

# CULTURE, *et cetera*

## Virtue of hypocrisy

"Hypocrisy is a greatly underrated virtue. It was much better when people just pretended to be good, because then they had to behave themselves in public. Who cares what they did in private?"

"At least half of our current problem is caused by the left, because they have insisted on making people's private lives public, and so people get judged on things that are in any other case irrelevant. People say, 'Would you vote for a man who cheated on his wife?' Why not? If you need open-heart surgery, you don't care if your doctor cheats on his wife."

"The same applies to philanthropy—It's important that rich people give money to the right thing, but I don't care how they spend their other money. People say, 'Oh, so-and-so spent \$3 million on a party, isn't that disgusting?' I say, 'Not if you're a waiter.'"

— *Fran Lebowitz, in a symposium in the April-May issue of George*



Ralph Reed of the Christian Coalition is cited as an example of a politicization of religion that is "watering down" basic tenets.

## Politicized religion

"Christianity is now thoroughly politicized. The [Catholic] bishops and [Ralph] Reed have no

trouble speaking about the importance of pro-family legislation, or the glories of religious pluralism, but they are shy about such basics as the Christian teaching on salvation."

"The longer the process of politicization continues, the thinner the faith gets. Political ambition causes people to water down their beliefs for the sake of gaining favor."

"The hazard is especially prevalent in a society with competing religions. The first stage of sell-out comes with the exaltation of political pluralism above doctrinal truth, the second stage with the denial of doctrinal truth altogether for achieving political goals."

— *Llewellyn H. Rockwell Jr., writing in the April issue of Chronicles*

## Nowhere to go

"Hard on the heels of passing a resolution condemning Bennington College for what many regarded as a matter of internal policy, the Modern Language Association is about to ask its mem-

bership to ratify a resolution already passed by its Delegate Assembly censuring Yale University for the way it handled its recent graduate student 'strike.' Today Bennington, tomorrow Yale — what school is safe from the MLA's academic police sanctions? If this sounds unduly apocalyptic, consider the results of the MLA's ever-widening policy of refusing to hold its conventions in states that pass po-

litically incorrect legislation. In response to its latest decision to boycott California as a result of its passing Proposition 187, a disgruntled MLA member writes in its Spring 1996 Newsletter: 'The situation of the MLA as the arbiter of political correctness is out of control. . . . For one reason or another the convention now may not take place in forty-six of the fifty states. . . . Eliminating California because the citizens of that state voted not to use their tax dollars to educate illegal aliens was the final blow. It is time for us to get out of politics and back into scholarship.'"

— *An editorial in the February issue of Heterodoxy*