

St. Louis Literary Calendar



Events in January

All events are free unless otherwise indicated. Author events are followed by signings. All phone numbers take the 314 prefix unless otherwise indicated.

Tuesday, January 2

The **Current Topics for the Curious Mind** book group will meet at Barnes & Noble. 10am, The Shoppes at Cross Keys, 13995 New Halls Ferry Rd, 830-3550.

SLPL presents the **Machacek Book Discussion Group**. Please call Anne for current book selection at 781-2948. 10am, Machacek Branch, 6424 Scanlan Avenue.

Webster Groves Public Library Book Discussion Group will meet to discuss *Talk Talk* by T. C. Boyle. 6pm, Webster Groves Public Library, 301 E. Lockwood, 961-3784 for more info.

The **Writers under the Arch** writing group will be meeting at the Ladue Barnes & Noble, 7pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd., 862-6280.

The **St. Louis Writers Club** writing group will meet at the Des Peres Barnes & Noble. 7pm, 11952 Manchester Rd., 984-8644.

Wednesday, January 3

Borders Book Club of Sunset Hills will be meeting to discuss *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards. 7pm, 10990 Sunset Hills Plaza, 909-0300.

Thursday, January 4

SLCL **Book Journeys** will meet to discuss *The Art of Mending* by Elizabeth Berg. 2pm, Indian Trails Branch, 8400 Delpport Dr., 428-5424.

Observable Readings presents Four poets named Robin in "ROCKIN ROBINS": authors **Robin Behn, Robin Ekiss, Robyn Schiff, and Robin Beth Schaer**, 8pm, Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood, 241-2337.

Saturday, January 6

St. Louis Writers Guild will host a workshop called "Ready, Set, Go—How to Set Achievable Writing Goals." \$5 for non-members. 10am, Barnes & Noble, 9618 Watson Rd., for more info: 821-3823.

Kirkwood Public Library's **Saturday Morning Book Club** will discuss *Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell, 10am, sign-up details available by calling 821-5770.

Tuesday, January 9

The **Chesterfield Book Club** will meet at the Chesterfield Barnes & Noble. 7pm, Chesterfield Oaks, 1600 Clarkson Road, (636)536-9636.

The **Writers under the Arch** writing group will meet at the Ladue Barnes & Noble. 7pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd., 862-6280.

Join members of St. Louis Writers Guild for **Open Mic Night**. Register in advance to read at: www.stlwritersguild.org. 7pm, Wired Coffee, 3860 S. Lindbergh, For more info: 821-3823.

Wednesday, January 10

SLCL and Sisters in Crime present **Lou Turner** from Ozark Writers League discussing "The Making of a Successful Anthology," Headquarters Branch, 1640 S. Lindbergh, 994-3300 (for directions only).

Thursday, January 11

LBB presents **Carlos Pappalardo**, Argentinean physician and author of the poetry collection *Ahims*, 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

Presented by Barnes & Noble, the **Contemporary Fiction & Mystery Club's** introduces their April discussion of *The Kite Runner*. 7pm, Fenton Commons Shopping Center, 721 Gravois Road, (636)326-4619.

SLPL presents Authors @ Your Library, featuring **Ron Elz** aka "Johnny Rabbitt." Ron will discuss and sign his new book *The Amazing Johnny Rabbitt St. Louis Trivia Game*. 7pm, Schlafly Branch, 225 North Euclid Avenue, 367-4120.

SLPL will host the **That's Debatable! Book Discussion Group**, who will talk about *Iraq: The Logic of Withdrawal* by Anthony Arnove. Call Michael at 772-6586 to reserve your copy and to get a list of the books being discussed for 2007. 7pm, Carpenter Branch, 3309 South Grand Boulevard, 772-6586.

Saturday, January 13

The **Mystery Lover's Book Club** will meet to discuss *An Instance of the Fingerpost* by Iain Pears. 10am, Carondelet Branch, St. Louis Public Library, 6800 Michigan Ave. For more information, call Jennifer at 752-9224.

Sunday, January 14

The **BookClub** will have their 372nd discussion on *The End of Faith: Religion, Terror, and the Future of Reason* by Sam Harris. For time and venue call (636)451-3232.

Monday, January 15

The **Children's Author Group** will be meeting at the Des Peres Barnes & Noble. 6:30pm, 11952 Manchester Rd, 984-8644.

River Styx presents poetry readings by **David Meltzer** and **Josh Bell**. \$5 at the door, \$4 members, students, & seniors. 7:30pm, Duff's Restaurant, 392 North Euclid. 533-4541, www.riverstyx.org.

