Photographs of Vietnam.
On a sabbatical leave I traveled in Vietnam, a country I love for its interesting culture, beautiful scenery, and very friendly people.
—Alfred Wolff, Professor of History
Bridgewater Review

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Virtual Kimono, from an online artist’s book and digital print series by Dorothy Pulsifer, Associate Professor, Art. (pages 15–18). “The kimono shape is filled with digitally manipulated imagery from photos taken during my travels in Japan. Each portrays a different aspect of my experience.”

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Editor’s Notebook
The Lone Ranger’s Creed
by Michael Kryzanek

When I was growing up in the 1950s I spent my Saturday mornings watching the Lone Ranger and his trusted Indian sidekick Tonto bring justice and the American way to the wild west. As a young, impressionable boy, I thought that the Lone Ranger with his white hat, his horse Silver and his white handled guns symbolized all that was good and right in the world. The fact that the Lone Ranger hid behind a mask made him a man of mystery, and his daily ride into the sunset to the William Tell Overture got my blood pumping. Within thirty minutes the Lone Ranger always got his man. I couldn’t wait until next week to see my hero fight the bad guys.

Although the Lone Ranger was an invention of television, Clayton Moore, who portrayed the masked man, was a real life gentleman who believed in the importance of using television heroes to fight for what is good and right. Long after the Lone Ranger went off the air, Clayton Moore continued traveling around the country keeping his hero alive and educating a new generation of young people on the values that the masked man stood for. Clayton Moore called these values the Lone Ranger’s creed of conduct. This hero of the old west believed that all men were created equal, that every one of us should use our God-given gifts to the maximum, that government of the people, by the people and for the people was the best creation of man, and that we must give back to the earth what we take from it. These simple nuggets of good and right were brought into the show as a teaching a lesson on Saturday mornings, and of course I absorbed every nugget.

Today a hero like the Lone Ranger would be laughed off the screen by television executives and ignored by young boys as kind of corny. The world is no longer defined as white vs. black, good vs. evil, but is rather filled with every shade of gray. Masked men in white hats fighting to bring bad guys to justice just don’t make it anymore as we are bombarded with the tormented, the tainted and the tattooed hero who navigates the moral morass of post-modern society. And unlike Clayton Moore, today’s anti-hero has no creed, other than surviving to fight another day with a beautiful blond in tow and millions of dollars in his Swiss bank account. Television heroes don’t teach the new generation of impressionable youths about their ability to make this a better world, or the importance of friendship, or that there are undeniable truths to believe in.

The excuse that is often foisted on us by those who promote the anti-hero is that the 1950s of the Lone Ranger was a much simpler time where people actually thought in terms of absolutes. Those days are gone; so say the new philosophers of nihilism. That may be so but as an old-fashioned kind of guy I ask, what’s so out of date with the Lone Ranger’s creed of conduct? What’s so out of date about friendship, equality, democracy, concern for the planet and belief in fundamental truths? It seems that what we see and hear on television, the movies, video games and music is a complete human and value void. There is no attempt to elevate us to new heights, no celebration of goodness, no attempt to teach about what is right with the world, while condemning what is bad. It’s all a mish mash of gray without value and stripped of those old stand bys, faith, hope and charity.

We seem content to live our lives without much of a moral compass. We take pride in being non-judgmental and leaving people to control their own lives. What we do see in the way of a creed is usually some ranting of a fundamentalist whose ideal of morality is fire and brimstone and who has no idea what it is to be human, what it is to live in a free society, and what needs to be done in order to live together in peace and harmony.

Clayton Moore died a few years ago and his creed, the Lone Ranger’s creed, is now pretty much forgotten. Sometimes if I am lucky I might catch a rerun of the masked man on one of these oldies cable channels. But I don’t have to see the Lone Ranger to know that he influenced my life with some simple truths and some basic human dignity. Thanks masked man. As the Lone Ranger would say as he rode off into the sunset: “Hi Ho Silver Away!”

—Michael Kryzanek is Editor of the Bridgewater Review
The presidential papers of Abraham Lincoln have been available to scholars since 1947 when they were publicly opened twenty-one years after the death of Robert Todd Lincoln, the president’s eldest and sole surviving son. Robert took charge of the papers after his father’s assassination, sometimes carrying them between homes in Washington, D.C. and Chicago and also to his summer residence Hildene in Manchester, Vermont before donating them to the Library of Congress. Robert occasionally made the documents, which consisted mainly of incoming correspondence, available to friendly authors such as Lincoln’s secretaries John Nicolay and John Hay who utilized them in writing their monumental ten-volume Lincoln biography. However, he refused access to other writers who he feared might be too critical and who could not be counted on to sufficiently defend Abraham Lincoln’s legacy, a legacy of which Robert himself had become one of the chief guardians.

Additionally, the papers were also made available in a microfilm edition so that researchers did not have to travel to the Library of Congress but could work in other libraries that had acquired the microfilm. A finding guide was developed, but since it consisted primarily of an alphabetical listing of those who had corresponded with Abraham Lincoln it was cumbersome to use. Anyone who has worked with microfilm can attest to the difficulty in locating a specific item on a single roll of microfilm, as well as the limitations of microfilm readers that make it difficult to decipher often-illegible nineteenth century handwriting. In short, while the Abraham Lincoln papers were an invaluable resource for Lincoln and Civil War scholars, they were not entirely easy to utilize.

In spite of this shortcoming, authors writing about the sixteenth president used many parts of this vast correspondence. But the sheer volume of the collection, which runs to about 20,000 items, always seemed to hint that there might be additional insights about Lincoln’s life and career if only there were some way to make the papers more user friendly.

That need has now been answered due to significant advances in technology in recent years and specifically the American Memory Project at the Library of Congress. The Lincoln documents have been scanned and placed in a database that allows the user to search not only chronologically, but also by name of correspondent and keywords. Additionally, many of the documents have been transcribed under the supervision of Douglas Wilson and Rodney Davis at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, the site of one of the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates. It is now possible to sit at a computer and view any document in the collection, to print a copy, and in many cases to read a transcription.

One interesting example of the type of insight such a search can yield involves the Forefathers Monument in Plymouth, Massachusetts. During a sabbatical, one of the co-authors of this article, while searching the microfilm edition, came across a certificate indicating that Abraham Lincoln had donated money to the building of this famous memorial. However, that was not the topic being investigated and no written note was made about this document, although a mental note was taken that this might be an interesting issue to pursue more thoroughly another time. Since no follow-up was made over a number of years, an attempt to locate the document would now have required a search of forty to fifty reels of microfilm looking for an individual document, a task that appeared rather daunting and uncertain enough of results to justify the time expenditure required.

Using American Memory and typing in the word Plymouth, however, not only yielded the sought-after certificate but additional correspondence about the president’s contribution to the Forefathers Monument as well as an attempt to enlist his name in support of other nineteenth century monument projects. While the idea for a monument to honor the Pilgrims was pro-
posed as far back as 1794, the plan received a boost with the founding of the Pilgrim Society in 1820, the two hundredth anniversary of the landing. However, it was not until the mid-1850s that the Society had accumulated enough funds to search for an architect. Although several individuals submitted designs, the Society finally settled on Hammatt Billings.

Billings was a well-known 19th century artist and architect, although by the 20th century he had become a much more obscure figure until his reputation was somewhat rehabilitated by James O’Gorman of Wellesley College in his biography entitled *Accomplished in All Departments of Art, Hammatt Billings of Boston, 1818-1874*. The artist had made his reputation with designs for businesses, theaters, libraries, funerary monuments, and especially his illustrations for Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*. According to Professor O’Gorman, the main reason that Billings was eventually forgotten was that he was a generalist in what was becoming an age of specialization. While he was skilled in many areas, he was not so outstanding in any one area as to be remembered as an expert.

Billings undertook the monument project at an auspicious moment. Throughout the early part of the nineteenth century, there seemed to be a growing national consciousness that developed in particular around the legacy purported to have been created by the founding of Massachusetts by the Pilgrims and by extension the creation of the United States. Prominent public speakers of the day, such as Daniel Webster and Edward Everett, delivered many addresses at annual celebrations of the landing at Plymouth Rock as well as other commemorative events. For example, at a Forefathers Celebration in 1853, Edward Everett equated the Pilgrims and their ideology as the basis for American freedom and civil liberties. He said, “The political code of the Pilgrims united religion and liberty, morals and law.”

In the same period, while there was also growing interest in the Pilgrims, as seen by the numerous literary works to appear on the Pilgrims in the 1850s such as William Bradford’s *Of Plimoth Plantation*, the vision of the Forefathers Monument also became a symbol of national unity in a period of increasing sectional tension. In many ways, the iconography of the monument, which describes the physical journey of the Pilgrims as well as the social and civil institutions established under them, became a way to demonstrate the founding, creation, and sustaining of a national union increasingly called into question by divisive incidents in the 1850s such as the Fugitive Slave Act, Bleeding Kansas, and Harper’s Ferry. As O’Gorman emphasizes, it was to that concept of a national tradition that Billings and his patrons looked in creating the monument. He notes, “the monument was designed to remind all citizens, both North and South, of their collective heritage—Billings’ aim was to give shape to the words of the great orators of his day in the cause of preserving national unity—through the celebration of a shared heroic origin.”

In any event, once Billings had secured the contract, he hired the Reverend William Harding as general fundraising agent since the cost of the completed project was estimated to be the not insignificant sum of $300,000. Billings planned to build the monument in the grand style; the original design stood 155 feet high, although the project took a lot longer to build than planned and the final memorial was reduced to an 81 foot height. Parenthetically, Billings also submitted plans for a massive statue to honor Daniel Webster to be erected in the Boston Public Garden and another colossal monument to the Minutemen on Lexington Green, but neither of those projects was ever built. Indeed, Billings, who died in 1874, did not live to see the Forefathers Monument completed. The project was finished by his brother, Joseph, and was dedicated on August 1, 1889.

