

PENN Arts & Sciences

FALL 1996

Another Philadelphia Story (South Philly, That Is)

The black predawn air was filled with movement. Its thin coolness rushed through the streets of South Philly, encircling the tight, sturdy row houses. In 1940 the blocks were clean and close. The people who lived here scrubbed their steps every morning until the sand in the concrete sparkled like diamond pins. Then some went to work mopping floors and cooking meals for rich folks, or cleaning fish at the dock, or stitching fine leather shoes or pinch-pleated draperies at the factories on the north side. Some answered phones or crumpled paper for the government. Some tended house and nursed babies. A few were really nurses. One or two taught school. Unless it was the weekend. On the weekend the blocks came to life....the music flowed like bubbly. And brown faces laughed for real, not the mannered tee-hees of the workday, but booming laughs. And Sunday they shouted in church and felt the sweet release where grand hats rocked, and high heels stomped or went click-ety-clack depending on how the spirit hit.

From *Timbling*, by Diane McKinney-Whetstone (William Morrow and Company, 1996)

DIANE MCKINNEY-WHETSTONE (CW'75) has recently lived a story that would warm any writer's heart. A busy wife, mother of teen-age twins, and public affairs officer for the USDA Forest Service, she still found time—between 5 and 7 am—to work on her first novel. A Philadelphia writers' group gave her helpful advice and criticism. The Pennsylvania Council of the Arts gave her a grant that allowed her to take a temporary leave from her job. When the novel was finished, an agent snapped it up, got the dazed author a six-figure contract from a major publisher, and sent her out on a book tour. She's still touring, still writing (her second book now), and still somewhat dazed by it all.

Though the sudden onset of success caught her by surprise, McKinney-Whetstone has always known that she wanted to be a writer. Since childhood, she had listened to her parents' vibrant stories of life in south Philadelphia when they were young. She enjoyed and remembered them: "My father especially was a great storyteller." But her own impulse was to write stories down, to capture them in a more permanent form. She began to write at an early age, and by the time she came to Penn, it seemed natural to major in English.

Did her Penn education help her become a writer? "Oh, yes. I didn't write any fiction at Penn; it was the reading that was the most instructive. Also the bouncing around of ideas." She still remembers vividly a course with Nina Auerbach who introduced her to the poetry of William Blake. "*The Marriage of Heaven and Hell* especially



Diane McKinney-Whetstone

has stayed with me. The whole notion of good and evil, with evil being cloaked under the pretense of being good—those ideas were very provocative to me. That course and others at Penn stayed a part of me. The ideas were still working and coming together and in some ways culminated in *Timbling*."

After Penn, marriage, and motherhood, McKinney-Whetstone worked at a day job that made heavy use of her writing skills. Much of her time at the Forest Service, for example, was spent turning scientific research into readable prose for lay audiences. But the early mornings and some evenings went into more imaginative efforts. In 1992, she began attending the Rittenhouse

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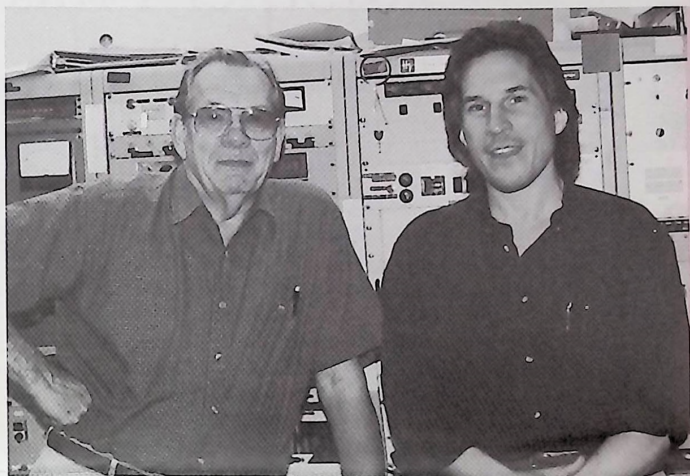
New Dating Technique Reaches Back 3,000,000 Years

A GRAM OF MATERIAL — say, rock or bone — typically contains 10,000 billion billion atoms. If among all those mind-boggling billions, you could identify and count **six** individual atoms, the feat would be extraordinary. But what would those few special atoms tell you about the sample they came from? And why would you want to know?

First, these atoms could tell you approximately how old something is. Perhaps even where it originated. You could tell if a rock in Antarctica is debris from a meteor collision with the moon—or just a rock. You might follow rainwater contaminated by a nuclear bomb test as it works its way into soils and aquifers. Or discover precisely when a glacier covered a particular part of the earth's surface.

*Photo (right):
Roy Middleton and
Jeffrey Klein*

The process used to count these telltale atoms is the 21st-century version of carbon dating, an area where Penn has long played a leading role. This new procedure, however, requires some special equipment. You need a mass spectrometer, one part of which is a particle accelerator. Particle accelerators are generally huge: CERN (in Switzerland) is a mile in diameter. Jeff Klein and Roy Middleton, the Penn physicists who are working with this process quickly point out that their machine is actually a **nuclear** accelerator, which is smaller and works in a range of only a few million volts. "It's also Army surplus. We got it for the price of moving it to Penn."



Accelerated mass spectrometry (AMS) separates atoms by their mass (roughly, their weight). Knowing the mass of the atoms you're analyzing should enable you to identify and count them. However, contaminants—scattered particles and other stable atoms or molecules with the same mass as the atoms you're interested in—can confuse the issue. An ordinary mass spectrometer has no way to screen out these contaminants. "That's why you need an accelerator." In several stages of progressive screening, an accelerator can get rid of contaminants.

When a sample is put into the machine, it is electrically charged and turned into fast-moving negative ions. In the accelerator, seven to eight mil-

lion volts of electricity speed them up even faster. As they flash through a thin screening foil, their electrons are stripped out, changing the ions' negative charge to positive. This change destroys contaminating molecules. Large magnets then filter out more unwanted particles, until the atoms that are left can be identified by composition and counted.

AMS dating derives from and greatly improves on carbon-14 dating. The older technique assumes that all living things derive all their carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon-14 atoms (radioactive carbon isotopes) have been formed steadily at about the same rate ever since earth first had an atmosphere. A plant picks up small amounts of the iso-

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Please direct correspondence to:
Editorial Offices, School of Arts and Sciences
3440 Market Street, Suite 300
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Interim Dean, School of Arts & Sciences: Walter Wales
Managing Editor: Susanne Bradford
Editor: Judith Eubank
Contributing Editor: Anita Mastroieni
Editorial Assistant: Sydney Robertson
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and a Hank of Hair''*

tope during the course of its life, but when the plant dies, its carbon-14 begins to decay. By comparing the concentration of the isotope in the plant when you find it with the concentration normally in the atmosphere, you can determine the plant's age. With AMS, scientists can use much smaller samples, determine sample age more rapidly, and extend the time range. The age limit with conventional carbon-14 dating is about 40,000 years. Using AMS, Klein says, "can take you back as far as three million years."

Another kind of application for AMS is found in biomedical work.

