
Editor's Corner

Is education at risk? Are the textbooks that are adopted by colleges and universities the "best" selections that could be made purely on the basis of academic and intellectual merit? Do publishers purposely dilute the content of their textbooks in order to produce the "least offensive" texts in hopes of gaining larger market shares? Do political interests outside the academy influence textbook adoption and curricula content in the subfields of political science? These are the questions addressed by the authors of our symposium.

In Alabama and Tennessee, the courts have reconsidered the meaning of First Amendment freedoms and our cultural and legal tradition of non-sectarian public education. O'Connor and Ivers detail the judicial history of challenges to "secular humanism." Though the challenges to textbook use in local school districts are played out in the federal courts, O'Connor and Ivers conclude religious groups have not been successful in weakening First Amendment guarantees. Adler adds that this has not been by chance, emphasizing People For the American Way's part in forcing litigation to protect First Amendment freedoms. Perhaps less confident than O'Connor and Ivers in the ability of the legal system alone to preserve non-sectarian education, Adler stresses interest group action as a necessary counterforce.

Currey cautions us not to condemn the statewide book selection process practiced by Texas, Florida, New York and others. As a former member of the Texas Textbook Selection Committee, she argues strongly that statewide selection and adoption procedures give instructors more freedom of choice than they might otherwise have.

The discussion of censorship in education shifts with Paul's article to the issue of textbook self-censorship. While schools might well be asked if they are selecting the "best" books on purely academic

grounds, Paul questions whether publishers are producing the "best" books. Market success means producing textbooks that do not vary significantly from existing texts, even if this means representing data or explanations long since proven wrong.

The federal courts are dealing effectively with book banning, but the federal government is not always the guarantor of academic freedom. Caporaso and Mittelman recount the intervention of the local department of education office in the curricula of the Center for Teaching International Relations.

After reading the articles in this symposium, you must answer for yourselves the question that frames our symposium: Is Education At Risk?

Features

Our new "Features" section contains substantive articles that are not a part of the symposium. Consider, for example, Zeigler and Dye's examination of economic and social equality under socialism and capitalism. Theirs is a provocative conclusion: economic development is a better determinant of equality than the particular institutional and ideological organization of the political economy.

International Political Science

In 1988 political scientists from around the world will have the opportunity to participate in two scholarly meetings. APSA will be hosting for the first time the World Congress of the International Political Science Association. The 14th World Congress, whose theme is the "Globalization of Political Science," will be held in Washington one week before the APSA Annual Meeting, and will overlap with the Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 1.

This issue of *PS* contains the preliminary program of the 14th World Congress of the International Political Science Association. APSA members are encouraged to attend the World Congress and will receive IPSA member registration and hotel rates.

The Sheraton Washington will be the headquarters hotel for the World Congress. It is within convenient walking distance of the Washington Hilton, headquarters hotel of the APSA Annual Meeting. Buses will be available to further facilitate movement between the two meeting sites. As always, the APSA Book Exhibit will be held in the Hilton. The Book Exhibit, however, will open Wednesday, one day earlier than usual, and close Saturday evening, again one day earlier than usual.

If you have any questions concerning the World Congress, contact Rob Hauck or Norinne Hessman at the APSA headquarters.

Correction

In the cumulative list of awards listed in the Fall issue of *PS*, the Birkhead Award (p. 1085) should have read the Leon M. Birkhead Award, NOT the Guthrie Birkhead Award. Under the J. Kimbrough Owen Award (p. 1088) the dissertation by Theodore J. Lowi was submitted by Yale University, not Cornell University.

Robert J-P. Hauck
Editor

1987 Undergraduate Faculty Directory

The 1987 Directory of Undergraduate Political Science Faculty contains listings for 525 undergraduate departments of political science. Departmental name, address, and telephone number are given.

The Directory lists political science faculty members by name, with their highest degree, fields of specialization and current position. The Directory also contains an alphabetical faculty index.

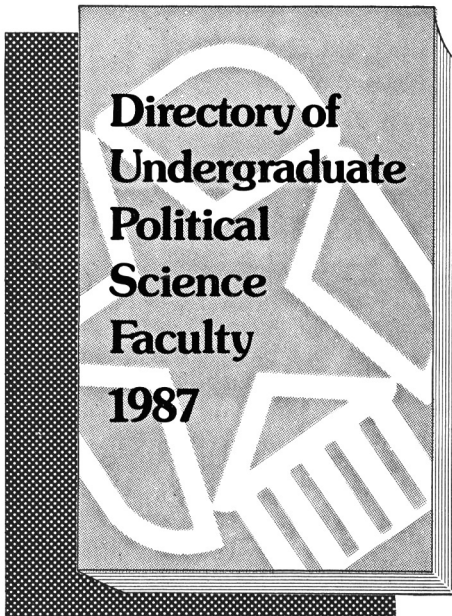
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