On April 15, 1861, subscription agent Renewick Dickerson wrote to the president in reference to the Forefathers Monument,

> Under ordinary circumstances I would have been thrice happy to have had your name on my book but I forbear inviting your cooperation in this momentous crisis—Please accept the enclosed Honorary Certificate of Life Membership to the Pilgrim Monument Association.

Parenthetically, it should be noted that on April 12 the Confederates had attacked Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. Dickerson’s letter shows that even in times of grave crisis, chief executives are also called on to deal with more mundane matters. The wording of Dickerson’s letter is interesting, leaving open the possibility that the agent actually made the contribution in Lincoln’s name in order to utilize the president’s prestige to solicit other contributions. However, the fact that Lincoln received a receipt for $10 suggests that he actually made the donation and that Dickerson’s reference is merely to his inability to get the president to sign the subscription book.

In return for his $10, Abraham Lincoln received honorary life membership in the Pilgrim Society, a receipt illustrated with Billings’s drawing of the proposed mon-
ument, along with a solicitation notice to the American public, which is also decorated with the Billings sketch. A search of the Pilgrim Society archives, however, failed to turn up any records of Lincoln’s life membership, although two other presidents, John and John Quincy Adams, were listed as life members. Lincoln’s contribution was also quite modest, since had he donated at least $50 he would have received a bronze medal.

In light of their future joint speaking venture at Gettysburg on November 19, 1863, it is interesting that Edward Everett was another major supporter of the Forefathers Monument. Everett was invited to deliver the major oration for the battlefield commemoration while the president was asked to provide a few brief and fitting remarks. Everett immediately recognized the greatness of the Gettysburg Address, writing to the president on November 20, “I should be glad, if I could flatter myself that I came as near to the central idea of the occasion, in two hours, as you did in two minutes.”

Another item that Lincoln received was a printed circular with letters from several prominent individuals, including Everett, praising the monument project. In the files of the Pilgrim Society there is also a letter from Everett about his own donation. His contribution of $150 entitled him to one of the medal statuettes molded by sculptor John Adams Jackson as an incentive for the premium donors.

As noted, the Forefathers Monument was not the only project that sought the president’s backing. Another monument that Billings was associated with was the effort to build a 60’ statue to honor the minutemen on Lexington Green. Charles Hudson, a prominent citizen of Lexington who had served with Lincoln in Congress in the 1840s, was charged with developing the idea and Everett also served as president of the Lexington Monument Association and became its chief fundraiser. Similarly to the Forefathers Monument, Billings produced a certificate of membership depicting the Lexington battle and a drawing of the proposed monument. Unfortunately, the Civil War intervened to postpone the project and after the war interest had waned and the large statue was never erected, although a smaller version was built.

President Lincoln received this receipt for his $10 contribution to the building of the Forefathers Monument.

Although the monument was never completed, Hudson wrote to the president on July 10, 1861,

Knowing that your time must be occupied by weighty matters of state, I crave your attention but for a moment. We have formed a design of erecting a Monument at Lexington commemorative of the opening scene of the Revolution—A Monument equal in art beauty and grandeur to anything in the country—& worthy of the event—. The object of this letter is to ask permission to add your name to the list.

It should also be noted that in December of 1863, one Charles Parsons wrote on behalf of the West Point Battle Commission, soliciting an endorsement for a proposed monument to mark the graves of veterans at the Military Academy. Unlike his response to the Forefathers Monument, there is no evidence that the president ever replied to either of these letters.

One question Lincoln’s contribution does raise is whether there were some special circumstances that caused him to take a particular interest in the Forefathers Monument. We know that Lincoln’s ancestors migrated from England to Massachusetts in the 1600s and there was a vague tradition of this in the Lincoln family. While correspondents occasionally tried to question Lincoln about his ancestors, there is no evidence that he ever learned directly about any connection with the Bay State.

If that link cannot be made directly is there any evidence in Lincoln’s extensive correspondence that he exhibited an interest in the Pilgrims’ The Collected Works
of Abraham Lincoln have long been available in an eight-volume set along with two supplemental volumes that total over four thousand pages. However, the index to Lincoln’s own writings is even less usable than the index to the Abraham Lincoln Papers. If one were totally unfamiliar with the Collected Works, a search through thousands of pages would be required in order to determine if Lincoln ever made reference to the Pilgrims.

Once again, however, technological innovations have opened new ways to access Lincoln’s writings. The Collected Works have been digitized at the University of Michigan and typing in the word Pilgrims reveals that the president was invited on November 28, 1864, by Joseph Choate, Chairman of the New England Society in New York City, to be present on Thursday, December 22 at its annual festival to commemorate the Pilgrim landing. While he was not able to attend, Lincoln replied to Choate, praising the sacrifices that American citizens were making in the Civil War and adding:

The work of the Plymouth emigrants was the glory of their age. While we reverence their memory, let us not forget how vastly greater is our opportunity.

Of course it was during Lincoln’s presidency that Thanksgiving, which was an important regional New England feast day, gained national prominence. While one would expect to find scenes of the first Thanksgiving on a monument commemorating the Pilgrims, at the time the Forefathers Monument was being built, it was not a widely celebrated holiday. In fact, throughout the 1850s, Sarah Josepha Hale used her women’s magazine Godey’s Lady’s Book to promote the annual observation of Thanksgiving as a national anniversary that would help to preserve the Union. Although Hale eventually succeeded in gaining the sympathetic ear of Abraham Lincoln, her desire to use Thanksgiving as a way to further construct familial and national unity did not help prevent the Civil War. Interestingly, Lincoln cited the current troubles of the Civil War in his Thanksgiving Proclamations and did not reference the Pilgrims. It is clear that to Lincoln the Pilgrims were not icons of a dead past. While it was fine to memorialize the Pilgrims, his own generation had even more of an opportunity to carry forward the work they had begun.

Admittedly some might argue that the fact that Lincoln contributed $10 to the building of the Forefathers Monument adds little to our knowledge about the bigger issues of his presidency such as emancipation or Civil War military strategy. While this is true, we would contend that his donation does reveal his interest in American history, particularly the colonial and revolutionary past, his own sense of civic duty, and possibly an interest in his own ancestry. It is ultimately from these smaller building blocks that a fuller portrait of any historical figure emerges.

It is also important to consider that the monument itself took decades to build, and in general, funds came in slowly and were significantly disrupted by the coming of the Civil War. So, it is fairly significant that in the midst of a growing national crisis, Lincoln took the time to send money and reply to the subscription letter. Furthermore, it is interesting to note that while there is no clear link between Lincoln’s interest in the Forefathers Monument and in his creation of a national holiday based on the Pilgrim founding, clearly nationally prominent leaders were conceptualizing ways to demonstrate the importance of civil union rather than civil disunion.

Modern electronic innovations have made it much easier to search the large collections of Lincoln documents that are available, and while there are probably no huge surprises waiting to be discovered, there may still be other smaller but nonetheless valuable insights that will further enhance our understanding of Abraham Lincoln.

—Thomas R. Turner is Professor of History

—Jennifer A. Turner is a Doctoral Student in History at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst
In December of 1999 I wrote an article for Bridgewater Review called The Return of the Wild in which I discussed the Great North Woods of northern New Hampshire and the ecological changes that were taking place, focusing on the resurgence of moose and other wildlife. Since this article was published, dramatic developments have taken place that will profoundly influence the status of this unique ecosystem for years to come.

This area has been a “working forest” for many years. Starting with the Connecticut Valley Lumber Company in the 1800s, this forest has been owned by a succession of timber companies including the Brown Company, St Regis Paper Company, Champion International and International Paper. The history has also been one of ecological devastation involving log drives with driver dams that scoured the smaller streams and destroyed life in the stream, massive clear cutting, use of chemical spraying to kill hardwood trees and logging practices that were hard on the land. Perhaps most significantly the forest has been subjected to a boom and bust cycle of over harvesting, followed by a collapse of the timber industry, a period of regrowth of the forest, followed by another cycle of over harvesting. In the late 1800s and early 1900s the timber barons clear-cut most of northern New Hampshire from the White Mountains north and photographs of this era show a denuded landscape. During the 1970s and 1980s the forest was subjected to over cutting that by some estimates was 160 percent of sustained yield. During the latest phase under Champion International and International Paper management things had improved. Champion International and International Paper managed the forest under a forest management plan certified under the American Forest & Paper Association’s Sustainable Forestry Initiative. International Paper also had a voluntary High Elevation Management Agreement with the State of New Hampshire, which restricted timber harvesting above 2,700 feet. International Paper acquired Champion in 2000, primarily to acquire its southern timber lands and immediately announced that it was going to put the northern New Hampshire lands on the market.

Environmental and conservation groups were alarmed. Visions of the land being sold to developers and subdividers spurred concern. The land involved was three percent of the state’s total area and the largest privately owned tract of forestland in New Hampshire. It encompasses almost the entire watershed of the four lakes that form the headwaters of the Connecticut River (First Lake, Second Lake, Third Lake and Lake Francis) and has enormous significance for New Hampshire’s natural environment, timber and tourist economies.

In the ten years between 1982 and 1992, New Hampshire lost more than 150,000 acres of forest habitat to development and the trend was continuing. Conserving the Connecticut Headwaters property was seen as countering the continued loss of valuable habitat by protecting the state’s single largest contiguous tract of privately owned forestland. Conservationists recognized that the sale of the property by International Paper provided the citizens of New Hampshire with a one-time chance to guarantee that this land would continue to provide economic, recreation, and ecological benefits. Failure to act might lead
The project partners each brought their unique strengths, histories and attributes to the project. SPNH is the state’s oldest and largest land conservation organization. Since 1901, it has helped protect over a million acres in the state and has also worked to promote sustainable forestry. TPL is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving land for people to improve the quality of life and to protect our natural and historic resources for future generations. Since 1972, TPL has worked with local groups, government agencies, and other nonprofits to protect more than 1.4 million acres nationwide. TNC is a worldwide conservation organization dedicated to preserving the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. The Conservancy has helped to protect more than 70 million acres of ecologically significant land.

to the kind of development tragedy that had overtaken large tracts of forestland in Maine and other states. There was a crisis mentality to the campaign to save the forest before it was too late.