Diagnosing disease, for example, often involves giving a patient a protein or carbohydrate with a radioactive tracer, then following the tracer to see where it goes and what it does in the body. Clearly, the disadvantage to this technique is the hazard posed by the radioactivity. Using AMS, however, requires such low concentrations of radioactive isotopes that the biological hazard is eliminated. Researchers can also do tracer experiments over periods of years or decades. One on-going experiment, for example, studies bone loss in osteoporosis by feeding people calcium-41 and tracing the amounts in their bodies for many years. When do people begin to lose the calcium-41 concentrated in their bones? Again, answers can be found without hazard to the human subjects.

While AMS has many applications and many advantages as an investigative technique, it does have one daunting disadvantage: it's expensive. Jeff Klein puts the budget of the Penn lab at about \$500,000 per year. (That hardly makes it Big Science. CERN's budget approaches \$10 million per year.)

Normally, the lab's primary sources of funding are the National Science Foundation, NASA for extraterrestrial studies, and the National Institutes of

Health for biomedical research. Until 18 months ago, Klein points out, Penn's accelerator was also doing nuclear structure physics. The lab then had about \$1.5 million a year from the Nuclear Physics division of the NSF. However, "nuclear physics is becoming less an interest of the Foundation."

Some of these cutbacks in funding result from the natural evolution of knowledge. "You should put your money out on the frontiers of knowledge." And the perception of where those frontiers lie changes over time. "The maturing of what we know about atomic nuclei is partly responsible for the change in support, which tends to go now to particle physics and work related to cosmology." But funding also shifts because there are "good times and bad times for science." Physics tends to be especially hard hit right now because of its expense and the complication of its work, which can take years or decades to achieve results. "It's relatively esoteric, too, and often has no immediate applications flowing from the work."

Biomedical research does have obvious paybacks, of course. And geomorphic processes are intensely interesting to people who construct and test climate models. AMS can be usefully applied in many other areas, but sometimes, Klein admits, "all that you get back is knowledge." And who needs knowledge if it isn't immediately useful? Well, we all might. As the nineteenth-century physicist Michael Faraday is reported to have said, "A newborn baby isn't immediately good for anything." With a bit of investment, however, he/she could find a cure for cancer or AIDS. ♦

**Rudyard Kipling*

Life on Mars?

When Dr. David Balamuth, chairman and professor of physics and associate dean of SAS for the natural sciences, heard the news about the Mars rock, he went to the Internet to read the NASA scientists' full argument in their published *Science* paper. His reaction? On the intellectual level, appropriately cautious: "...the authors have considered a wide variety of possibilities and advanced the most interesting interpretation of their results. Much more work will be needed to reach any final conclusion."

But "on an emotional level, I found the results thrilling. If the rock ultimately proves to contain fossilized Martian bacteria, it would suggest that life arose on an isolated system (a planet) more than once. This would be very strong support for current theories that regard the emergence of life as inevitable, given certain broad conditions. The importance for our understanding of biology and evolution would be enormous."

Confirmation would be "a beautiful example" of how the methods of one science—in this case, the history and provenance of rocks—can be applied to an important general problem like the origin of life. To study the Martian meteorite, geoscientists also needed new ultra-sensitive techniques like precision mass spectrometry. Their work, and that of many scientists, depends on the continuing development of such new investigative tools, including "the powerful accelerator-based techniques of Middleton and Klein."

Ending Welfare As

This summer President Clinton signed the Welfare Reform Bill, eliminating the federal guarantee of public assistance to the poor that had been in place for over thirty years. Critics argue that the results will be disastrous, turning America into another Brazil inhabited by the very rich and the very poor. Supporters claim that welfare demoralized and destroyed families, and we're better off without it. What changed to make such a sweeping reform possible? What are the likely results? We asked three distinguished social scientists who have been watching the summer's events and grappling with their implications.

Reluctant Good Samaritans, or How We Got Into This Fix

Michael Katz, History



Michael Katz

Q: Can you put the Welfare Reform Bill into historical perspective for us? What were the original welfare provisions—especially Aid to Families with Dependent Children—designed to do? Why did we need them?

A: They were designed principally to help widows with children, so that mothers wouldn't have to leave home and go to work. They were outgrowths of mothers' pensions, which were state-run programs started in the second decade of this century. These programs were very limited because they were hedged with various kinds of moral and behavioral restrictions as well as citizenship requirements. By the Depression, they had been enacted in about 35 states

and were assisting some 200,000 families. They were important for a couple of reasons. First, they made a substantial difference in the ability of these families to get by. They also set an important precedent. With mothers' pensions in mind, a group of very able and energetic women reformers—many of whom came out of the settlement house movement and Progressive reform—exerted influence at the time of passage of the Economic Security Act in 1935 (what we today call Social Security) to pass Aid to Dependent Children as a provision of that Act.

Some kind of help was necessary because widowhood was a much more serious problem than it is today. Men died younger then, from disease, unhealthy work, and a tremendous number of industrial accidents. Most of these men had very little insurance; it might cover their funerals. Women were unemployed or marginally employed outside their homes. They had little earning capacity. Both public assistance and private charity were meager. Additionally, wages for working men were very low. Most men worked episodically and were frequently laid off. The idea that working men could save a substantial amount of money was absurd. So widows found themselves in enormously difficult circumstances. It was plain to everybody that this was through no fault of theirs. They were the quintessential deserving poor.

Q: How have the constituencies served by welfare changed over time?

A: There were great demographic changes in what became Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The number of widows went down, and the number of unmarried mothers went up, as did the proportion of women of color. Divorced, separated, and never-married women increased. By the 1960s, widows made up only about one-half of recipients. This new population is one that gets a lot less sympathy from the public. The other great change since the 1970s is women working outside the home. It's

harder now to argue that women should be paid to stay out of the workforce with their children.

Q: Are there are proportionately more people on welfare today than in the programs' early years?

A: Until the 1960s, a relatively small portion of eligible people received benefits. One reason for the explosion of recipients in the '60s was the Welfare Rights movement and court decisions. These challenges encouraged women to claim assistance for which they were eligible and made it difficult for public authorities to deny them that assistance. The numbers went from around one-third of eligible women receiving assistance to 90 percent.

Q: Some critics argue that welfare contributes to a culture of poverty and crippling dependency, helping produce crime, illegitimacy, and other social ills. Does a historical perspective support that criticism?

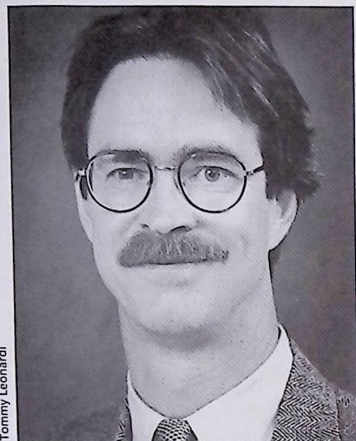
A: Neither a historical perspective nor social science research supports it. There's a large quantity of very competent, high-quality research on these issues and it does not in any way support the claims of critics like Charles Murray that welfare is a major source of the rise in out-of-wedlock births, dependency, and so on. A striking fact is that the rates of out-of-wedlock births and welfare use went up over a 20-year period while benefits dropped by about 40 percent.

Q: People aren't making shrewd calculations and saying, "I'll go on welfare and make money"?

