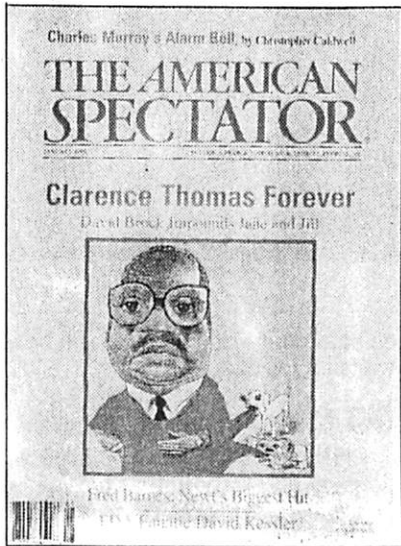
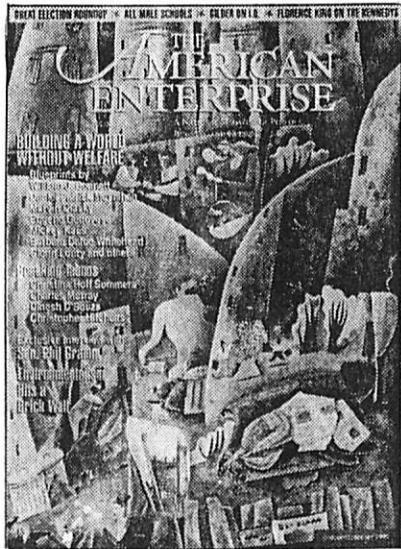


An Enterprising new look; Brock calls book a crock

THE MAG TRADE

By Cynthia Grenier



Do we ever have reading for you this week. In fact, just two magazines alone — the sparkling, truly zippy new version of *American Enterprise* and the January *American Spectator* with 40 pages worth of **David Brock's** dazzling dismantling of the two Wall Street Journal women's book on the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill case — can effortlessly take up all your spare reading for the week.

A fresh format

Not that we don't have a few other print temptations to offer. Talk about serendipity. Beautifully if inadvertently timed with the November Republican victory, the distinguished conservative think tank, the American Enterprise Institute, this week launched a totally revamped, high-powered wow of its bi-monthly magazine. Under the stylish and innovative editorship of Karl Zinsmeister, **American Enterprise** aims at reaching out to the American people, to bringing the grass-roots folks back into the political process.

Says Mr. Zinsmeister, "We'd like to think the magazine's going to be of as much interest to an intelligent dentist in Omaha as to denizens of the Beltway."

Each issue will be built around a theme. The premiere issue treats welfare, about as apposite a subject as you could find, with heavy focus on Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, New York Democrat, described by **William Bennett** in "Reflections on the Moynihan Report: 30 Years Later," as "one of the seminal political figures of our time."

Add to Mr. Bennett's perceptible evaluation a symposium revisiting the Moynihan Report at its 30th anniversary involving the likes of **Martin Anderson, Eugene Genovese, George Gilder, Mickey Kaus, Joel Lieberman, Glenn Loury, Charles Murray, Lee Rainwater, Barbara Dafoe Whitehead, and Walter Williams**. And as the capper, Mr. Moynihan himself on "The Great Transformation."

Consider this from Mr. Moynihan: "As the institutions of primordial social organization crumble, the reconstruction of society is surely a political as

well as a cultural and academic task.

"But the case that any of our political systems is equal to it is ambiguous at best."

Gramm cracks

If you think we've exhausted all the goodies in AE, think on a lively Q&A with Sen. **Phil Gramm**, Texas Republican (how his wife's grandfather came to America as an indentured laborer to work in the sugar cane fields of Hawaii), terrific statistical section on the breakdown of the 1994 vote, and a round-table on taboo research: "Forbidden Thoughts" — hang onto your seat — starring **Dinesh D'Souza** ("Illiberal Education"), **Christina Hoff Sommers** ("Who Stole Feminism?"), Mr. Murray ("The Bell Curve") and **Christopher Hitchens** (columnist for the *Nation* and a pro-life socialist). We've sure come a long way from policy boilerplate. If this kind of content tempts you, and you can't find it on a newsstand near you, just call 202/862-5870 for a free no-strings-attached-get-acquainted issue. You really owe it to yourself to make that call. I, for one, can hardly wait to see what Mr. Zinsmeister and company are going to bring forth for

the next issue. An exciting new magazine for the exciting new world on the Hill.

Anita wars, cont'd.

Terrific as the new AE is, the January *American Spectator* offers absolutely compulsive reading in the 40- — yes — 40-page article by **David Brock** taking apart WSJ reporters **Jane Mayer** and **Jill Abramson**. Talk about a page turner.

Mr. Brock, you'll all remember no doubt, authored the best-selling "The Real Anita Hill" last year. Ms. Mayer and Ms. Abramson, in an act of sororal loyalty to Ms. Hill, attacked Mr. Brock first in the pages of the *New Yorker*, and then this fall produced a defense of Ms. Hill in a full-length, much-hyped book, "Strange Justice: The Selling of Clarence Thomas."

Mr. Brock does not pull his punches. Like, " 'Strange Justice' rivals The Washington Post's **Janet Cooke** episode and the October Surprise 'scandal' as one of the most outrageous journalistic hoaxes in recent memory." Or, "The list of people who say they were misquoted includes the only woman whose allegations against Thomas have not been previously reported — and refuted — in prior books or articles."

Gump still rules

Speaking of the dominant news media, just look at the Dec. 29 issue of **Rolling Stone**, voice of the baby-boomer par excellence and movie critic **Peter Travers** on the "Year in Movies."

Mr. Travers is upset at the "reactionary" "Forrest Gump" being the most popular movie of the year, bringing in more than \$300 million, whereas he and the critics loved **Quentin Tarantino's** ultraviolent "Pulp Fiction," which will bring in barely a fifth of that, if it's lucky.

Mr. Travers moans about Mr. Tarantino offering "the wicked promise of experiment and danger, but his rebel cry is a voice in the wilderness." You might be right in thinking that Mr. Travers just doesn't get it — he probably still can't understand what happened in November.

In case there is any doubt about a political change of climate around town, check out the January *Washingtonian* — you'll want to anyway for the 150 Best Restaurants — for the A-list of the new Republican Brain Trust. Among contributors are folks such as **Bill Kristol, Ralph Reed, Frank Luntz, Vin Weber, Grover Norquist** and **Tod Lindberg**, The Washington Times' very own editorial page editor.

Cynthia Grenier's "The Mag Trade" appears Saturdays.