The effort to save the Connecticut Headwaters area brought together a unique coalition of conservation organizations including the Trust for Public Land (TPL), the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) of New Hampshire. TPL managed the acquisition from International Paper and future disposition, coordinated federal funding, and facilitating the work of the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force. SPNHF supported the Task Force and led the effort to generate support for public funding. TNC provided critical biological data and the scientific underpinnings that helped define the conservation strategy and also worked with the State and other partners to acquire and manage 25,000 acres of land set aside as natural areas. The organizations joined forces to raise the funding needed. A Partnership Task Force was formed which included public officials, residents, and nonprofit organizations to design and implement a conservation plan based on best practices.

The primary goal to which the coalition committed itself was the conservation of the natural resources of the Connecticut Headwaters property. They also established goals of guaranteeing public access, and maintaining the land’s central role in the culture and economy of the region.

The primary strategy was for the State of New Hampshire to purchase a conservation easement over the majority of the land. This easement would prohibit subdivision and development, ensure sustainable timber harvesting, and provide permanent public access. The land was divided into two sections: a working forest of 146,326 acres and natural preserves of 25,000 acres. The remaining 100 acres would be added to the Connecticut Lakes State Forest.
This was a bold conservation strategy, which would have a profound impact on the area. This forest is one of the few remaining undeveloped landscapes in New England. It includes the headwaters of the Connecticut River and more than 840 miles of streams and brooks. The area harbors a rich mix of habitat types, which include mature conifer forest of spruce and fir, mixed northern hardwood forest, boreal peat bogs, beaver flowages and freshwater wetlands. Thirteen rare and endangered animals have been reported in the area including bald eagle, Bicknell’s thrush, Canada lynx, common loon, hoary bat, Northern bog lemming, Northern harrier, osprey, pie-billed grebe, pine marten, spruce grouse, three-toed woodpecker, and wood turtle. Fifty four rare plants also occur within the varied habitats. The area has become famous for its moose population and supports the highest density of moose in the state. White tailed deer are also common with several large deer wintering areas. There have also been intriguing reports of both wolves and mountain lions from the region. The brooks and ponds provide habitat for native fish. Many smaller streams and remote beaver ponds harbor native brook trout. These wild trout are a joy to catch and release, as they are much more beautiful than the pale hatchery trout that the state stocks.

The economy of the region was once linked primarily to farming, but as farming declined the timber industry gained precedence as the driving force in the local economy. In recent years, recreation-based tourism has moved to the forefront. In Pittsburg roughly 50 percent of local jobs are supported primarily by tourists and seasonal residents, and vacation homes make up nearly two-thirds of the town’s housing. The forest is a destination for many popular outdoor pursuits, including fishing, boating, wildlife observation, snowmobiling, hunting, and hiking. Unfortunately ATVs are also becoming a part of the local scene, and ATV interests are trying to gain access to the forest roads and trails. Hopefully this will not be allowed to occur. Most conservationists and other interest groups are opposed to ATVs in the woods. ATVs are rightly seen as destructive to habitat and a major disturbance to people trying to enjoy other recreational pursuits. Snowmobile groups know that the ATVs will devastate their carefully groomed trails, requiring major repairs.

The area contains many of New Hampshire’s “fly-fishing only” ponds including Scott’s Bog, Coon Brook Bog and Big Brook Bog. The trophy section of the upper Connecticut River is one of the most popular trout stream areas in New England. Pittsburg is a major center for snowmobiling, and the Connecticut Headwaters property includes 200 miles of groomed trails. Birdwatching and moose viewing along the Route 5 corridor, known as Moose Alley, are also significant tourist attractions. Moose viewing has become so popular that there is a “Moose Festival” held every year to celebrate this aspect of the local scene.

The timber industry is the third-largest manufacturing industry in New Hampshire and generates $1.5 billion worth of products annually. Forestry and the forest products industry remain a critical part of the economy in the Connecticut Headwaters region. In Pittsburg approximately 21 percent of local jobs are based on timber-related activities.

TPL, SPNHF, and TNC worked with the Connecticut Lakes Headwaters Partnership Task Force, which was co-chaired by Governor Jeanne Shaheen and U.S. Senator Judd Gregg. The Task Force created a conservation strategy designed to balance the various interests including recreation, the economic needs of the people dependent on the forest, and natural resource protection. The Task Force Steering Committee held regular public meetings to solicit input from North Country and New Hampshire residents through the late summer and fall of 2001, and it released final recommendations in early December of 2001. A Task Force Technical Committee provided information on the property’s natural resource attributes, economic and demographic data, and possible methods of protection.
TPL then purchased the 171,326-acre Connecticut Headwaters property from International Paper. The purchase price was determined by a federally approved appraisal and was approximately $33 million. The coalition then secured public and private funds to permanently protect the property. The State of New Hampshire used state and federal funds to purchase a conservation easement over 146,326 acres. The easement prohibits development, provides for sustainable forest management, and guarantees permanent public access.

The total cost of this conservation effort is estimated at a minimum of $40 million, which will cover land acquisition, transaction costs, and stewardship costs. TPL secured loans to purchase the property from International Paper on March 29, 2002 and held the property until multiple permanent funding sources could be secured.

TPL then sold 25,000-acres to TNC with the understanding that TNC would hold and manage the land while the state secured funds. The state was able to purchase the natural area with a portion of the $10 million bond approved by the NH Legislature in May, $1 million from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and $700,000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. TNC sold the land to the state for the appraised value of $6.5 million. Proceeds from the sale will be used to reimburse TNC for its costs associated with purchasing and holding the land.

This bold conservation vision is now a reality. The new natural area of 25,000 acres is now owned by the State of New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. TNC holds a conservation easement over the entire property, and will work closely with Fish and Game to ensure sound management that protects the property’s special natural features in perpetuity. The state has purchased the natural area in three parcels. The parcels include the South Bay Bog area of 3,959 acres located south of First Lake in Pittsburg, the Perry Stream headwaters and ponds of 4,971 acres located to the west of Third Lake, and the East Inlet and Scott’s Bog Brook watersheds of 16,070 acres located to the east of Second and Third lake. The Fish and Game Department will manage nearly 15,000 acres of the East Inlet section as a nature preserve, in which there will be no timber harvesting and where ecological processes will follow their own natural courses to shape the landscape over time. In the South Bay Bog and Perry Stream headwaters parcels and a small portion of the East Inlet area along Route 3, Fish and Game will practice a variety of sustainable and adaptive forest management options to optimize wildlife habitats. All 25,000 acres will be open to the public for hunting, fishing, and hiking and snowmobiling on established trails. The state has established an endowment for the long-term management of these lands, toward which TNC will contribute an initial $450,000.

The remaining 146,326 acres are now owned by the Trust for Public Land, which intends to sell all but 100 acres to Lyme Timber Co., with a conservation easement to be held by the state. The other 100 acres will be transferred to the state for an addition to the Deer Mountain Campground as part of the Connecticut Lakes State Forest. This will keep most of the property on the local tax rolls and maintain the tradition of private timberland ownership. It will remain a working forest, but unlike the over cutting in the past the forest will be managed as a sustained yield forest from now on.

The attention that this conservation effort has created and the realization that buildable land in Pittsburg is now a limited resource has spurred a building boom, primarily in vacation homes and camps. Camp lots are now selling for $90,000. But with 171,326 acres there are still plenty of areas where you can go and never see another human being and where we frequently encounter wildlife such as moose and deer, and if we are lucky we may see the more elusive species such as bear, coyote and foxes, and perhaps if we are very very lucky we may see a wolf, mountain lion or lynx.

—John C. Jahoda is Professor of Biological Sciences
During the fall semester, 2001, my family—my wife, Elizabeth and I, and our two young children, Zoe and Parker—spent several months living in the town of Iqaluit in the Canadian Arctic. The children attended local schools, while Elizabeth and I immersed ourselves in Inuit culture to see what we could learn.

Although my immediate reason for undertaking this unusual expedition was a desire to study the roots of traditional games and sports, my wife and I also saw our trip to the Arctic as a personal journey. Joe Robinson, in The Utne Reader, talks about such journeys in a way that we find meaningful:

“Real travelers today are in pursuit of the original sources, in this case, places that haven’t been sanitized, ordered and commodified by modern civilization. As we get nearer to these sources we uncover deeper rhythms, which anchor us to something more than the next home entertainment purchase. Graham Greene called this a hankering for “a stage further back,” a “nostalgia for something lost.” He hit on the heart of the matter, because the drive to live an authentic life is one of the strongest of our psychological needs.”

The Inuit people were most welcoming, and we learned a great deal about their traditional culture. One fascinating experience was our participation in a weeklong workshop on traditional Inuit throat singing, taught by three women elders. Since none of the instructors spoke English, we learned by imitation. In this type of singing,
the sounds come from deep within the throat; the mouth hardly moves.

Through an interpreter, we were able to ask the instructors about the meanings of their songs. They explained that traditional throat singing was performed by women, often when the men were away hunting. Many of the sounds imitate animal sounds, such as those of gulls and geese. In addition to entertainment, the singing can take the form of competition, in which two women sing facing one another and the first to lose her concentration or laugh must sit down. Another
woman then stands up and challenges the winner. This singing game can go on for long periods of time.

It was fascinating to watch the young Inuit women learning from their elders. Using touch, sound and sight, the teachers created an excellent learning environment. The young women stood face to face with the elders, looked into their eyes, held their hands and arms, and imitated their sounds and movements. It was beautiful to observe.

Another fascinating experience was a traditional Inuit pot-luck supper and dance. When we entered the hall, a large blue tarp was spread out on the floor, covered with raw caribou, seal and arctic char. Piles of meat and innards were placed on large squares of cardboard that covered the tarp like pieces of a puzzle. Walking through the maze were two women cutting the meat into smaller pieces with their ulu knives (half-moon shaped knives with a wooden or antler handles). The Inuit made us feel perfectly welcome.