This is a very big country, and I suppose if you look hard enough, you can find people who do that. From what I read in the research, most people dislike having to depend on public assistance. It's stigmatizing and a very unpleasant way of life for them. Most people can't live on their AFDC and must have some way of making money and getting some services on the side. These aren't

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We Know It



Tommy Leonard

Looking at the Numbers: "Small Change" and Big Changes

Robert Inman, Finance and Economics

IF REFORMING WELFARE means cutting benefits, the Welfare Reform Bill should cause a reduction in the bloated federal budget. And it will, according to Robert Inman. But when asked to describe the budget savings to be gained, Inman gives a somewhat surprising answer: "small potatoes." He believes that Congress wants to save money but that desire was not the most powerful motive for reforming welfare. "If you look at the dollars proposed as budget savings from this bill, it's \$55 billion over six years. In 1993 (the last year we have numbers for), the major welfare programs—AFDC, food stamps, and Medicaid—spent \$179 billion, or about 6-10 percent of all government spending. The proposed welfare savings amount to a 5 percent reduction in the welfare bill and less than one-half of a percent overall savings. Pocket change. It's not going to balance the budget—or bankrupt America."

Inman thinks it was the way welfare was structured that "drove Congress crazy." And the keystone of that struc-

ture was the idea of entitlement.

Federal regulations said that anyone who met the qualifications of a federal assistance program was eligible for that assistance. People signed up in their states; the states enrolled them and sent the bills to Congress. Since the states and the federal government shared the welfare budget, Washington was obliged to send back roughly two-thirds of the cost, with the states and other local entities paying the rest. "The old system basically gave the states and poor families an open draw on federal budgets."

State welfare bills varied with the business cycle and with exploding health care costs; they were maddeningly unpredictable. Unable to predict or control welfare spending, Congress couldn't even negotiate when items were protected by the term "entitlement." The states, for their part, were irked by many federal rules and regulations. They wanted "the same amount of money coming in, steadily growing each year," but with the rules for its disbursement made by themselves, not by Congress. In the end, Congress took control of the situation by "breaking the federal entitlement." It will no longer pay for welfare with matching funds from the federal budget. Instead, states will receive given sums called block grants to spend with fewer restrictions from federal regulations. The states agreed to this arrangement on the understanding that the budgets wouldn't be damaging to them. "So there isn't a lot of savings in the reform bill."

What are the implications of the bill at the state level? "On the financial side, they will be pronounced. The old system gave the states a strong incentive to continue spending money on the poor. Entitlements were the beams under the floor of welfare. Now the beams have been knocked out. The question is how far the floor is going to fall." Some fear a "race to the bottom" among the states. States will compete to offer low welfare benefits because if Pennsylvania, for example, were generous, "poor families from Boston to Washington have an incentive to move

into the state looking for benefits."

Inman thinks that internal state politics will actually control the spending. "The blunt fact is that the very poor don't have a powerful political coalition when it comes to state budgets. When poor families in Philadelphia marched to Harrisburg to protest welfare reform, what happened? A few hundred people stood outside the governor's house and yelled at it for a few days—and that was the end of that." If states reduce their spending on the poor, it won't be because they're swamped by incoming tides of welfare recipients. Rather, politicians listen to taxpayers, who vote in large numbers, and "there are no votes when it comes to poor families."

How much will state spending on the poor drop? Inman's work with a colleague suggests that it could fall by as much as 50-60 percent in real (inflation-adjusted) dollars over the next five to ten years. Congress foresaw this problem and put a "maintenance of effort" provision into the Welfare Reform Bill. It says that spending cannot fall below 75 percent of a state's welfare budget in 1994. "But there's always the question of how enforceable these floors are. Is Congress going to go out and look at each state budget to determine if it's spending at a 75-percent level? It becomes virtually impossible to police that 75-percent limit." With maintenance of effort, welfare budgets may fall by only 25 percent; but the legislated limit is such a weak check that Inman places little faith in it. "My bet is that the reduction in state support for poverty programs will be 30 or 40 percent over the next few years. The burden is going to shift onto the cities."

That's why Philadelphia mayor Ed Rendell, and other big city mayors, are so nervous about welfare reform. "The fiscal responsibility for funding poor people is going to shift from taxpayers nationally down to a state maintenance of effort requirement that will only be marginally met. Ultimately, the tax burden for low-income support will be allocated to the taxpayers where poor

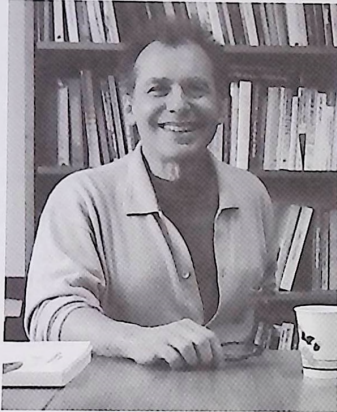
Photo (left): Robert Inman

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Ending Welfare As We Know It

The Eye of the Beholder: Welfare Facts and Fiction

Frank Furstenberg, Jr., Sociology



Frank Furstenberg, Jr.

THE DEBATE THAT SWIRLED around welfare reform assumed that the system in place was working very badly. That's why it needed to be fixed. Sociologist Frank Furstenberg doesn't see welfare quite that way. In fact, he views the whole debate as an example of how public opinion and perception can clash with evidence gathered by the social sciences.

"It was widely perceived that welfare was a kind of honeypot that attracted the woebegone and sharpies looking for an easy life. It's pretty clear that was not the case. Welfare was not an attractive way of life. The most dysfunctional people probably used it that way, but the people who became chronically dependent were not a large proportion of recipients. Even some who used it as an opportunity to raise their children eventually headed back into the labor force."

There were certainly problems with the system. As Furstenberg points out, it didn't ease the transition back into the labor force. It didn't provide good incentives for working; if anything, it discouraged work. Still, most people didn't stay on welfare, perhaps because they couldn't live on it without supplementary sources of income. Yet the stereotypical picture of the lazy welfare recipient living in near-luxury at taxpayers' expense—and rearing children to do the same—has persisted in the

public mind. In fact, it's grown more negative as it focuses on the teenage, unmarried welfare mother. Distorted views about welfare recipients continue to be shared and discussed, "despite the fact that social science evidence suggests that the system was working tolerably well."

If welfare was not badly broken, Congress went ahead and "fixed" it anyway, setting a five-year maximum lifetime limit on benefits and stringent work requirements for recipients. States are required to have 25 percent of their recipients working next year and 50 percent by 2002. Other changes will reduce benefits for immigrants, childless nonworkers, and low-income disabled children. What will be the effects of these reforms on poor families? Furstenberg's best guess is that "we're going to make matters worse rather than better."

Conceivably, things might eventually get better because they get visibly and undeniably bad first. "It's possible that the Welfare Reform Bill will create such vast problems in providing employment, and so much pressure to make modifications and create job incentives or jobs, that the availability of work at the bottom of the economic scale will expand and allow a living wage to occur." He admits that public opinion probably won't change any time soon. "We may have to play out the tough and mean-minded approach that we're taking toward the disadvantaged. But at some time in the future there will be a shift back toward a more benign and progressive view."

