

still dormant affinities that will one day hurl together the most conscious elements of the universe—in other words, *ourselves*."

He is not oblivious to the sorrow of man as a source of deprivation of energy: "The animal behaves in an entirely different way, depending on whether it has a full belly or is starving, is left in peace or hunted." For life, for energy, he is "exclusively and madly enamored of the Divine influence that guides the world."

Notable above all is what this man of faith, who could subject his whole life's work, repeatedly and humbly, to the frustration of denial, says of religion:

Religion is not a strictly individual crisis—or choice or intuition—but represents the long disclosure of God's being through the collective experience of the whole of humanity, God reflecting himself personally on the organized sum of thinking monads to guarantee an assured success and fix precise laws for their hesitant activities. God bent over the now intelligent mirror of earth to impress on it the first marks of his beauty.

Both of these books are well translated, "Human Energy" by J. M. Cohen and "Activation of Energy" by Rene Hague; and the indices, from ants to cyclotron; from Duns Scotus to Khrushchev; from love—of man or woman—to Vedanta, to Zest for Life, are a pleasure to use. But the core message is still the classic: "Some day, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness for God the energies of love, and then for the second time in history, Man will discover fire." (75-142104; 79-139231).

Cornelia Holbert  
Kinderhook Library

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Tugwell, Rexford G.

**Off Course: from Truman to Nixon**

Praeger. Mar. 22, 1971. 326p. \$7.95. (I)

Back in 1933, when Franklin Delano Roosevelt took office, a group of advisers known as "the Brains Trust" assisted the President with speeches, policy, and the drafting of bills. One of these advisers was Rexford Guy Tugwell. Together with Raymond Moley and Adolph Berle, Jr., Tugwell left the halls of Columbia University to become Assistant Secretary of Agriculture and later governor of Puerto Rico. Tugwell is author of "The Brains Trust" and "How They Became President."

"Off Course" laments the lack of executive leadership from 1945 to 1971. To Tugwell's mind, there was only one president who fulfilled the requirements of the office and that was F.D.R. All through the pages of this book, the ghost of Roosevelt hovers over Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon. In the author's opinion, none of them is in Roosevelt's league. F.D.R. had the knack of personalizing his programs. He introduced his Fireside Chats and created the atmosphere of governmental intimacy with his listening audience. His charming, articulate voice instilled confidence in the American people. When he said, "It's safer to keep your money in a bank than under a mattress" the people believed him and public confidence in the nation's banks was restored. Tugwell feels that had Roosevelt lived he would have been

inclined to consider a fifth term. He then would have been able to maintain closer ties with Russia and ward off the Vietnam fiasco.

President Truman was in the dark about the Manhattan project when he succeeded Roosevelt in 1945. He was briefed on the bomb by Henry Stimson. There had never been the desirable closeness between Roosevelt and Truman that makes for a more orderly transition of authority when disaster strikes. Truman had been nominated for Vice President in 1944 because he was acceptable to labor, came from a border state, and had a clean record as a United States senator. Within a year after his taking over the reins as President, two of our allies, Russia and China, were our enemies.

Eisenhower governed by staff. He lacked the interest in the job which is necessary for success. Handicapped by a heart condition, "Ike" was never able to get the country rolling. His appointment of nine millionaires and a plumber to the cabinet indicated his loyalty to business and the corporate mind. He said that he was not a politician and hated to campaign in his own or the party's interests.

Kennedy won by a squeak; still, his youth, humor, and good intentions were all in his favor. His tremendous potential, and what might have been, ended in Dallas. Johnson had the support of Congress, but in foreign affairs lost his hold on the people; a lack of frankness with the voters damaged his image. He was considered to be too much the professional politician. His excellent record with domestic legislation was overshadowed by deeper involvement in the Far East. His television appearances negated his efforts to convince the American people that he was working in their behalf. He just did not register.

President Nixon began withdrawal of American troops and made it clear to Asians that they could expect help in defending themselves but that United States combat troops would not be available. It remains to be seen whether the economy of this country can be maintained with a budget geared to channelling funds into fighting pollution, building new homes, and merging, for the country's good, the New Deal, the Fair Deal, the Good Society, the New Frontier, and the Nixon Doctrine.

In concentrating on the Presidents from F.D.R. to Nixon, Tugwell emphasizes their handling of foreign affairs. "Off Course" is ideal for students of diplomatic history and international relations. Students interested in the presidency as such will also find it thought-provoking and informative. (70-131945)

Frank C. Brown  
University of Scranton

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**Weisberg, Harold Frame-up: The King-Ray Case**  
Outerbridge & Diestfrey. Mar. 24, 1971. 530p. \$10.00 (IIa)

"Frame-up" is a book purporting to prove that James Earl Ray was not the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King and that there was a conspiracy in which Ray was involved. The work includes a postscript by James Earl Ray and an appendix of "suppressed evidence." The author, Harold Weisberg, is a newspaper reporter



and a former Senate investigator who has specialized in a genre, assassination literature