We soon discovered that the modern world has intruded on this traditional culture. Even in the remote Arctic, television has become ubiquitous. One of the friends we met, a high school teacher who had lived in the area for nearly thirty years, told us that the materialism of television—fancy automobiles, showy clothing—has had a negative effect, particularly on poor people, who have begun to express feelings of low self-esteem since television was introduced.

The exposure to televised professional hockey has also had a negative impact: our friend informed us that the change in the local sport was sudden and profound, as young Inuit boys began to imitate the violence of the players they saw on television. Throughout Iqaluit, he said, youth sport teachers and coaches noticed more physical contact and violence and less sportsmanship.

Our months among the Inuit provided many memorable experiences and gave us a great deal to think about.

—John Kilbourne is Associate Professor of Movement Arts, Health Promotion and Leisure Studies
Carleton Donchess, the Chair of the Accounting and Finance Department, is a man on a mission; in fact he is a man on a number of missions. When you enter his office, you immediately notice five brief cases lined up next to his desk. This is Carleton’s organizational scheme to keep track of his many projects. At the top of his list of priorities is positioning his department to meet the growing demand for accounting and finance professionals in this region. The greater Boston area is now considered to be the third largest financial market in the world, and Professor Donchess wants to make every effort to ensure that Bridgewater students can build their careers in this region once they graduate. Since 1997 when he became Chair of the newly formed department, Professor Donchess has been busy positioning his department and his majors by developing new programs, including an accounting concentration in the new Master of Science in Management program and a minor in Accounting and Finance. Prior to becoming a department, the Accounting and Finance program was a concentration within the Department of Management Science since the early 1980s. Professor Donchess recognizes that his job as founding chair was greatly eased by the fact that the program had an already established reputation for academic rigor and quality.

Through the efforts of the Accounting and Finance faculty, students in the major have reaped great rewards and distinguished honors. Bridgewater Accounting students have won 38 out of a possible 51 awards presented by the Massachusetts Society of Certified Public Accountants in their state-wide essay contest. As a result of their growing reputation for excellence, Bridgewater students are actively recruited by national and regional accounting firms such as Ernst and Young, PriceWaterhouseCoopers and KPMG, as well as a number of financial firms including Wells Fargo and American Express. Such recruiting efforts are usually not found on other state college campuses.

Professor Donchess readily admits that the accounting profession has taken some hits over the scandals at Enron, WorldCom and most recently, several major mutual fund firms, which in large part were the result of severe ethical lapses and failures to follow standard accounting practices. In response to the perception of weakened ethical standards within the profession, the Accounting and Finance Department under the coordination of Professor Kathleen Sevigny held a conference in October, focusing on ethics in accounting. The conference was organized in partnership with the Massachusetts Association of Accounting Professors (MAAP) and featured a panel including several Bridgewater State College grads, discussing the importance of establishing firm ethical guidelines for accounting professionals.

The biggest challenge facing the new department involved the new “150-hour” certification rule to sit for the CPA exam in Massachusetts. Students seeking to attain the CPA designation must now complete ten additional courses beyond the bachelor’s degree prior to sitting for the exam. Although at first this appeared to be a significant burden, Professor Donchess states that this requirement has actually heightened interest in the Master of Science in Management program. Professor Donchess expects growing enrollment in the master’s concentration in accounting as students prepare to sit for the CPA exam. Interestingly, as many other institutions are facing sharp drops in enrollment, at Bridgewater there is no evidence of a downturn. There are currently 332 undergraduate majors and approximately 40 students choosing the accounting concentration in the Master of Science in Management program.

It is clear after talking with him that Professor Donchess is a dedicated teacher and champion of the profession of accounting. His primary commitment is to provide service to the students and prepare them for the professional challenges they will face once they leave Bridgewater. Professor Donchess is also a team player; he readily praises his faculty for the success the program has attained over the years and compliments the college administration for their support in helping advance the mission objectives of accounting and finance. All those brief cases lined up in his office are a testament to the hard work and commitment of Professor Carleton Donchess. In but a few years, the Accounting and Finance Department has become an academic jewel not only at the college but throughout the region.
Traveling to Japan in May of 2003 for 19 days was my first direct experience of an Eastern culture. Arriving in Tokyo, somewhat overwhelmed by its size and intensity, I soon grew to enjoy this truly livable city and spent several days cycling about—one of the best ways to see Tokyo. Sites visited included the Imperial Palace, temples, museums, galleries, Ueno Park, the Tsukiji fish market, restaurants, shopping and even a Sumo Wrestling event.

We traveled to Kamakura twice, an easy train trip from Tokyo, and took the Nozomi Shinkansen to Kyoto. Travel also included Nara and Nikko. We stayed in small family run inns, enjoyed Japanese food and the many travelers both Japanese and gai-jin we met along the way. Travel was funded in part by professional development funds and a Faculty and Librarian Research Grant.

"Condomania"
The bright colors, energetic clutter of the shops and activity of the people capture the tenor of life in Tokyo. I particularly enjoy the young woman in the foreground clearly finding humor in the setting.
Right, Kamakura Diabutsu—The Great Buddha of Kamakura
Cast of bronze in 1252 during the Kamakura Period (1185–1573) this Buddha is an impressive technical accomplishment. 37 feet high and weighing 93 tons its scale is impressive. It was originally housed in a great hall which was destroyed by a tidal wave in 1369. Although not quite as large as the Buddha at Nara, this Buddha, being out in the open is more easily enjoyed from many perspectives. The Kamakura Diabutsu belongs to the Kotokuin temple of the Jodo sect of Buddhism.

Below, The Daibutsu Den or the Great Buddha Hall at Todai-ji Temple in Nara was first built in 754AD as a national temple. It has been rebuilt twice after being destroyed by fire. The present structure built in 1567 although smaller than the original is still the largest wooden structure in the world.

Center, Photos of Zojoji Temple and the Tokyo Tower were digitally modified to produce this image. I particularly liked the contrast between the traditional architecture of the temple and the 20th century structure of the Tokyo tower. The youngsters leaving the temple add to the meaning of this image as the young Japanese come to understand their nation’s ancient past and meld it to the technological future. I purposefully created the strong value contrast to dramatize the image as well as the symbolism.

Upper Right, Lanterns of many types are found in temples and in areas surrounding them. It seems to me that for the Japanese the sense that if one of something is pleasing then having many is certainly much more pleasing. This photo, taken in Nara shows one of the many walkways between the temples lined with lanterns. The gardens in Nara are also well known for the hundreds of large stone lanterns that line the paths.

Lower Right, At Hase-Dera Temple in Kamakura there are hundreds of statues of Jizo, the deity who guides the spirits of unborn or deceased children, easing their suffering. Often these statues are clothed in tiny garments placed on them by grieving mothers or sometimes a hat or bib is given as a gift from a parent rejoicing because a child has been cured thanks to Jizo’s intervention. This popular deity is also the guardian of expectant mothers, firemen, travelers and pilgrims and can be found everywhere, but especially in graveyards, often adding a colorful accent with brightly colored clothing.
Located in Tokyo’s Roppongi Hills, the newly built 54 story Mori Tower, business and residential complex has recently been in the news for the opening of the Mori contemporary art museum. Noted in several sources was the fact that the Japanese are not avid museum goers. The developer Minoru Mori hopes to begin changing this by creating a dramatic architectural setting for his new museum. When I visited, the museum was still not complete but there were long lines waiting to visit the city view floor on the top of the tower as well as many people enjoying the architecture and beautiful grounds surrounding the buildings. The images of the Mori tower shown here have been digitally manipulated to enhance the drama of the structures.

Right, A blessing from a red robed deity greets the visitor to the Great Buddha Hall at Todai-ji. In this image the dark cross of the architectural elements behind the sculpture create an accidental yet interesting connection with Christianity.

—Dorothy Pulsifer is Associate Professor of Art
Notes from an Eighteenth Century Courtship

by Cynthia Booth Ricciardi

Author’s note:
In 1997 I had the pleasure of seeing *The Delicate Distress* by Elizabeth Griffith (1727–1793), which I co-edited with Susan Staves, return to print after over two hundred years’ obscurity. Griffith was a prolific and popular author; in addition to translations of French works, she has to her credit several plays which were produced in London; an analysis of Shakespeare’s plays; three popular epistolary novels; and, finally, a conduct book, *Essays, Addressed to Young Married Women* (1782). Her literary career began, however, with the 1757 publication of letters she and her husband Richard exchanged during their unusually charged courtship. Twelve years later, they had “revised and enlarged” the first two volumes through several new editions, and accumulated four more volumes. I am currently developing an annotated critical edition of the first two volumes of *A Series of Genuine Letters between Henry and Frances*.

Sir,
You have behaved with great dishonour. You have shewed my letters to ----, and you could not have had any temptation to this but what was disengenuous: for it was impossible for a person of illiberal education to form any sort of judgement from them, except what must be to the disadvantage of my character.
Farewel for Life,
Frances.

So ended (temporarily) a clandestine correspondence between Elizabeth ‘Frances’ Griffith and Richard ‘Henry’ Griffith, who during their lifetimes became one of Ireland’s—and England’s—most renowned literary couples. That they did so was a consequence of publishing that correspondence, inviting eighteenth-century readers to ride the seesaw of their courtship. Audiences in the twenty-first century who are entertained by the dating exploits on ‘Bachelorettes’ and ‘Blind Date’ likely differ little from their eighteenth-century counterparts, who made ‘Henry and Frances’ both best-selling authors and household names. In the Griffiths’ era, as now, published personal correspondence allowed the reading public to glimpse the intimate details of others’ lives, whether to identify with them, exclaim over them, or hold them as models for their own behavior.