Even if we were to create or find decent jobs for most welfare recipients, Furstenberg says, we must realize that some portion of the current welfare population is really not employable. "These are the mildly to moderately disabled who have problems of substance abuse, mental health, or moderate retardation. They can't compete for jobs in the private sector or hold jobs in the public sector. Without sheltered workshops, these people will become the full charges of their families or live on the streets. Both are expensive ways of managing the previously chronic welfare population."

For those who can work, tighter welfare restrictions are often described as a boon, providing incentives to stop

undesirable behavior and seek paid employment. The state of New Jersey, for example, under Governor Florio began to limit welfare benefits to unmarried women who had additional children. At least one report claims that this policy has led to a dramatic decrease in illegitimate births in New Jersey. Furstenberg disputes this finding, however. "The change began to occur too soon to be linked to the onset of the welfare program. I've seen no convincing evidence yet that an effect has occurred, and it's not true that it's perfectly obvious that the program had the intended effects."

"It's a complicated piece of demographic analysis—to identify all the relevant factors and say why these rates change. There's also a general confusion between the proportion of births out of wedlock and the rate of births. The proportion can change because marital fertility declines—even if the rate doesn't. We know that most changes in recent years have to do with the decline in marriage, not with the increase in nonmarital childbearing. *Marriage is occurring later and fertility within marriage is delayed.* That has a large economic component to it. It's not that people are never marrying; they are postponing marriage in hopes of making it more secure. That exposes them to the risk of nonmarital childbearing unless they remain sexually abstinent. As you tighten the restrictions on abortion, you also run the risk of increasing nonmarital childbearing."

Furstenberg believes that too often people fasten on small pieces of the big picture to demonstrate an ideological point of view rather than trying to understand what's really happening and why. "What we've done in welfare policy has not been based on thoughtful examination of evidence but on a kind of rush to judgment, trying to gain political advantage. I'm afraid that the media and the political opinion makers are in an unholy alliance that ill serves the public. The simple and vivid sell newspapers and gain votes."

Countering the simple and vivid with public discussions that are calm and complex is a new task for many academics and one they're not very comfortable with. Yet in Furstenberg's view, it is vital. Otherwise, bad information

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 Aluminum Company of America
 American Bible Society
 American Cancer Society, Inc.
 American Heart Association - Southeastern Chapter
 American Heart Association
 Appleman Foundation
 Arete Foundation
 Argyle Capital Management Corporation
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list complete as of June 30, 1996

Financial Aid: The Enabling Gift



Marjorie Ernest and friend



Deborah Gortler

FROM HER FIRST moment on campus as a student, Marjorie Ernest knew that Penn was for her. She loved everything about the place, from the vast diversity of courses she could take as an English major to the football games she attended enthusiastically wearing a red and blue jumper. She graduated from the College for Women in 1956 and went on to other responsi-

bilities, but she never forgot the joys of her Penn experience. Miss Ernest recently set up a bequest that will fund seven endowed undergraduate scholarships in the School of Arts and Sciences. She has long been a generous supporter of the School, but this gift was especially meaningful. "I chose to make the bequest for need-based financial aid to help students get an education at a first-class university." She wanted "to help others majoring in English" and designated the scholarships for declared English majors in their junior and senior years.

This kind of gift is exemplary. In a time of rising costs and falling government support, it helps the School admit the very brightest and most promising students regardless of their financial circumstances. Scholarships for talented undergraduates are a particular source of pleasure for donors who like to maintain a connection with the recipients of their gifts.

Consider the example of Deborah Gortler. One of many College students

assisted by financial aid, Deborah arrived with high academic credentials and a boundless enthusiasm for volunteer work and community service. "It was my goal," she says, "to get involved and help make a difference where it was needed." Her scholarship helps with expenses and allows her to concentrate on academic achievement and multifarious volunteer tasks. This year, she plans to "work with chronically ill children at Children's Hospital, serve in the Hillel soup kitchen for the homeless, and tutor students from West Philadelphia." She especially looks forward to "making people smile and giving them some good times." She is grateful for her scholarship because it lets her expand the scope of her activities and "give something back to society." For students like Deborah—and there are lots of them at Penn—financial aid has a true multiplier effect! ♦

Society of Arts and Sciences

The Society of Arts and Sciences recognizes the individuals who have made a commitment to enhance excellence in the School. The generosity of the School's alumni and friends ensures the ongoing distinction of the arts and sciences at Penn. In particular, the support of the Society's lifetime members, those who have contributed a total of \$1,000,000 or more to the School, sustains the University's distinguished scholarly tradition in the liberal arts. The School is proud to acknowledge the vision, commitment, and beneficence of these extraordinary donors.

Lifetime Members

Walter H. and Leonore C. Annenberg
Christopher H. Browne
James D. and Nan Wagner Farquhar
Richard L. Fisher
Robert A. Fox
Wendy and Leonard Goldberg
Stephen J. Heyman
Elliot S. and Roslyn S. Jaffe
Leonard A. Lauder
Herbert D. and
Eleanor Meyerhoff Katz
Natalie I. Koether
Subbarao Makineni
Robert L. McNeil, Jr.
Paul F., Jr., and
Ella Warren Shafer Miller
Alvin V. and Sally P. Shoemaker
David M. and Lyn G. Silfen
Saul P. and Gayfryd Steinberg
P. Roy and Diana T. Vagelos
Frederick J. Warren
George A. Weiss
Charles K. Williams, II

Year-end Tax Tip

If you are locked into appreciated stocks or mutual funds to avoid the capital gains penalty on the sale of the securities, a year-end gift to the School of Arts and Sciences could take the sting out of your tax bill. An outright gift of appreciated securities can be deducted at today's fair market value, and you will never pay capital gains on the transaction. In addition, investors who donate mutual fund shares before the end of the year will avoid year-end capital gains distributions.

Gifts of appreciated securities are also excellent ways to fund life income gifts such as charitable gift annuities, pooled income funds, and charitable trusts. Your gift will be funded at the full fair market value without reduction for capital gains taxes and you will receive an immediate income tax deduction based on the charitable component of the gift.

Professorships: The Visionary Gift



AN ENDOWED CHAIR has been called the greatest gift a donor can make to a university. With a named, fully endowed professorship, a donor can:

- help sustain the School's tradition of excellence,
- honor outstanding faculty achievement or recruit a new faculty "star,"
- memorialize a beloved family member in perpetuity,
- declare a personal commitment to the future distinction of the School's research and teaching.

Endowed chairs help the School recruit or reward many fine scholars and scientists. For example, when SAS wanted to bolster its already strong demography program, it made an offer to Douglas Massey at the University of Chicago, an offer that included the Dorothy S. Thomas Professorship in Sociology.

Massey accepted, and he currently serves as director of the Population Studies Center, chairs the sociology department, leads the SAS effort to expand offerings in Latin American studies, and writes on subjects from modern Mexico to race and integration in North America. While helping create a new undergraduate major in Latin American studies, Doug Massey hasn't neglected opportunities for public education. For instance, he and co-author Nancy A. Denton recently appeared on NPR's "Talk of the Nation" to discuss the implications of their book, *American Apartheid: Segregation and the Making of the Underclass*.

