

...y no other
...y news
...y column
...y by
...y South
...y Bann
...y scarr'd by
...y Alinc

NEWS

...imes). If they of jingo-...-editor in last
...he Daily Star, "p...bling or long one New York tabloid words will
...es equally well "Mar" in... with Rudolf sub-editors...
...m- of b

SLATE

The following letter was recently sent out to members and friends of the National Council of Teachers of English in the US:

Dear Colleague: There are certain privileges that democracy guarantees to everyone, one of which is the privilege to *think for ourselves*. Too frequently, this privilege is being challenged in our classrooms and libraries. We cannot allow censorship to override teachers' judgements about materials or methods that are appropriate for students. I invite you to take an active stance in the battle over censorship by joining SLATE, Support for the Learning and Teaching of English. SLATE is the sociopolitical wing of NCTE, which seeks to influence public attitudes and policy decisions affecting the teaching of the English language arts at local, state, and national levels. Below are testimonials from a few NCTE members who have successfully fought the censorship battle with SLATE's support.

From a New Jersey High School English Department Chair:

"I want to thank you for your invaluable help this past week. The materials you sent regarding censorship and the works in question (Guest's *Ordinary People* and Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye*) were exactly what I needed: and your letter to our superintendent was excellent....I've always been proud of my association with NCTE; your prompt response to my request just confirms my confidence in the quality of our association."

From a California High School Principal:

"Thank you for your letter of support (Wright's *Black Boy* and Golding's *Lord of the Flies*). As the political Far Right continues to step forward and batter public education, it is reassuring to know that organisations such as the National Council of Teachers of English are ready and prepared to assist....It felt wonderful to have someone on our side."

From a Kansas Teacher:

"Just a thank-you for your support in fighting

the good fight on *Romeo and Juliet*. The committee who reviewed the challenge voted 5-0 in support of continued use of the film. I shared your letter with the committee and will be giving copies to members of the local board....Again, thanks for being there. My dues dollars have been doubly worth the investment this year."

These success stories are only a fraction of the dozens of calls for help in censorship cases to which NCTE responds every year. But we don't win them all, and the censors rarely quit. Your SLATE membership can help to create an environment for free and responsible teaching and learning. A contribution of \$15.00 enables you to receive the *SLATE Newsletter*, published three times per year. In addition, when censorship challenges occur for books on our list of over 300 commonly challenged works, we will provide rationales for teaching the contested works. The following is a sample of the works on our list:

<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	<i>The Hobbit</i>
<i>The Chocolate War</i>	<i>The Adventures of</i>
<i>A Light in the Attic</i>	<i>Huckleberry Finn</i>
<i>Grendel</i>	<i>Go Ask Alice</i>
<i>The Pigman</i>	<i>Forever</i>
<i>In the Night Kitchen</i>	

Take an active stance today to combat attacks on teacher professionalism and the freedom to learn by joining SLATE. Help ensure that educational materials that should be available to those who wish to use them **remain** available. Simply return your contribution and the enclosed response form in the envelope provided.

Signed: Charles Suhor, Deputy Executive Director

The National Council of Teachers of English, the world's largest subject-matter educational association, is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education. Its membership is composed of elementary, middle, and high school teachers, supervisors of English programs, college and university faculty,

teacher educators, local and state agency English specialists, and professionals in related fields.

Latinos

(From the NCTE *Convention News*, 29 Nov 94)

During the 84th Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, held November 16-21 in Orlando, Florida, directors and members of the Council passed resolutions on a number of education issues, including one which condemns Proposition 187, a recently passed piece of legislation in California that denies educational and social services to undocumented immigrants. NCTE also resolved to affirm the professional freedom of teachers; to urge schools to include special needs students in regular classrooms; and to explore effective ways of integrating awareness of the structure of language into classroom instruction without teaching such structure in a prescriptive manner. Finally, NCTE passed a resolution that addresses the failure of the Smithsonian Institute to acknowledge the contributions of Latinos to American culture and history.

US Hispanics and Anglos

(From Richard Lacayo, 'The Videos that Bind', *Time Magazine*, 12 Dec 94)

A further wrinkle is that the burgeoning Hispanic population within the U.S., the world's fifth largest Spanish-speaking market, is being bound more tightly to Latin America, which is reaching northward by means of the same cultural transport – television, music and publishing – that long served as landing craft for the American cultural invasion of the south. Almost half the sales of Sony Discos, the music giant's Latin label, are in Anglo markets. More than 90% of the Spanish-speaking households in the U.S. are reached by Univision, a brain-child of Mexican and Venezuelan media magnates. At the same time, Hispanic Americans are gradually making their presence felt more strongly in the mainstream American culture.