The latter category describes the works of Richard and Elizabeth Griffith, whose best-selling *Genuine Letters* propelled them, if not to fortune, at least to fame. The early correspondence has all the elements of a Hollywood reality show: She is a ‘sprightly’ middle-class girl in her early twenties, of no significant fortune, living in Dublin under the protection of an aunt; he is a self-educated man of limited means in his early thirties, a self-confessed libertine interested only in an ‘indulgence of fond affection.’

Despite the risks to her reputation and her future well-being, Elizabeth allows herself to be drawn into a correspondence with Richard. From the outset, he makes no effort to conceal his intention to make her his mistress. For Elizabeth’s part, it is clear that while she takes pleasure in the intellectual discourse his letters afford her, she is made uneasy by his advances. On the pages of their correspondence, entwined among the philosophical allusions, the conflict grows, and her sometimes plaintive displays of emotion contrast sharply against his more reserved, intellectual arguments. In one early instance, he replies to one of her letters with a rejection of a ‘Platonic’ relationship:

...[N]othing you can say, or any one else can do, will make me Amends for the want of your Company, if you would be as kind when present, as you express yourself in Absence; but, as I have good Reason to think you Coquette in this Matter, I swear it is most cruel Treatment, to give me Hopes, which you have not Generosity or Courage to fulfil.... [A]nd tho’ I can fast a Day upon a Page of Epictetus, yet I could not live one Night upon all the Volumes of Plato (Letter II).

Such allusions disturb Elizabeth deeply, leaving her uncertain and emotional. In her first letter, after Richard has visited, she writes:

...I begin to hate you and myself, for being one Moment uneasy about a Man, who perhaps hardly remembers me enough to forget me... These Thoughts... do not proceed from any slight Opinion I have of your Sincerity, but a mortal Apprehension that neither my Sense or Merits can purchase your Esteem, without which your Love would shock me (Letter I).
Without which your Love would shock me. Her phrase rings with reproach, but it is apparent that Richard, at least at this juncture, hears it merely as part of the ‘game’ which he has obviously played before. Underestimating her resolve, he sets out the argument, reminiscent of Andrew Marvell’s poem, beginning

‘Dear Sprightly’:
I forget whether it is your favourite Rochefoucauld or La Bruyere, who says, ‘there may be an Affection between Persons of different sexes, without any farther Desire or Thought; but as they certainly regard each other, as of different Genders, this cannot be called pure Love, or pure Friendship, but is a mixed Affection of a third sort.’ Now... since our Friendship cannot be pure, let us stick to that Passion which may be so, and is, in effect, but a warmer and more intimate Friendship. Your only Reason, for preferring Platonics must be, that you imagine they may last longer than Love; ... but he, that is born of Woman now-a-days, has but a short Time to live; therefore it must certainly be better Oeconomy to make our Joys exceed, in Exquisiteness, what they fall short of in Duration....
We should do in Life, as Gamesters do at Play, push away for what they call the great Game; but, finding the Run against us, we [then]... play our Cards for the Aftergame. Now, when we find Love beginning to decline, we may shuffle a good sober Friendship out of it; but Love was never piece out of a decayed Friendship. So that indeed, my Dear, you seem to begin at the wrong End, and have both Reason and Nature against you (Letter XI).

Even a modern reader, jaded by the promiscuous behavior shown in television shows and feature films, might wonder at the success of such a ploy. Elizabeth, of course, will have none of it. In the next letter, she makes her position clear, describing a version of love which elaborates her fears:

Love, which is not founded on Esteem, can neither be real, nor permanent; it is only the Effect of a wanton Caprice, and is more likely to terminate in Disgust than Friendship. Pure Love, like pure Gold, cannot subsist without an alloy; which, tho’ it debases the ideal Value, enhances the true one, by making them both (Love and Gold) more fixed, and fit for Use;... the Love which does not begin in Friendship will never end there. But Friendship is independent, and requires no mixture, no Alloy; it’s Purity, contrary to the Nature of Gold, is it’s Strength and Stability; nor is it without it’s Elevations and Transports; the mutual Contemplation of Truth, and the Communication of Knowledge, being higher Enjoyments than mortal Sense is capable of... As Friendship then is independent of Love, and self-sufficient in it’s own Nature, why may it not subsist, from it’s own Purity, between Persons of different Sexes? ‘the’ with the Advantage of more Delicacy on one Side, and more Respect on the other... This Platonick Love... is of the Nature of that Affection,... which consists of such a guardian Benevolence on one Side and such a Gratitude on the other, as makes the most charming Society in the World.

Recant, thou Prophane! Nor offend me again by so much as hinting at that Love, which is independent of Friendship. (Letter XII).

Here Richard, a veteran of many such campaigns and undoubtedly surprised at her firm resistance, retreats gracefully, admonishing:

Never suspect my Friendship, or my Love, after the Assurance I gave you once, that, when I grow indifferent in either, I will ingenuously confess it to you; though, How should I have Courage enough to declare a Thing, for which I can never have a Reason!

This emotional sparring, with their literary discussions of Plato, Pliny, Cowley, and others, sets the pattern for their ‘courtship’ correspondence during the next four years. But in 1750, to her shock and dismay, Elizabeth learns that Richard has shown someone else her letters. Her reputation thus endangered, she responds with the letter beginning ‘Sir, You have behaved with great dishonour...’ and their relationship enters into what Richard calls an ‘Interregnum’ of many months. For Elizabeth, Richard’s breach of trust emphasizes her vulnerability and renews her fears that his intentions are ultimately, unbearably, different from hers. Her distress is obvious, and although their correspondence resumes, she is soon pushed to her limit by her aunt’s decision to move to England. Elizabeth issues an ultimatum to her suitor:

Answer me now, my Heart’s dear Harry, with Truth and Justice, for Reason prompts the Question and Honour will not daily longer, can you indeed lay your Hand on that dear Breast, where Fanny’s Heart inhabits, and tell me you have Love, Honour, and Constancy enough, to repay all her past, present, and future sufferings, by seriously intending, whenever it is in your Power, to make her your Wife? ... Let not a false Delicacy to yourself, or an affected Tenderness for me, prevent your speaking your Sentiments with that frankness, which, I think, I ever merited from you... (Letter CXXIV).
Her letter turns the tide, ending the long conflict. Richard finally understands the consequences of encouraging her to love him, and encouraging her to open her mind to him. His subsequent proposal is lost to posterity, but in a note included with his Will, he remarks,

I was not over-reached into this match by art, nor hurried into it by passion; but, from long experience of her sense and worth, I reasoned myself into it...

I found I had so engaged her Affections that no other Man could make her happy; and so dallied with her Character, that only myself could repair it. Thus Honour, Justice, and Generosity concurred, to what my Love and Reason had before approved (following Letter CCLXXXV).

Their marriage, as described in print, was exemplary. Letters following their wedding on May 12, 1751 show a remarkable change in Elizabeth’s demeanor. No longer an uncertain maid but a legally recognized wife, she writes without any trace of her previous uncertainty, and their correspondence focuses on their intellectual pursuits, their authorship, their children, and their mutual esteem. However, lest modern readers be dismayed at a mundane outcome to an adventurous relationship, it is important to note that their marriage remained secret for more than a year because of Richard’s interest in a pending lawsuit. Anticipating this possibility, Elizabeth invited an unimpeachable witness to the legality of her position: the Countess of Cork, Lady Orrery, attended her wedding ceremony.

Eventually, Richard was able to acknowledge both his wife and subsequent children, and the Griffiths settled down to a somewhat nomadic life. To claim that the couple “lived happily ever after” would be to ignore their troubles over Richard’s continually failing businesses, their consistent financial woes, and their difficulties setting up their son in apprenticeship. Through every setback, however, the two supported and encouraged one another. Richard traveled extensively for business reasons, and the couple amassed a copious collection of letters. That Elizabeth continued to believe in their union is clear in a letter from the final volume of their correspondence, more than twenty years after their marriage:

I am as thoroughly convinced, as you can be, that no other Man on Earth could have rendered me so happy, or ever have drawn forth even the small Merits I possess. You are my Polar Star, and my Love the Needle, that has pointed every Action of my Life, and thought of my Heart, to you, and you alone (Letter DCLXXVII).

Considering that Elizabeth spent five years alternating between delight and despair until Richard recognized the wisdom of marrying her, it is not surprising that the bulk of her later work focuses on relationships before and after marriage. Her final book, *Essays, Addressed to Young Married Women* brings her full circle, from anxious ingenue to settled matron. In the last essay of that work, she advises “every young married woman... [to] seek the friend of her heart in the husband of her affection... Happy are the pairs so joined... blessed are they who are thus doubly united!”

With access to the couple’s early correspondence, both historical and modern audiences can know the depth of feeling and experience with which Elizabeth Griffith penned those words.

—Cynthia Booth Ricciardi, BSC ’81 is a Visiting Lecturer in the Department of English
I am a botanist with a specialization in aquatic and wetland plant biology. Wetlands are a legally protected natural resource in Massachusetts, and a wetland is defined largely by the array of plant species found within it. In order to protect our wetlands, we must be able to identify them with accuracy, and we must understand how one wetland differs from another. Procedures for the identification and delineation of these areas necessitate the correct recognition of plant species.

The delicate ecosystems generally termed “wetlands” (including bogs, marshes and swamps) are low-lying areas of land covered with shallow water that support hydrophytic vegetation—plants adapted to life in saturated soils. Wetland ecosystems provide significant natural resources to a region, including pollution abatement, flood and erosion control, groundwater recharge, and critical wildlife habitat. Because the intrinsic values of these areas were largely under-appreciated in this country, there has been a significant loss of wetlands from wetland alteration and destruction since colonial times. It has been estimated that Massachusetts lost 28% of its wetland acreage between 1780 and the mid-1980s.

Fortunately, wetlands are now legally protected in this country. In Massachusetts, the first state to regulate wetlands, protection is afforded through local and state permitting requirements under the Wetlands Protection Act. Explicit wetland plant communities and water conditions are specified in the Act, and it is these two defining features—plants and water—that are protected by the Act. Wetland identification and delineation (boundary demarcation) procedures are outlined in the state’s delineation manual. These procedures rely largely on identification of vegetation to recognize wetland areas and their boundaries for regulatory purposes.