The Mary Amanda Wood Professorship in Physics was awarded to Paul Steinhardt to honor the distinction of his achievements. Steinhardt has made significant contributions in two completely different fields of theoretical physics—a feat almost unheard of in an age of specialization. As a cosmologist, he works in the area of elementary par-

ticle physics, studying the aftermath of the Big Bang and what it reveals about the early universe. In the area of condensed matter physics, he and graduate student Dov Levine predicted and theoretically described a new form of matter called quasi-crystals. (Quasi-crystals were later experimentally observed.) Steinhardt has been a prime mover in Penn's successful initiative in astrophysics, and his leadership position, including the visibility of his endowed chair, has helped the School attract the very best young people in this fast-changing field.

Faculty who earn named professorships inspire high achievement. Future generations of scholars, scientists, professional and business leaders are taught to reach for real excellence and to honor it in all its forms. To the degree that the endowed chair fosters such excellence, it is truly "the visionary gift." ♦

Planned Giving: Some Tax Tips



YOU'VE LISTENED to the financial experts and have built up a healthy tax-sheltered retirement plan.

You may be looking

at that fund as a nest-egg for your heirs; however, the IRS has another thought in mind. The good news is there are time-proven and new ways to reduce your tax bite while creating a win-win scenario for both your heirs and Penn.

The Triple Tax Threat

Without the use of the new excess distributions tax waiver and charitable tax planning, the amount of your remaining retirement fund may be subject to three taxes that could confiscate as much as 80 percent of what you intend for heirs:

- *Federal estate tax* can reach 55 percent for those with taxable estates in excess of \$3,000,000.

- Pension distributions are also subject to *income tax*. While an income tax deduction is allowed for any federal estate tax paid on distributions, that won't prevent another large bite out of the distribution.

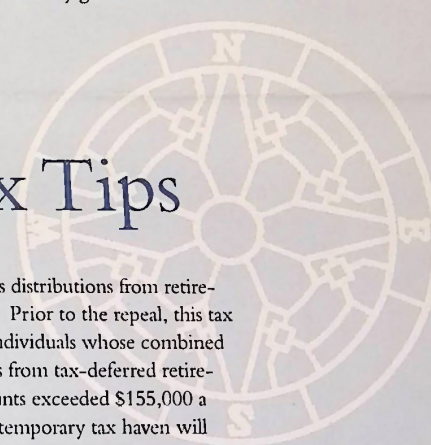
- If your IRA account balance is large, it may face yet another tax bite — a 15 percent *excise tax* on excess accumulations.

Add all these taxes together, and the unused pension funds that you had planned to leave to the children will have shrunk to a fraction of their value. Here are a few suggestions for preserving more of those funds:

Take advantage of a recently passed tax incentive to gain increased access to retirement funds without penalty.

President Clinton has recently signed a three-year repeal (beginning in January 1997) of the 15 percent penalty on so-

called excess distributions from retirement plans. Prior to the repeal, this tax penalized individuals whose combined withdrawals from tax-deferred retirement accounts exceeded \$155,000 a year. This temporary tax haven will also help individuals who are currently withdrawing lesser amounts from their retirement accounts in order to avoid the excess distribution penalty, but by doing so will leave large undistributed balances in their accounts which will be taxed at their death. The result of this new legislation is that the *withdrawal of some or all of retirement funds during 1997 through 1999 will not trigger the 15 percent penalty tax*. Retirement assets could be transferred directly to a charitable remainder trust that would pay income to you and your spouse, and ultimately benefit Penn. Another option is to contribute the funds directly to Penn in order to maximize your charitable deduction. Ordinary income tax laws will still apply in either scenario, but



Planned Giving: Some Tax Tips *(continued)*

the charitable deduction will help offset their impact.

Make Your Charitable Bequest with Retirement Funds: When heirs receive a bequest of real estate or securities, their basis in the property is stepped-up to the date-of-death value. Only gain occurring after your death is taxed to them when they sell the property. Retirement funds, on the other hand, are fully taxed to them. Therefore, if you plan to leave bequests both to your heirs and to Penn, you may save taxes if you give other appreciated property to the heirs and name Penn as the beneficiary of your retirement plan assets. This way the retirement assets will not flow through your probate estate, avoiding both estate tax and income tax. Consequently, the entire balance will be preserved for any Penn program or department you wish to support.

For more information regarding tax and financial benefits of Penn's planned giving arrangements, either return the enclosed coupon or call **Jim Schank** at the School of Arts and Sciences (215) 898-5262. ❖

Please consult your attorney about the applicability to your own situation of the legal principles contained herein.

The Charles Custis Harrison Society

THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA has established The Charles Custis Harrison Society to recognize the generosity of all participants in Penn's Planned Giving Programs.

Participation in any of Penn's Planned Giving Programs bestows the benefits of membership in the Charles Custis Harrison Society. Those benefits include annual luncheons, seminars, and the University's planned giving newsletter, *Partners In Penn's Future*. Questions regarding Penn Planned Giving and membership in the Charles Custis Harrison Society may be directed to the Office of Planned Giving Programs by calling 1-800-223-8236. ❖

Please send more information about:

- ☐ making a gift to the School of Arts and Sciences through my will or retirement plan.
- ☐ life income plans that would enable me to make a gift to the School of Arts and Sciences while providing tax benefits and income for myself or another.
- ☐ I have enclosed a gift to the School of Arts and Sciences to be allocated to: _____
- ☐ I have already provided for the School of Arts and Sciences in my will or estate plan.
- ☐ I would like to know more about gift opportunities at the School of Arts and Sciences.
Please have a representative of the School contact me.

Name _____

School/Year _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____

Please return to School of Arts and Sciences, Office of External Affairs, 3440 Market Street, Suite 300, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3325.

New & Notable on Campus



New Fellows Arrive at CJS

SAS's Center for Judaic Studies has accepted 21 fellows for the 1996-97 year. They will be researching topics on the major theme of "The Shaping of Modern Jewish Culture in Israel and America." This year, the fellows will work in two groups, one looking at "Israeli Culture and Society: The Formative Period" and the second researching "Jewish Religion and Culture in the American Diaspora, 1920-1970."

New York New Music Ensemble Performs

SAS and Penn Contemporary Music presented the New York New Music Ensemble in a performance of music for acoustic and electronic instruments and digital tape. The concert featured the Philadelphia premiere of "Sacre Conversazione" by James Primosch, SAS professor of music. Earlier this year, Primosch was one of 12 local artists to receive a \$50,000 grant from the Pew Fellowship in the Arts for his work in music composition. These awards are the largest in the country for individual artists.

Oh! The Class of '00!

In September, the University welcomed the 2,350 members of the Class of 2000. This year's freshman class comes from all 50 U.S. states and 55 countries around the world. It is also the first Penn freshman class in history to have women in the majority.

Philadelphia Center Receives Gift

Robert L. McNeil, through the Robert L. McNeil Charitable Trust and the Barra Foundation, has endowed the directorship of SAS's Philadelphia Center for Early American Studies, which he has named in honor of Richard S. Dunn, emeritus professor of history and founder and director of the Center. The PCEAS was established to bring together the vast scholarly and archival resources of Philadelphia's libraries, museums, universities, and colleges to pursue interdisciplinary research focused on the history and culture of the American nation to 1850.