The weakness of a lone-killer theory is first demonstrated in the many aliases of Ray who seemed to be in Portugal and London at the same time. Then the inconsistencies and secrecy of the extradition of Ray from England to the United States are noted at length. Next, the account of William B. Huie in *Look* magazine is discussed with all its ambiguities and even ambivalence toward a conspiracy at one time and a non-conspiracy at another. The chief lawyers for the defense also come in for their share of criticism. Both Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman are portrayed as venal, self-serving and selling out to the prosecution for their fees in terms of stipends from magazine articles. The so-called minitrial is narrated as a farce where Ray is railroaded into a guilty plea, a waiver of his rights, and a ninety-nine year sentence at the urging of Foreman who warned Ray that execution was the only alternative. The deal that Ray received was supported by testimony of a chief witness who was an alleged alcoholic, by debatable ballistic evidence, by questionable medical proof and the confusion of the white Mustang autos.

The FBI is accused of taking credit for the solution of the crime while in reality the Bureau was a late-comer to the investigative group and generally obfuscated the situation even to the point of spreading alleged rumors about the private life of Dr. King. Finally the author asks a series of questions germane to the defense of Ray and the possible evidence.

This very repetitious, tedious book would be more credible, were it written by an author who does not live off "conspiracy literature." Certainly, doubts could have been erased if a trial with cross-examination of witnesses had been held. Thus Weisberg does us the service or organizing our doubts in book form. (70-149057)

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Werstein, Irving      *The Draft Riots: July 1863*  
Messner. Mar. 22, 1971. 255p. \$5.95. (1)

This story is a vivid reminder that violent city riots and opposition to draft laws is not an original phenomenon of the 1960's. The dramatic account of the five days of anarchy, looting, burning, killing and struggles between police and mobs in New York during the July days of 1863 reads like an account of happenings in half a dozen of our cities during the past decade. The spark which ignited the long smoldering spirit of discontent and frustration among the poorer classes in New York, especially Irish immigrants, over social and economic discrimination was an attempt to implement a new conscription law passed by Congress, a law which blatantly discriminated against the poor. The widely scattered outbreaks of violence stirred up by neighborhood bullies, anti-administration and anti-war demagogues, and agitators took several days to suppress because of the slow and rather primitive methods of communication and movement of those days. This together with the violent confrontations between mobs and police and mob at-

tacks on innocent individuals, chiefly Negroes, resulted in the shockingly high number of deaths, estimated at about a thousand. In the vivid account of these events we see an almost exact pattern of Watts, Cleveland, Detroit, Washington and any other ghetto riot of the past decade

The author states that the book is aimed at "young readers" which may account for the rather stilted and artificial style that distracts and weakens the dramatic impact of the story. The character and relevance of the events themselves are dramatic enough, however, to hold the interest and attention of older readers while the eight pages of contemporary newspaper sketches add much to the vividness and horror of the story. (70-140678)

F. J. Gallagher, S.J.

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### Fiction

Burgess, Anthony      MF  
Alfred A. Knopf, Inc. Mar. 26, 1971. 242p. \$5.95. (11b)

The stewardess on Allegheny Flight No. 718 for Newark asked if the MF inscribed on the bookjacket of the novel I was reading referred to Male / Female, which only goes to show where the minds of stewardess are. I was only on page 17, pondering the meaning of *esculent* and *litotic*, but I was able to tell her, "No. It refers to Miles Faber, the narrator's name, which, as any Burgess fan knows, means Soldier Maker, from the Latin, you see." It was a typical conversation out of Burgess, for I'm sure she didn't "see," and now that I've read the entire novel, I'm not sure that I "see" either.

This time around—Burgess is always around—the reader gets taken on a merry linguistic romp through what can only be described as generative-transformational fiction. Miles, kernelizer and transformer of words that *American Heritage* never heard of, admirer of American Indian names for their sounds' sake, versed in Welsh and Castitanese, plagiarizer of his creator's musical knowledge, and hence a speaker in musical notation, gets himself expelled from college, having "protested" by performing a public act of copulation, and in front of the library too. In New York City he tries to elude his father's guards who are trying to keep him out of physical contact with his sister. The father who is dead has left instructions that incest, a sin that runs through the Atreus-Faber family, must end. But Miles finds his way to Castita, "latitude fifteen, south of Hispaniola," under a passion to investigate the works of an obscure poet, painter, musician, sculptor, collector of bad smells named Sib Legeru [from AS *sib*, "relative," + *legeru* "legging it," "lying with"]. In two days he acquires a new mother in the person of a Welsh-speaking Bird Queen who teaches her birds to recite *Hamlet* and to sing "Abide with Me," spends time in the local jailhouse, discovers Legeru's works in the shed of his sister's house, is shot at by an expert on Bishop Berkeley, gets married to his own sister (the ceremony performed by a circus clown-priest), has the problem of disposing of a corpse, his identical twin who fell out of a window after an indecent assault upon their sister. After the wedding, Catherine, his sister, and Miles rush with dexterity to