Since the overall success of wetland protection efforts relies on accurately identifying wetlands—hence accurate plant identification—proper recognition of the flora is paramount. The common use of wetland plant species in wetland delineation and restoration efforts in the U. S. has created a demand for people knowledgeable in their identification. Plant identification skills are now emphasized in wetlands science training.

One of the courses I teach is “Wetlands Biology,” an elective for juniors and seniors in our department’s Environmental Concentration. Fortunately, there are numerous marshes (freshwater and saltwater) and bogs within an hour’s drive of Bridgewater, so that my students can examine the local plant life first-hand. Among the wetlands we have explored are the salt marsh near Duxbury Beach, the Pine-Hill Cemetery bog in West Bridgewater, and even a cattail marsh here on campus.

However, I soon discovered that, although field guides and manuals on wetland plant identification are plentiful, none was appropriate for my students. Either they were too highly technical and therefore burdensome for people untrained in plant identification or too elementary, often lacking an explicit method of plant identification. In addition, most of the manuals currently on the market embrace a broad geographic range (e.g., the entire northeastern U. S.), including an unwieldy number of plant species not found in Massachusetts.

Another drawback to all the manuals I found was that they identify the plants only as they look in summer, with leaves and flowers, creating a major drawback for their use, since conservationists (as well as my students) sometimes have to identify wetlands during the winter season. I found only one field guide devoted exclusively to identifying plants found in Massachusetts, and it was inadequate—little more than a pamphlet. Thus, I conceived the idea of writing a non-
technical yet comprehensive identification manual devoted solely to wetland trees and shrubs of Massachusetts.

I officially began work on the manual during the summer of 2002. With support from a CART grant, I identified 92 species of trees and shrubs inhabiting Massachusetts’ wetlands. Some of these are very common (such as red maple) and others (such as swamp birch) are endangered. I also constructed taxonomic keys (discussed in more detail below) to lead users to the correct identification. I constructed separate keys to accommodate plants in summer and winter stages.

I am currently working on illustrations and maps for the field guide. Accurate and detailed illustrations of each plant species are critically important if the guide is to be useful. I’ve been fortunate enough to interest an accomplished and award-winning natural history author/illustrator, David M. Carroll, in the project, and he has agreed to do the illustrations. His unique expertise and familiarity with the wetland plant species will contribute tremendously to the overall effectiveness of the book.

Another important component of the field guide will be the distribution maps for each of the 92 plant species. A small map of Massachusetts will accompany the description and illustration of each kind of plant. The maps will graphically illustrate the geographic extent of each species’ range in the state, a useful tool because many plants are limited to specific regions, such as western Massachusetts or Cape Cod.

To get an idea of how the taxonomic identification key system works, take a look at the illustration (right) of rhodora, a wild rhododendron (Latin name: Rhododendron canadense), which is widespread in Massachusetts. Its brilliant floral display—the flowers are a bright pinkish-purple—has been greatly admired by gardeners. Rhodora was also admired by the philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson, who dedicated a poem to this flower whose beauty, he wrote, “is its own excuse for being.” Of course, if you are trying to identify this plant in winter, the flowers will be of no help and you will have to rely on characteristics of rhodora’s twigs, bark, buds and fruit.

To make it easy, let’s say you have a specimen consisting of a summer branch and a leaf belonging to a mystery plant resembling the one in the illustration. The taxonomic key offers a series of two-way choices, each of which narrows the possibilities of what kind of plant this branch and leaf might belong to. As it turns out, the leaf is the critical component. The questions are formulated as follows:

- Does the specimen have (a) needle-like, scale-like or strap-like leaves? Or (b) broad leaves? Clearly, as the illustration shows, this plant has broad leaves.
- Are the leaves (a) opposite or whorled? Or (b) alternate? In this specimen, the leaves are alternate, as you can see by looking at their arrangement on the winter stem, in the middle of the illustration.
- Are the leaves (a) compound (i.e., having more than one blade) or (b) simple? Simple, that is, with just a single blade.
- Are the leaves lobed (i.e., blade edges with lobe-like indentations) or not lobed? Not lobed.
- Are the leaf margins curled under or not curled under? Not curled under.
- Is this plant a climbing vine or erect shrub or tree? Shrub.
- Are the leaf blades thin or thick and leathery? Thin.
- Are the leaves aromatic when crushed or not aromatic? Not aromatic.

A few more steps lead the investigator to the “rhododendron” genus, where four species are described and keyed to, of which rhodora is one.

I’ve been field-testing the guide with my students and getting valuable feedback from them. Once it’s been completed, I anticipate that it will be a useful tool for region regulatory professionals, conservation agents, naturalists and students of wetland and botanical sciences.

—Donald Padgett is Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences.
Students in *Linguistics* and *History of the English Language* classes are required to keep journals in which they record observations about the language around them. At the beginning, some students are not sure what kind of observations to make—although they use language all the time, they’ve never analyzed it before. After a while, they get the idea and begin to enjoy the project. What emerges is a portrait of contemporary language use from the vantage point of southeastern Massachusetts.

**TONIC, JIMMIES AND LIQUID CABINETS**

Vocabulary is the first aspect of language most students notice. ‘Tonic,’ in Massachusetts, means ‘soda’; ‘jimmies’ refers to the black chocolatey sprinkles tossed over ice cream. A ‘bubbler’ is a water fountain. In the fall of 2003, when the Red Sox battled the Yankees in the American League playoffs, the ‘curse’ (shorthand for the legendary curse of the Bambino) was a constant source of anxiety, and ‘cowboy up’ was adopted as a rallying cry for the ever-hopeful Sox fans.

Rhode Island appears to have its own regional vocabulary. In that state, according to a student raised in Providence, a ‘cabinet’ is a type of drink consisting of milk, ice cream, and syrup all mixed together in a blender (or ‘blenda’ as the natives like to call it). In addition, ‘some people refer to the topping that we put on spaghetti as ‘sauce,’ while we call it ‘gravy.’”

**THE GENERATION GAP**

Age-specific vocabulary elicited another set of examples, with some youthful members of the class politely critical of their elders for using outdated terminology. “My grandmother dresses nicely and is very up-to-date,” one student noted, “but she still says ‘dungarees’ and ‘slacks’ instead of ‘jeans’ and ‘pants.’” Another student, a parent, described a linguistic misunderstanding with her teen-age son. After she had presented him with a new Adidas sweatshirt, the young man exclaimed: “That’s nasty!” The mother, disappointed, asked, “You don’t like it?” When the son answered: “It’s sweet, mom, you know, that,” his mother finally realized that he loved the sweatshirt. Other students reported that, in the context of athletics, words like ‘nasty’ often have a positive denotation. “Bad,’ ‘sick,’ ‘gross,’ ‘ridiculous,’ ‘retarded,’ and ‘filthy,’ can all be terms of praise, believe it nor not,” one sports fan observed. Thus, someone watching a basketball game might say a particularly nice dunk is ‘sick’ or ‘nasty.’

“*I'M SO OUT OF HERE.*”

Many other examples of teen-age slang, much of it derived from rap and hip-hop, were recorded in the journals. Often, as with ‘nasty,’ commonly-used words have acquired new meanings. Teenagers refer to one another (affectionately) as ‘dog’ (alternative spellings: ‘dogg’ and ‘dawg’); “That’s my dawg” is a phrase used by young men to denote a friend. On the other-hand, “He’s such a dog” is a term used by women when they think that a guy is being mean or a jerk. “What’s chillin’?” means “What’s happening?” Other current slang expressions include “I’m so out of here” and “She is way [much] smarter.” New words have also been invented, as in the sentence “I hope I get some phat bling bling [good jewelry] for my birthday” or “The commuter caf serves gnarly [bad] coffee.”

**SWEAR WORDS**

Several students observed that traditionally taboo words have entered the conversational mainstream. For example, “historically the term ‘nigger’ is derogatory and used as an insult, but today many blacks use the word among themselves all the time.” ‘Bitch’ has also evolved: one student commented that “in the early ’90s, young girls began calling themselves ‘bitch’ and scrawling the word on their bodies. Taking away the stigma attached and using the term in a positive way negates the original intent.” Another shift in the meaning of ‘bitch’ was illustrated by a student who recounted a request made by a Coast Guard employee to a co-worker, both being male: “Can you get those reports to me today? C’mom, you’re my number one bitch in Maine.” ‘Bitch’ in this instance means ‘work slave.’ It’s clear that ‘bitch’ is no longer applied exclusively to women and is no longer necessarily an insult.
PEOPLE FROM DORCHESTRA PREFER CHOWDAH

Venturing outside New England made many students aware of their Boston accents. One member of the class learned that eastern New Englanders are famous throughout the nation for what linguists refer to the loss of postvocalic 'r,' that is, omission of the 'r' sound when it is not followed by a vowel, in words like 'car' and 'barn.' During a visit to Florida, this young woman went into a department store looking for boxer shorts. The store clerk nodded, disappeared into the storage area, and returned a few minutes later with a box of shot glasses. "With my accent," the embarrassed student realized, "he thought that I had asked for a box of shots, not boxer shorts."

In another incident involving pronunciation misunderstanding, a student who was sitting with friends in a club noticed that a drink had been spilled on a nearby chair. Seeing that a young man was about to sit down, the student warned him: "don't sit down because you'll get your khakis [i.e., pants] dirty." The response from the stranger was a puzzled look: "he thought I was referring to his 'car keys.'" For the stranger, clearly a New Englander, 'car keys' rhymes with 'khakis.'

UNDERSTANDING FOREIGN SPEAKERS: JUDGMENTS AND MISJUDGMENTS

One of the central concepts of modern linguistics is the idea of mental grammar, the innate, largely unconscious knowledge of the rules of our language. This unconscious knowledge, much of which we acquire before the age of five, allows us to compose and to understand an infinite number of grammatically correct sentences we have never heard before. It means that we know, if we are English speakers, that "There's a large insect in the bathtub" is a grammatical sentence, while "Insect large there's a bathtub in the" is not, even if we cannot explain why.