SAS Faculty are Honored for Teaching

Several members of the SAS faculty have been honored for their teaching skills in the past year. Drew Faust, Annenberg Professor of History, was awarded the Ira Abrams Award for Distinguished Teaching. Peter Conn, the Andrea Mitchell Professor of English received the Mortarboard Alumni Society Award for Distinguished Teaching. E. Ann Matter, chair and professor of religious studies, and Alan E. Mann, professor of anthropology, were the recipients of the College Alumni Society Outstanding Teaching Awards.



Tommy Leonard

Poet Richard Wilbur (left) and author Norman Mailer (right) visited campus to honor retiring Professor of English Robert Lucid (center).

Robert Lucid Retires in Style

The SAS Department of English marked the retirement of Professor Robert Lucid with a colloquium featuring writer Norman Mailer and former U.S. Poet Laureate Richard Wilbur. "American Writers in Paris Following World War II" included observations on the Left Bank from Mailer and Wilbur, who were just beginning their careers there after the Second World War.

Women Scientists Visit SAS

The Fund to Encourage Women (FEW), administered by the Trustees' Council of Penn Women, brought two prominent scientists to SAS this semester. Astronomer Vera Cooper Rubin, recipient of the 1993 National Medal of Science, lectured on "A Century of Galaxy Spectroscopy." Professor Jacqueline K. Barton, a 1991 MacArthur Foundation fellow, spoke on "Chemistry of Double-Helical DNA: Recognition and Reaction." ♦

Robert Inman

Continued from page 5

people actually live, which is in big cities. You want to be cynical about it? The tax burden is moving from the suburbs to the cities."

It's a situation, he says, in which "everybody is passing the responsibility around. It will ultimately land on those who live closest to the poor. But it can't be handled that way. Cities can't support a sizeable poverty budget and remain competitive with their suburbs." What happens then? "You're going to push a lot of poor people into deeper trouble. This issue isn't going to go away. The cuts will be greatest in the poorest states. Cities will be asked to pay more and won't be able to. The

problems will come back to Congress at some point."

And will Congress have to change the legislation it fought so hard to put through?

"Yes, I think so." ♦

Robert P. Inman is Professor of Finance, Economics, and Public Policy and Management, holding a primary appointment in the Wharton School and a secondary appointment in the SAS Department of Economics. A public finance specialist, he has written extensively on government and the economy, while serving as a consultant for municipal, state, national, and international clients. In 1995, he won the Irving B. Kravis Award for Distinction in Undergraduate Teaching.

SAS On-Line

College Course Scanner Facilitates Course Selection

THE COLLEGE IS ABOUT TO unveil an exciting new tool that will make it easier for students to explore the plethora of courses available to them at Penn. The College Course Scanner will provide students better access to information about College courses as they plan their programs for the next term or next year. With over 1,700 courses offered each year by the College, merely finding out what is available is a daunting task. Robert Rescorla, associate dean for undergraduate education and director of the College, explains that the College Course Scanner will encourage students to be adventurous in planning their programs by helping them to search quickly through the entire College curriculum to find courses on topics of specific interest to them. The scanner can identify courses by key topics supplied by the student, and can identify courses related to an existing course. ♦

African Studies Web Site Receives Accolades

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS calls it the main source for information about Africa on the Internet. It's the African Studies Web site, run as an outreach service of the SAS African Studies Center. The first web site for African Studies in the country, it includes country-specific information for all African countries, conference announcements, job opportunities, book reviews and book listings, country reports prepared by research institutions in Africa, K-12 information, multimedia archives that include maps, flags, and visual arts, etc. Monthly readership of the site is more than 250,000. African Studies at Penn recently received a grant from the NEH to enlarge the Web site to include a "Living Library" of resources and teach-

ing materials for East Africa. The *Library is one aspect of the NEH project, which also includes the teaching of an East African language (Swahili) to school children from 6th through 12th grades via interactive live Cable TV, the training of K-12 teachers in African Studies, and nationally televised model lessons on East Africa that complement language study.* To check out the African Studies Web site, go to: http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html. ♦

http://www.sas.upenn.edu/African_Studies/AS.html

Penn Reading Project Features Hemingway's *A Moveable Feast*

IN SEPTEMBER, PENN freshmen had the opportunity to meet Paul Cézanne, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein, F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald, Ford Madox Ford and Jules Pascin. Ernest Hemingway was kind enough to introduce these figures to the Class of 2000 in *A Moveable Feast*.

This year's Penn Reading Project featured Hemingway's memoirs of his days in Paris as a struggling writer. Incoming students read the book over the summer and discussed it in small groups with a faculty leader before classes began.

"*A Moveable Feast* was chosen as this year's text because of the remarkable similarities between young people beginning their college careers — especially at Penn — and the experiences of the book's characters," explained

Dr. Christopher Dennis, director of academic programs in residence. "For new students, Philadelphia is their very own Paris, their own 'moveable feast.' As Hemingway did in the book, new students will be exploring this exciting, rich city, as well as themselves. They will also meet new people and be introduced to brand new ideas and practices. They will mature and share their experiences with others doing the same thing."

The Penn Reading Project was established in 1991 to make a common intellectual experience a part of the New Student Orientation Program. "It is hoped that this experience will introduce students, early in their Penn careers, to the academic life of the University, that it will bring them together with faculty sooner than is usual, and that it will provide an intellectual opportunity that can be

shared across the entire first-year class," said Dennis.

SAS wanted alumni to be able to partake of the *Feast* as well and offered a lecture by History of Art Professor David Brownlee on "Philadelphia's Moveable Feast" during Homecoming Weekend. Brownlee discussed the way that a distinctive urban environment, in Philadelphia as in Paris, reflects the ideals and shapes the experiences of its inhabitants.

Other Reading Project-related events on campus included the Writers House Moveable Feast. Students, staff, and faculty from the Writers House — a non-residential college house in which creative writing activities are organized, promoted, and shared — read from works by authors featured in the book, and ended with a small catered feast of their own. ♦

Dean Rosemary A. Stevens Resigns

DR. ROSEMARY A. STEVENS, who was appointed Dean on the School of Arts and Sciences in 1991 by Sheldon Hackney, has resigned at the end of her first five-year term. In her letter to the SAS faculty, she said that a major factor in the timing of her decision to return to the faculty full-time was the request for a new, anniversary edition of her book, *American Medicine and the Public Interest*. Taking account of the relevant research, she wrote, as well as the stresses and strains in medicine and health since 1971, "is going to take an enormous amount of work, and I am anxious to begin." A highly productive scholar, Dr. Stevens came to the deanship as professor and chair of the Department of the History and Sociology of Science. She returns to that department, and Dr. Walter Wales of the physics department serves as interim dean until a permanent replacement can be chosen.

In accepting Stevens' resignation, President Judith Rodin and Provost Stanley Chodorow expressed their regret at her departure together with their gratitude for her many accomplishments. They especially praised the Dean's advocacy of new instructional programs, graduate education, faculty development, and stronger SAS relationships with other schools and divisions. Dr. Stevens also presided over the successful conclusion of the School's major fund-raising drive in the Campaign for Penn, in which SAS met its unprecedented target of \$250 million. "The University and we are deeply in your debt," said the President and the Provost. "You have our thanks, and thanks from the entire Penn community, for a job well done."



