

Credit Past Due

Editors:

It was with great pleasure that I read the fine tribute to Meyer Schapiro in "The Artist and the Citizen," by Morris Dickstein. Then to learn on the Editor's Page of the forthcoming redesign of the magazine recalled the original cover of *Dissent* by Gandy Brodie, created at the behest of Meyer Schapiro. Never credited to the artist, it is to be hoped some of the quality of the human hand—and mind, signifying the meaning of *Dissent*—which characterized the original design, might no longer be absent from the new format.

With regard to the social values of Meyer Schapiro, "hard to reconstruct" from the recently published papers, I have always found the following to be conclusive: "the solidarity of artists with suffering and working humanity presupposes the solidarity of society with artists, but this is not possible until all men and not only the artist are free." The latter phrase reverberates through liberation literature, including Emma Lazarus on the Jew in America, reminding us that Meyer Schapiro was surely one of those "immigrant boys who came to worship" (in Irving Howe's immortal words), and to realize, in his life and work, America's promise.

JOCELYN BRODIE
West Townshend, Vt. 05359

Crime of the War on Drugs

Editors:

I was surprised and disappointed that none of the participants in the Fall 1997 Arguments exchanges on crime discussed the role of America's "War on Drugs" as a causal factor in our crime rates, whether up or down. Liberals and conservatives, in both major parties, have argued that a major cause of urban crime is the "War on Drugs." It is also the current excuse for violations of civil rights and applications of excessive force by our police. Of course, liberals and conservatives have both developed and supported it for eighty years.

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Errata

We apologize to Steven Vogel ("Grades as Money," Fall 1997) for mangling the title of his book. It is *Against Nature: The Concept of Nature in Critical Theory*.

In our last issue we neglected to credit Aaron Johnson, who worked as our editorial assistant during the summer.

RECENT AND FORTHCOMING BOOKS BY *DISSENT* EDITORS

JOANNE BARKAN, *A Tale of Two Sitters*. Lyrick Publishing. 1998.

DAVID BROMWICH, ed., *Edmund Burke on Politics, Representation, and Empire*. Yale University Press, 1998.

RANDALL KENNEDY, *Race, Crime, and the Law*. Pantheon Books. 1997.

NICOLAUS MILLS, *The Triumph of Meanness: America's War Against Its Better Self*. Houghton Mifflin. 1997.

JO-ANN MORT, ed., *The New Union Reader*. Verso Books. 1998.

BRIAN MORTON, *Starting Out in the Evening*. Crown Publishers. 1998.

CAROL O'CLEIREACAIN, *The Orphaned Capital: Adopting the Right Revenues for the District of Columbia*. The Brookings Institution. 1997.

GEORGE PACKER, *Central Square*. Graywolf. 1998.

ANSON RABINBACH, *In the Shadow of Catastrophe: German Intellectuals Between Apocalypse and Enlightenment*. University of California Press. 1997.

JAMES B. RULE, *Theory and Progress in Social Science*. The State University of New York Press. 1997.

JIM SLEEPER, *Liberal Racism*, Viking Press. 1997.

MICHAEL WALZER, *On Toleration*. Yale University Press. 1997.

DENNIS H. WRONG, *The Modern Condition: Essays at Century's End*. Stanford University Press. 1998.

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Dissent, Winter 1998