The concept of mental grammar helped the class understand that the errors made by foreign speakers often result from these speakers' application of the rules of their native tongues to English. Thus a student who worked in a convenience store noted that her Portuguese-speaking customers sometimes asked "Can I pay this here?" The Portuguese phrasal verb "pagar," she learned, means "to pay for"; thus, the omission of "for," while grammatically incorrect in English, would appear logical to the Portuguese speaker. Another set of errors was traced to the fact that Portuguese lacks the auxiliar verbs 'do' and 'don't' and that Portuguese speakers use intonation to indicate that they are asking a question. Knowledge of these rules made it clear that the Portuguese mother-in-law who asked "Why you no come to see me more often?" was following the rules of her native language and that her mistakes were consistent with those rules.

An understanding of mental grammar and of the fact that we unconsciously follow the many complex rules of our mother tongue helps students avoid common prejudices based on accents and mispronunciations. One student confessed to having been guilty of stereotyping:

I hate to admit it, but I had the tendency to assume that people who did not speak English well were in some way clueless, unaware of things that were going on. For some reason, I would never try to joke or attempt small talk with people who came into my store who had obvious difficulty with the English language. During the course of the semester I began to make an effort to converse with some of these customers whom I had barely spoken to before, aside from telling them the amount of their purchase. I'm ashamed that it took me so long to realize how condescending I had actually been to assume that they couldn't respond to humor and friendliness because their English vocabulary and grammar were limited.

Analyzing the conversations going on around them, gathering material for their language journals, many students discovered that, to paraphrase the saying attributed to renowned philosopher Yogi Berra, "You can hear a lot by just listening."

—Barbara Apstein is Professor of English and Associate Editor of the Bridgewater Review

BARBARA APSTEIN
In 2002 Bridgewater State College embarked on a multifaceted collaboration with the University of Florence, Italy, by signing an agreement to promote opportunities for students and faculty of the two institutions to participate in exchanges, research projects, and study-abroad courses. The agreement was the outgrowth of the efforts of Carla Sodini (Professor in the Dipartimento di Studi sullo Stato, University of Florence) and myself, and of our shared interest in Renaissance and Early Modern Italian and European History. During the spring 2002 semester, we brought an international exhibit on early modern warfare to Bridgewater and we collaboratively design the syllabi and curriculum for the BSC-in-Lucca summer programs.

The Bridgewater in Lucca program is a three week summer study-abroad course open to BSC undergraduates and graduate students, and to university students and secondary school teachers from other educational institutions in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The 2002 and 2003 courses, hosted in the unique sixteenth-century walled city of Lucca in Tuscany, enjoyed great success, thanks largely to the formal participation of professors from the most important universities throughout Italy, to the generous official support of the government of the city of Lucca, and to the warm and unofficial welcome extended to our students by the numerous Lucchesi involved in the conservation of historical sites and museums. The 2002 course, “Early Modern Walled Cities and the Gunpowder Revolution” was conducted, appropriately, in a space atop the historic walls at Lucca’s International Center for the Study of early Modern Walled Cities (CISCU). This past summer the course, “Society, Culture, and Material Life in Early Modern Italy,” was held at the Agora, an historic convent and church converted into a state-of-the-art library and computer center. The course examined the social, cultural and material dimensions of life in the early modern Italian republics of Venice, Genoa and Lucca, and their surrounding countryside.

The lectures were sequenced to begin with a broad examination of politics and the rise of the early modern Italian territorial state, compared and contrasted with the late-medieval commune and Renaissance city-state. The course then moved on to an examination of Italian social, economic and cultural history across the social classes, genders and marginal populations in the cities and countryside.

We would like to invite you into the program by introducing a sampling of only half of the professors who participated in the summer 2003 lecture series.

Marcello Verga is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Florence. Professor Verga concentrates on Tuscan history during the sixteenth century, and more broadly on the history of the Italian peninsula. He is a contributor to the scholarly journal, Storica, which is one of the most important publications in the field of historical bibliographical studies in Italy. Currently he is...
writing a book on the “idea of Europe” in Italian historiography from the eighteenth century to the present day. Professor Verga spoke precisely on this topic to the Bridgewater students, offering to the class an account of the difficult and complex road leading from the political divisions of the early modern period (the city states) toward a unified European identity.

Carla Sodini is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Florence. Professor Sodini (the BSC program’s indefatigable academic liaison and our most gracious host in Lucca) has published widely on a variety of aspects of Ancien Regime, or early modern Italy. Among the topics Professor Sodini deals with in her books and articles are the confessionalization and emigration of Italian Calvinists, the punishment of women accused as witches in Lucca, and the military history of Lucca and the Garfagnana, especially during the Thirty years War. Professor Sodini spoke in summer 2003 on “Poverty and Marginality in Early Modern Italy and Europe.” Her lecture brought to light the plight of the poor in early modern Italy, and the efforts of lay and ecclesiastical authorities to discipline and succor those who found themselves on the margins of society, such as victims of famine and disease, prostitutes and vagabonds. Her talk also familiarized students with an array of books and articles written on the subject in English and Italian.

Carla Sodini

Franco Angiolini is Professor of History in the Department of Early Modern and Contemporary History, University of Pisa. Professor Angiolini’s interests rest in the study of the history of the Mediterranean region. More specifically, he has researched the Order of Saint Stephen, a chivalric military institution created by the Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosimo I, in the sixteenth century. Professor Angiolini spoke about the social history of early modern Italy with special attention to the life and organization of confraternities and guilds. In his talk he stressed, as well, the difficult position of women in the public sphere.

Marino Viganó is Professor in the Art History Department of Catholic University, Milan. He is currently compiling an extensive bibliography on the military architects who redesigned cities and fortifications across early modern Europe. Professor Viganó, one of the students’ favorite professors, used archival images of maps and fortifications, and photographs he had taken in his travels throughout Europe, to illustrate the rise of early modern city and territorial states and their military struggles.

Marino Viganó

Sergio Nelli is Vice Director of the State Archives in Lucca. Professor Nelli is the person to whom scholarly researchers turn when they have a question about Lucchese history and its sources because of his extensive knowledge of the rich archival holdings of the city that extend back to the eighth century. Professor Nelli, first, conducted a lesson that introduced students to the history of the conservation of documents and to how an Italian archive is organized and functions. He extended his classroom lecture with a walk through the city, during which he familiarized students with the locations connected with the history of the documents that have come to be conserved in the current state (read “national”) archive. Second, and extraordinarily, he provided BSC faculty and students with an insider’s tour of the Archive.

Simonetta Adorni-Braccesi is an Independent scholar in Lucca. Professor Adorni-Braccesi holds a doctorate in History, and she has published the most important historical monograph on Lucca’s sixteenth-century Calvinist dissenters in Switzerland, France and else-
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Recently, a number of events have occurred that highlighted for me how desperately important it is that we pay attention to the way our judges are appointed and confirmed to office. These events included 1) the 50th anniversary of the Brown v. Board of Education decision by the Supreme Court of the United States, 2) a visit to Bridgewater State College by the distinguished Harvard University law professor Charles Ogletree, 3) the death of the South Boston politician and anti-busing activist Louise Day Hicks and 4) an obscure and convoluted political struggle that took place in the United States Senate. I’ll begin with the Senate events.

It was 2 AM on November 14th, 2003 and I was trying to channel-surf my way back to sleep. There were congressmen on the screen and they were making impassioned speeches about something, but this wasn’t an old episode of West Wing I was watching. It was the actual United States Senate, and there was no snappy dialogue on the immediate horizon. So what were these men doing on the television at that time of the morning? As it turns out, a few Republicans had decided to talk non-stop about how the Democrats had been politicizing the nominating process. The commentator noted their goal was to talk for 40 hours straight. At least I knew that I would be sleeping soon. I was.

By the next morning the newspapers and radio reports explained what had made little sense to me the night before. It seems the Democrats in the Senate had used a filibuster (their own non-stop talk event) to prevent votes on four of George W. Bush’s judicial nominees to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The Democrats justified this tactic on the grounds that these nominees were too conservative to be fair judges. What made things more interesting was that three of the nominees were female and the fourth, Miguel Estrada, was Hispanic. Given the gender and ethnicity issues, and the power of the court to which they would be appointed, the political stakes were high.

Somehow, I became obsessed with the ins-and-outs of this matter. The strategic moves were, of course, shaped by Senate rules. To confirm a judge required only 51 votes, a simple majority. So the Democrats, being the minority in the Senate, could not deny the Republicans their preferred nominees by a regular vote. But they could filibuster against them, and the Republicans would then need a three-fifths majority, sixty votes, to end the filibuster and bring the nominations to votes. The Republicans had failed to muster 60 votes on any of the nominees because the Democrats had held ranks. So the Republicans decided to try to embarrass the Democrats before the court of public opinion. Fat chance.

For 40 hours the designated Republican talk-a-thoners, (Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania was the most recognizable of them), complained to an essentially empty Senate, that their opponents were denying the nominees the right to an up-or-down vote. Meanwhile, before network microphones Democrats argued that they had allowed floor votes on 168 of the President’s nominees, and were merely using the legal tools at the disposal of the minority party to block votes on the four most offensively conservative candidates. Needless to say, the Republicans failed to embarrass their opponents, mainly because the Democrats were quite pleased with themselves for having blocked the nominees without having had to resort to actual kidnapping. The next morning, the vote on cloture, the vote taken to see if a filibuster can be ended, failed by seven votes to reach the required 60. These nominations, at least, were dead.

I read all of this with a fascination that was, for me, another of those unpredictable mental detours. I like to follow important political issues, but I went overboard on this one. For example, did you know that the word filibuster very probably has its origins in the Dutch vrijbuit (freebooter) which roughly translates to us as something like plunder, or theft? No, O.K. My interest in the Senate manoeuvres was a bit wacky. But it may have made more sense if I had realized that I was unconsciously making connections between these events and others that had occurred within the previous few weeks. For example, late in October Louise Day Hicks died at age 87.