Rosemary A. Stevens

Diane McKinney-Whetstone

Continued from page 1

Writers' Group, founded several years before by a Penn writing instructor named James Rahn. "Rahn does 8-week cycles, 2 nights per week. Fifteen writers read each others' work and offer critiques. It's an intense experience, and people give it a lot of time and attention. The purpose is always to improve the work." In addition to helpful comments, McKinney-Whetstone got a suggestion from someone in the group about an agent who might be interested in her work. She submitted 80 pages and received a favorable response, along with an invitation to send the whole manuscript when it was finished. That took another year of work. Once the completed manuscript was in the agent's hands, the sequence of events picked up speed. "It was dizzying—how fast it went."

The novel that everyone got so excited about is a densely textured story set in south Philadelphia during the 1940s and '50s. It is focused on the marriage of Noon and Herbie, a loving but troubled couple who have never consummated their union. They wind up rearing two adoptive daughters who are literally left on their doorstep. Herbie strays occasionally, especially in the direction of a glamorous jazz singer named Ethel. Noon devotes herself to her family and her church. That devotion is sorely tested: by Herbie's infidelity; by the wilfulness and misery of her daughter Liz; by a city project to build an expressway through the neighborhood, threatening the church and the cohesion of its black congregation. But Noon proves more of a fighter than anyone might have expected, when places and people she loves are at stake.

McKinney-Whetstone chose a period milieu because "as a writer I needed a distance from everything that is contemporary. This is just my experience as a writer. It's more difficult for me to write fiction in a contemporary setting because I risk its being underfictionalized. I risk not drawing enough on my imagination. I had to create the world in *Timbling* since I didn't live in it. It's purely imagined." This technique sounds like the reverse of Hemingway's advice to "Write what you know."

McKinney-Whetstone smiles gently: "That's it."

In her mind, the novel grew from two characters—young women in their twenties named Fannie and Liz. They shared a house. They were "close and connected but not blood sisters." Writing about them, McKinney-Whetstone wondered how they were raised, by whom, and why, since they were not related. "Answering these questions became the novel. Then the task was ordering things chronologically, with some flashbacks." As she wrote, she realized that she was pulling details from the 1940s and '50s to provide texture for the story. That spurred the final choice of a setting: "I needed to get the action firmly placed." She originally wanted to title the book, *The Walls Came Timbling Down*. Unfortunately, that name was already in use. When her husband suggested *Timbling*, the writer at first thought, "He doesn't read fiction! Why should he title my novel?" But the shorter title seemed to fit: "There's a lot of literal and metaphorical tumbling going on in the book." It had resonance. It stuck.

The novel can be dazzlingly specific and concrete; it can also be indirect, glancing, suggestive. This is especially true of a formative experience in Noon's life, a childhood trauma that has left her terrified of sex. This experience, which serves as the emotional engine of the book, haunts Noon's memory, but only in fragments. The reader is never given a single, clear scene that explains the lingering horror and shame. McKinney-Whetstone says this indirect approach was deliberate. "I thought that it would have more power if it wasn't crystal clear." Were Noon's violators "devil worshippers," as the girl's mother claimed? Were they black or white? All the reader is sure of are the effects on the heroine: injury, an inability to bear children, a shuddering away even from her loved husband's touch. Whether and how Noon can be healed account for much of the suspense of the novel.

Details are vivid, giving the book a surging vitality. Some of these came from parental stories—"The business about the step scrubbing, for example, is something we heard over and over from our mother when it was time for us to do our chores." Some were

gleaned from hours of research, scanning relevant copies of sources like *The Philadelphia Tribune*, so that the author could be accurate if she said that a musician saw Dizzy Gillespie in Philadelphia in a given year. And some things are so convincing they seem to be based on direct observation. Did McKinney-Whetstone ever know a child who chewed wall plaster to comfort herself, for example?

As a matter of fact, she did. A childhood friend of hers had the affliction. "It's called 'pica,' where people crave non-food substances. It's a variation of a condition among black women in parts of the South who eat, or once ate, red clay. Also women in south Philadelphia, and probably other places, ate Argo starch out of the box. My mother said you could always tell from the white rings around their mouths. The craving may be based on a nutritional deficiency. In the case of the character, Liz, chewing plaster expresses an emotional as well as a physical need." Liz carries a childhood habit well into her adult life, with devastating results. *The obsession is especially haunting since food—* cooking it, sharing it, eating it—is such an important element in the book.

Between book tours for *Timbling*, McKinney-Whetstone is working on a new novel, this one set in Philadelphia in the early 1960s. She has been on a series of extended leaves from her day job and will probably resign at the end of her current leave. A two-book contract from William Morrow has made it possible to fulfill the writer's dream of working full-time at home. Though writers, once freed from other people's offices, have been known to impose fairly rigorous schedules on themselves. McKinney-Whetstone, for example, has grown accustomed to working in the very early morning hours. The house is quiet, and she can focus on her fiction. "I never considered myself a morning person, but I've fallen in love with that time of day."

She also finds time to read since reading is important to her growth as a writer. Asked what advice she would give to aspiring novelists, she says simply, "Read, read! It becomes a part of you." She doesn't say *what* to read but an aspiring novelist, or anyone else looking for imaginative worlds to inhabit, could hardly do better than *Timbling*. ♦

Michael Katz

Continued from page 4

legal but social workers wink at it because people have to survive.

Q: If welfare isn't the problem, what is?

A: The problem is poverty, which has changed in some significant ways. It's very much connected to the transformation of American cities, especially inner cities. About 78 percent of people receiving AFDC live in cities. They're feeling the effects of deindustrialization and chronic joblessness, especially among African-American men. Unemployment used to be much more episodic; people were laid off but could be called back to work. Now we have a large number of people more or less permanently detached from the labor force, and this is something quite new in American history. It's a very dramatic and alarming development. These are people who can't find jobs, have never had jobs, or aren't qualified for jobs.

The spatial arrangements of cities have also changed. The poor have become much more segregated, with African-Americans living under more segregated conditions than any immigrant group in American history. It's getting worse instead of better. This fundamental urban transformation is very bad for people at the bottom. It reinforces and builds poverty and makes it very difficult for people in this situation to escape. This transformation is the reason that such a high rate of people need some kind of help.

Q: More people need help, but we're less sympathetic to them than we ever were?

A: The moral distinction between the deserving and the undeserving poor goes back to the early 19th century. The deserving poor, like respectable widows, hadn't brought their suffering on themselves and were felt to deserve sympathy and help. People called the undeserving poor have had various characteristics—none of which aroused much sympathy. On the contrary, a lot of scorn was attached to people who were ethnically different, for instance. The Irish Catholics were talked about in a way that can only be described as racist. But the most stigmatized group has been men who were out of work and unable to

support themselves. In America, any man with get-up-and-go should be able to make a fortune, or at least support himself and his family. If he couldn't, there was something wrong with him: he was probably lazy or drunk.

So the demography of the "undeserving poor" has changed with American racial attitudes and views on immigration and migration. Now it's focused on unmarried mothers of color. Women are having children out of wedlock in very large numbers, and this upsets a lot of people. This attitude is one of the great forces behind the drive to change the welfare system. It combined with other forces and political circumstances to force a dramatic legislative change.