Though Spanish-language productions still do not move very far in the Anglo market, the box-office success of the movie *Like Water for Chocolate* notwithstanding, the presence of a

growing Hispanic community in their midst is enough to make what used to be a foreign culture seem familiar to even the most Anglo Anglos. They may not be able to talk the talk, but they can eat the food and tap their fingers to the tunes.

Cultural maintenance?

(From George F. Will, 'Immigrants Can Fit In Too Well', *International Herald Tribune*, 12 Aug 94)

The idea that millions of immigrant parents are resisting assimilation is, Mr. Cornelius says, a myth. "Cultural maintenance" of the immigrants' old identity is more apt to be a goal of Anglo intellectuals than of immigrants. "Lack of English," says Mr. Cornelius, "is the single most important factor working against improvement of immigrants' economic condition – and they know it."

Immigrant parents who remain monolingual do so primarily for two reasons. Working dawn to dusk, they are too exhausted to attend "ESL" (English as a second language) classes. And there is an acute shortage of such classes.

The rising aversion to immigration masks Americans' ambivalence about immigration, ambivalence rooted in economic rather than cultural calculations. There always will be, Mr. Cornelius says, jobs that "Americans do not raise their kids to do." It is, to say no more, rare to see an Anglo working in a car wash. Chances are, a non-Anglo will serve you in a Southern California restaurant.

The rich countries?

(Editorial, *The Washington Post*, Dec 94)

For four long years a recession rolled across the world. Now at last it is over. The United States was the first to go into it and the first, in the spring of 1991, to begin to pull out of it, although slowly and haltingly at the beginning. Then the rest of the English-speaking world followed – Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. In Europe the recovery began only last year – again, weakly until recently. Finally, a solid recovery is now under way in Japan.

Each of the rich countries has its own particular responsibilities to meet in keeping this recovery going.

Queer theory

(Describing *Straight Sex, The Politics of Pleasure*, by Lynne Segal, in the Virago non-fiction summer catalogue, 1994)

Over the last quarter of a century passionate debates about sexuality have raged within the feminist movement. Powerful voices have launched an unprecedented critique of heterosexuality as the basis of men's exploitation of women. Critically surveying recent literature from sexology, psychoanalysis and queer theory, *Straight Sex* looks at the place of sex in our lives, searches for a positive account of female heterosexuality and suggests ways in which straight women seek social empowerment and sexual pleasure.

Onset of the World City

(From Grady Clay, *Real Places: An Unconventional Guide to America's Generic Landscape*, University of Chicago Press, 1994: Section 1)

Meanwhile, a worldwide shakeout has been taking place among super-cities that sit on locations central to global affairs. Geographer Peter Hall in 1977 identified seven "World Cities": London, Paris, Randstad Holland, Rhine-Ruhr, Moscow, New York, and Tokyo. Today, as the European Community musters power, its capital cities flourish.

Power, derived from aggressively creating accessibility, trade, and new information, enabled these so-called World Cities to arise. Their power derives from their locational access to new worldwide flows of information, travellers, and goods. They absorb or grab new vigour from expanding global markets.

The list of World Cities continues to change. New York attracted billions in capital from frightened investors around the world in its booming sixties, but skates on thinning ice today. In Randstad Holland, Rotterdam tries to leverage its power as the world's Number One port to become the European Community's World City for business – building a

Longman and the first English dictionary

From the *Longman English Language Teaching Catalogue*, 1995, in the section 'Longman, Setting Standards Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow':

From the earliest years of its history Longman has set standards in English language teaching materials – standards for others to follow. In 1755, Longman published Samuel Johnson's famous *Dictionary of the English Language*, the first ever English dictionary,...

★ Johnson's dictionary was brought out in 1755 by a consortium of booksellers listed on the title page as: 'J. and P. Knapton; T. and T. Longman; C. Hitch and L. Hawes; A. Millar; and R. and J. Dodsley'.

★ Dictionaries of English published prior to Johnson's include: Robert Cawdrey's *Table Alphabeticall* (1604); John Bullokar's *English Expositor* (1616); Henry Cockeram's *English Dictionarie* (1623); Thomas Blount's *Glossographia* (1656); Edward Phillips's *New World of English Words* (1658); Elisha Coles's *English Dictionary* (1676); John Kersey's *New English Dictionary* (1702); and Nathaniel Bailey's *Universal Etymological English Dictionary* (1721).

mammoth "port city" just across the Maas River. Los Angeles and its "Rimsters" make their moves toward World City status, trying to capture trade around the PACIFIC RIM, where Singapore has given repeated signals that it wants to become the world communications and information centre by 2002. Berlin looks to unified Germany as its springboard to European and wider dominance. Such cities often produce an "International Zone" offering perks, tax breaks, and GOOD ADDRESS to an expanding, continent-dropping elite linked into global fax-and-info-nets. □