Hicks was an important figure in the history of Boston’s school desegregation cases in the late 1960s and early 1970s. I was in college and graduate school in Boston...
back then, and recall how she became a symbol of racial bigotry to the rest of the nation. Hicks was at the forefront of opposition to judge W. Arthur Garrity’s court order that busing be employed to help achieve the desegregation of Boston schools. She expressed the outrage of her neighbors in South Boston, saying that “Boston schools are the scapegoat for those who have failed to solve the housing, economic and social problems of the black citizen.”

In early November, soon after Hicks’ death, Charles Ogletree of Harvard Law School came to Bridgewater to speak. This distinguished lawyer and scholar had written a book marking the 50th anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka. Speaking about his forthcoming book, *All Deliberate Speed*, Ogletree reminded the packed audience of Bridgewater students, faculty members, administrators and others, that the promise of civil rights is a long way from being realized in America. A brief look at the history of school desegregation since Brown makes this painfully clear.

In the Brown case, the Supreme Court was persuaded by Thurgood Marshall’s arguments on behalf of the NAACP to finally overturn the separate-but-equal standard established in the 1896 case of Plessey v. Ferguson. In Plessey the court had held that racial segregation in public facilities was not “unreasonable” and that they did not violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. But the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, had found that the segregated school system in Topeka, Kansas, had not provided equal quality educations to its black and white students. Further, the court concluded in a unanimous decision that segregated schools systems were inherently unequal, and violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. A year later, the Court established the remedy by ordering the school boards in segregated systems to desegregate “with all deliberate speed.”

But, as Charles Ogletree pointed out in his talk, progress toward school desegregation did not result soon, nor to any satisfying degree. The curious language crafted by the court was meant to make possible the political and cultural compromises that change in such a volatile area as racial relations would demand. “All deliberate speed.” “Deliberate” meant to go slowly. “Speed” meant to go fast. And “all” emphasized the importance of doing so, whatever those actions might be.

The reactions of southern school systems were predictable. By 1964, seven of the eleven southern states had not placed even one percent of their black students into integrated schools. In a series of cases between 1954 and the early 1970s, the Court tried to give added force to its order in Brown. But by the middle of the 1970s the momentum for civil rights decisions in the Supreme Court was gone. America was now struggling with high inflation brought on by sudden increases in the cost of foreign oil, and the need to pay the deferred bills for the war in Viet Nam from which we had just escaped, but which we never officially declared. In good economic times and bad, we seem to have become obsessed with our financial well-being, and promises of racial equality have, to a great extent, been put on the national back burner.

The decision of the Warren Court in Brown v. Board of Education made great demands on the nation. There has never been an easy time to ask Americans to make changes in the ways they live their lives. The Court and the politicians knew that school desegregation would strain the nation along racial, political and geographic lines. It was no surprise that politicians, local and national, resisted mightily. But beyond the often gritty struggles of electoral politics, the Supreme Court Justices have lifetime appointments and can focus on the search for the meanings in our Constitution. They are in unique positions to put painful issues on the national agenda. I believe that our courts are still the places most likely to confront our issues of racial inequality.

I have studied and taught about American prejudice and discrimination for my entire career at Bridgewater, and believe that the judges who decide on issues like this must be the very highest minded people in the country. It is appropriate that the struggle over who sits on our most influential courts be strenuous, and even extreme. The stakes are too high for it to be any other way. I hope that the forces that intend to confront racial inequality win.

—William C. Levin is Professor of Sociology and Associate Editor of the Bridgewater Review
Book Reviews: Subversive Fun

Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them

Al Franken

Stupid White Men

Michael Moore

Bushwhacked: Life in George W. Bush’s America

Molly Ivins and Lou Dubose

by Charles F. Angell

Despite complaints from conservative commentators of a liberal bias in the press and electronic media, liberal commentators like those reviewed here have begun to raise their voices and document how such right wing conservatives as Rush Limbaugh, Bill O’Reilly, Ann Coulter, and Rupert Murdoch through his newspapers and the Fox Network have managed to place their conservative agenda before the public. The recent CBS decision not to air a film biography of Ronald Reagan illustrates the influence conservative voices can exercise when they feel a fellow conservative is not receiving “fair and balanced” treatment. Ivins, Moore, and Franken raise their voices in protest against what they perceive as conservative distortions of and frequent disregard for the truth. Polemical and humorous, though differing intensities of anger often strain the humor, the three writers share a concern that, driven by money and an economic rationalist philosophy that claims the marketplace will always determine the most socially useful outcomes, the nation’s current politics will rend social contracts that have provided bedrock support for most Americans since at least the New Deal.

Al Franken’s Lies and the Lying Liars Who Tell Them achieved notoriety when Bill O’Reilly of the O’Reilly Factor had his Fox Network employers enter a civil action claiming Franken had libeled him. In his chapter “Bill O’Reilly: Lying, Splotchy Bully,” Franken had accused O’Reilly of falsely taking credit for prestigious journalism awards that he had in fact not received. Confronted with his misrepresentations, O’Reilly refused to admit a mistake and berated Franken in a public forum. “There’s no shame in screwing up a statistic every now and then,” Franken notes. “People make mistakes. It’s just somewhere deep in O’Reilly’s psyche there’s clearly a terror of being proved wrong. When he’s confronted with a mistake, the bully comes out, and he bludgeons his guests with incorrect or just made-up facts and figures.” Fox executives were reluctant to initiate the libel action, but not wanting to antagonize O’Reilly whose contract—I believe I remember reading—was coming up for renewal, they filed. O’Reilly, one might say, bullied and bludgeoned his employer and, in a delicious irony, highlighted Franken’s point about him. The judge—a Clinton appointee?—found the case without merit and dismissed it.

Franken and his Harvard student researchers, TeamFranken he calls them, exhaustively catalogue the lies and distortions the right-wing media promulgates. He observes that Bush and other Republicans claimed during the 2000 campaign that the American military was unprepared to fight, that it had been “gutted” by Clinton administration policies; yet, less than two years after his election, Bush had the military engaged and victorious in Afghanistan and Iraq. Franken compares Bush budgets and policies to Clinton’s and substantiates that the Clinton administration had undertaken significant reforms in military procurement and preparedness that contributed to the military effectiveness in Afghanistan and Iraq. Franken cites instances where following 9/11 conservative politicians blamed Clinton for “de-emphasizing” the military (Orrin Hatch) or for Clinton’s “backing off, letting the Taliban go, over and over again” (Rep. Dana Rohrabacher). Conservatives have learned that in many parts of the country Clinton-bashing pays off in votes; Franken points out the extent of the fabrications employed to make the former president appear responsible for our current problems. (I can’t resist urging people to read a recent The American Prospect interview with
Bill Clinton as he evaluates the current political climate. The consequence of right-wing mendacity Franken concludes is that “all the lies, small and large, add up. They create a world view in which the mainstream media is a liberal propaganda machine... The right-wing media’s lies create a world in which no one needs to feel any obligation to anybody else. It’s a worldview designed to comfort the comfortable and further afflict the afflicted.”

Michael Moore, whose documentary Bowling for Columbine won him an Oscar and the right to afflict the sounds the same theme. In

BOOK REVIEWS

Bernard Shaw dramatized in (Major Barbara) can or should an institution dedicated to relieving human misery (in Shaw’s drama the Salvation Army) accept funding from a source (Bodger’s Distillery) deeply complicit in causing that misery? Should or can schools dedicated both to educating informed citizens and pursuing the truth permit funding by commercial organizations dedicated to profit? Such questions invite no easy answers—see Major Barbara; yet schools desperate to leave no child behind and lacking the financial resources to help them catch up elide the question in the hope they can transform profit into wisdom. I find myself sympathetic to Moore’s advice to high-school students to subvert rather than submit. The brand of authority corporations peddle ought to be interrogated at every level and, if school officials in their quest for funding won’t confront squarely a corrupted bargain, the students certainly should.

Molly Ivins’ BUSHWHACKED sounds the same theme. In her chapter “Leave No Child Behind,” she writes “some critics would say that the Bushies believe education law should be written not only by big business but for big business. This is not new. Schools have always been profit centers for publishing companies. It’s no surprise that the business lobby has a pack of dogs in the education-legislation hunt.” Ivins focuses most sharply on the by now well-entrenched movement to use high-stakes standardized testing as the means for assessing students, teachers, and school districts. She cites researchers who have compared rising state test scores that show greatly improved student performance against more stable national norms that show only incremental, if any, improvement. The researchers conclude that the rising scores imply a shrinking population of test takers or, to state it differently, an increasing population of drop-outs, especially among minorities. (MCAS may soon compel Commonwealth educators to recognize this consequence.) Ivins also argues that corporations regard such high-stakes testing as necessary for training students with “basic literacy and number skills” to become workers who can “compete in the global market.” Corporations want workers, not citizens, and view schools as a humanpower resource. Corporate interests, while not completely opposed to education interests—every teacher understands that schooling should provide students with marketable skills—do conflict with broader social, political, and personal interests. A citizen is only partly a consumer, only partly a worker; Not all our time is spent in the workplace or at the mall.

Ivins quotes Mussolini who once remarked “Fascism should more properly be called corporatism, since it is the merger of state and corporate power.” At a time when some American corporations manage assets larger than those of many governments which gives them immense political power and access; when corporate executives (still mostly white males) move seamlessly between high corporate and political office and use their power to aggrandize themselves and their corporate interests (e.g. Kenneth Lay of Enron, Richard Cheney of Halliburton); and when these same executives and politicians justify their actions by a pervasive economic rationalism which holds that the market will produce the best decisions, at such a time schools should be educating citizens to question loud and long. But as Franken, Moore, and Ivins all in different ways point out, Americans are an optimistic and trusting people. Maybe we’ll only need to worry when the trains (and planes) start to run on time.

—Charles F. Angell is Professor of English