Politically, we're seeing a transfer of authority from the federal government to the states. Since the late 1980s, the governors have wanted to get control over AFDC and over Medicaid because their expenses were ballooning. The Clinton administration first responded by granting waivers of AFDC regulations to states. By 1996, all but a few states had received waivers, and states were already doing many of the things called for in the new federal legislation. At the same time, market models were applied to federal, state, and local public policies—as well as in the social and human services and in employee benefits—throughout the American welfare state. Although this glorification of the free market intensified after the fall of communism in 1989, it was at work throughout the 1980s. The free market model has been especially important in attacking entitlements, since entitlements contradict market logic in a fundamental way. People shouldn't be entitled to receive money from the government; they should earn whatever they have by working at jobs in a market economy. Even privatizing Social Security has recently gone from an idea on the lunatic fringe to one very close to the center of respectability. There is now a robust ideology about the nature and direction of change that's helping redefine the welfare state.

Q: Does the Welfare Reform Bill reform welfare?

A: In American history, "welfare reform" has been a euphemism for cutting benefits. This bill cuts benefits. It

eliminates the entitlement of the poorest Americans to any kind of federal public assistance. That's a reversal of the principle on which public assistance in this country has been based since the 1930s. It's much more than a change in the details of policy. This is a fundamental, philosophical shift. It could be of very dramatic significance.

Q: How soon would you expect to see some of the effects?

A: It will take a few years. In places with high concentrations of immigrants, we'll see some effects much sooner. The Food Stamps provision may produce some very serious effects soon. I think we're looking at three to five years before we can assess the impact of this legislation, assuming it is not reversed or significantly modified.

Q: Which it could be?

A: Don't hold your breath. ♦

Michael Katz, historian of poverty and social welfare in America, is the Sheldon and Lucy Hackney Professor in the Department of History. His most recent book is Improving Poor People: The Welfare State, the "Underclass," and Urban Schools as History. An expanded tenth anniversary edition of his In the Shadow of the Poorhouse: A Social History of Welfare in America will be published this fall by Basic Books.

Frank Furstenberg

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will keep driving good information out of the marketplace of ideas. "Many social scientists are committed to understanding things—and leaving it to others to act upon what we've learned. We're going to have to rethink that position in view of what happens to the evidence we're collecting." ♦

Frank F. Furstenberg, Jr. is the Zellerbach Family Professor of Sociology and has published widely on the contemporary American family, including such topics as teenage childbearing and the effects of divorce. Divided Families: What Happens to Children When Parents Part, written with Andrew J. Cherlin, came out in a paperback edition in 1994.

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expression. So numerous and powerful were Dana's commitments to the conservative, established life by 1840, that not even the incredible success of his book could break him loose. "We must bend to the wind, and live by rule," he was fond of saying, and such was the course he adopted. He continued to write a little—a good many essays, the *Seaman's Friend*, and a travel book in 1859 called *To Cuba and Back*—but the effective sources of his inspiration obviously lay outside of Boston and his massively institutionalized life there.

In spite of his adjustments, the original concupiscence which had caused Dana so much internal struggle and was so great a factor in many of his decisions, never really left him. His life required that it take a strange turn, however. Almost as soon as he married and committed himself to an institutionalized life, he began toying with the idea of leading a double life, sexually speaking. Whenever he got the chance, usually while away from Boston on his frequent trips, Dana would slip into a sailor's disguise—varnished cap, loose trousers, and a pea-coat—and "cruise," as he put it, the brothels and dives of the town. Often the evening would conclude with him alone with a prostitute. But, according to the *Journal*—and the probability is that Dana is telling the truth—these encounters never resulted in sexual intercourse. On the contrary, just at the crucial moment Dana would reveal himself as a gentleman (sometimes he just wore a cloak over a respectable suit of clothes, and would fling it open) and begin exhorting the girl to abandon her depraved ways. He realized how dangerous to his position such excursions were, but he persisted for years, as if unconsciously seeking to undermine his association with the respectable world. He never was apprehended, as it happens, and toward the end of the *Journal* he seems to have grown more circumspect. At least he refused to visit a Chinese "pleasure-boat" until he was accompanied by a group of men whose reputations were established, and whose presence made it unlikely that anyone should "mistake his intentions."

It was impossible for Dana to do what he seems originally to have planned—to maintain a badly needed relationship with the institutions of Boston, but also to develop his individual genius as a writer. Inevitably, Boston claimed him. In this respect, the twenty years of his *Journal* present us with the spectacle of a man's crystallization. When the *Journal* ends, in 1860, the process is complete, and we should not be surprised to find that thereafter Dana's life became considerably easier for him. Here is a brief recapitulation of the post-*Journal* years.

IV

By the time Dana wrote his son, passing that dim judgment upon his own life, the Civil War had been over for nine years, and it had been

thirteen years since he had written in the permanently discontinued *Journal*. He and Sarah had had six children, his daughters were marrying, and his financial situation was becoming really secure. During the war years he had been Lincoln's District Attorney in Massachusetts—higher patronage having passed him by because of his absence abroad during most of the presidential campaign—and he had acquired both a reputation for efficiency in office and a tidy financial remuneration through his handling of war-prize cases. He achieved international distinction for his successful argument in the *Amy Warwick* case before the United States Supreme Court in 1862, by which the Federal blockade of Southern shipping was given urgently needed legal ratification. In many ways Dana prospered steadily from this period on. His legal practice in Boston flourished after 1866, when he resigned from office. He was even elected for two terms to the state legislature, where he worked very hard to launch a new political career. But his continued interest in politics, and hopes for either a "parliamentary" or high administrative career in public service, were to cause him pain until the end of his life.

When he served in the legislature his bearing among the petty political figures surrounding him offended many, and he was popularly called "the Duke of Cambridge." This aristocratic characterization was the one that Henry Adams remembered, and it brought Dana real trouble in 1868, when he accepted a splinter-group Republican nomination to run for congress against the regular Republican incumbent from Essex, "Beast" Butler. Butler's red galluses and free-whiskey campaigning among the mercantile workers of the county was humiliatingly successful, and his lampoons of Dana were so stinging that the contest deteriorated into a rout. Dana received less than ten per cent of the vote cast, felt himself a fool, and, more importantly, managed to gain the lasting enmity of Butler, who always made his political opponents his lifelong foes.

At about the same time, and through somewhat similar tactics, Dana had gained still another important enemy. William Beach Lawrence, a Rhode Island millionaire and amateur legal scholar, had published two annotated editions of Henry Wheaton's *Elements of International Law*, padding out the work of Dana's old friend with a voluminous editorial apparatus. In 1863 Dana had been asked by Wheaton's widow, who was dissatisfied with Lawrence's work, to take over the editing of a third edition, and Dana, already interested in the subject, agreed. His appointment infuriated Lawrence, who indignantly called upon him and recited a story of grievances against the widow and the publisher. He concluded by asking Dana to withdraw from the editorial role. Dana could be at his worst in such situations, and in this case his hauteur was especially ill-advised. When he showed Lawrence the door and coolly dismissed the older man's fourteen year's labor without anything approaching ade-

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