investigation*, he berates him, "Don't

you know, you snot-nose bastard, that there is no such thing as modern criminal investigation?" People go missing, trails run cold. None of the stories Bolaño tells has a happy ending; indeed, hardly any of them have an ending at all.

2666 is tied together not by narrative thread but by theme and image. Only some of the characters reappear in subsequent sections, but the same themes are repeated, with variations. We see violence in an array of manifestations, ranging from Joseph Stalin's purges, the Holocaust, and the carpet bombing of German cities to snuff movies, prison rapes and the murders of the women of Santa Teresa. Violence, it seems, is the human condition, civilization the thinnest of veneers. Three literature professors, two men and a woman, sitting in the back of a London cab, discuss with detachment the sexual tension among them until their Pakistani cabbie comments on the irregularity of the relationships. The men beat him senseless and are then overcome by "the strangest calm of their lives. It was as if they'd finally had the *ménage* à trois they'd so often dreamed of." Sex and violence are inextricable. One character, otherwise sympathetic, frequents prostitutes who "didn't always charge him, which often led to misunderstandings that were violently resolved."

Bolaño's world is remarkably bleak. Not love or religion and certainly not art offers any hope of redemption. Rich, complex, multi-layered, the novel gives the reader much to ponder.

Jan Lewis is a professor of history and associate dean for academic affairs at Rutgers University, Newark, N.J., where she has taught American history since 1977. A specialist in colonial and early national history, she is the author of numerous works about American history.

ΦBK members and all other authors are welcome to submit their books for possible review in *The Key Reporter*. Mail copies to *The Key Reporter*, 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009. THE KEY REPORTER THE PHI BETA KAPPA SOCIETY 1606 New Hampshire Ave. NW Washington, D.C. 20009 Tel: (202) 265-3808 Fax: (202) 986-1601 Periodicals Postage **PAID** at Washington DC and at additional mailing addresses

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