Tuesday, January 16

SLPL presents the **Machacek Book Discussion Group**. Please call Anne for current book selection at 781-2948. 10am, Machacek branch, 6424 Scanlan Avenue.

Po Bronson, social psychologist and author of the book *Why Do I Love These People?: Understanding, Surviving, & Creating Your Own Family*, will be at Left Bank Books, 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

Presented by Barnes & Noble, the **Eckankar Group** will introduce their April discussion of *A Modern Prophet Answers Your Key Questions about Life*. 7pm, Fenton Commons Shopping Center, 721 Gravois Road, (636)326-4619.

The **Writers under the Arch** writing group will meet at the Ladue Barnes & Noble. 7pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd., 862-6280.

SPLP presents Authors @ Your Library, which will host a panel discussion with **Kirk Kazanjian**, author of *Exceeding Customer Expectations*, and **Andy Taylor**, CEO of Enterprise Rent-a-Car. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* columnist **David Nicklaus** will facilitate the discussion with book signing afterward. 7pm, Central Branch, Suite 160, 815 Olive Street, 206-6755.

Wednesday, January 17

SLPL will host a discussion and book signing by **Richard Burgin**, author of *The Conference of Beautiful Moments*. Books also available for sale, 7pm, Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 367-4120.

LBB Reading Group will meet to discuss Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, 7:30pm, Coffee Cartel, 2 Maryland Plaza, 367-6731.

Thursday, January 18

LBB is proud to present **Carolyn Andrews**, author of *How to Spell Like a Champ: Roots, Lists, Rules, Tricks & Bee-Winning Tips from the Pros*. 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

Presented by Barnes & Noble, the **Contemporary Romance Book Group** will be meeting. 7pm, The Shoppes at Cross Keys, 13995 New Halls Ferry Rd, 830-3550.

St. Louis Writers Guild Lecture Series will present "Neo Beat Attitudes: A Convergence of Beat Poets," featuring three renowned and innovative beat poets: **David Meltzer**, **John Brandi**, and **Michael Castro**. 7pm, Ladue Barnes & Noble, 8871 Ladue Road, For more info: 821-3823.

Friday, January 19

UMSL MFA Graduate Reading Session: **Seema Muhki**, **Alison Carrick**, **Patti Jackson**, **Cynthia Webber**, and **Maria Balogh** will read from their work, 7pm, Gallery 210, UMSL, 44 E. Drive, One University Blvd., 516-6845.

Saturday, January 20

The **C.L.A.S.S. (Christian Leaders as Soul Searchers) Book Group** will be meeting at the Ladue Barnes & Noble, 5:30pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd. 862-6280.

Tuesday, January 23

Mark Kurlansky, cultural historian and bestselling author of *Salt, 1968*, and his new book *The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell*, will be appearing 7pm at Left Bank Books, 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

The **Writers under the Arch** writing group will meet at the Ladue Barnes & Noble. 7pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd., 862-6280.

Wednesday, January 24

LBB presents **Ayelet Waldman**, author of *Love & Other Impossible Pursuits*, 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

SLPL **Discussion Group** will meet to talk about Sarah Dunant's *The Birth of Venus*. 4:30pm, Meeting Room #1, Central Branch, Suite 160, 815 Olive Street, 206-6755.

WU Assembly Series presents "Burning to Read," a lecture by **David Lawton**, chair of the English Department, 11am, Graham Chapel, WU Danforth Campus, 935-4620, <http://assemblyseries.wustl.edu/>.

Thursday, January 25

Natural Bridge Issue Launch: Local authors read from work featured in issue #16 of the University of Missouri—St. Louis' *Natural Bridge* literary journal. Left Bank Books, 399 N. Euclid, 367-6731.

SLPL **Book Discussion Group** will read and talk about *On Beauty* by Zadie Smith. 7pm, Schlafly Branch, 225 N. Euclid, 367-4120.

Saturday, January 27

Words on Purpose presents readings by fiction writer **Kellie Wells** and poet-educator **Jane Ellen Ibur** to benefit *What's Up*, a magazine produced and sold by homeless and disadvantaged St. Louis area residents. Terry Austin Sr., a formerly homeless vendor, writer, and spokesperson for *What's Up*, will talk about life on the

streets and how *What's Up* serves the homeless with opportunities to earn and learn. Suggested donation at the door, \$5. 4pm, Black Bear Bakery, 2639 Cherokee, St. Louis. More info: 773-0115 or Jaleach5@aol.com.

Tuesday, January 30

The **Forest Park Book Club** will meet to discuss Chris Rose's *1 Dead in Attic*, a photojournalist's portrait of New Orleans during the four months after Katrina. Discussion led by Dr. Matt Devoll. 11am, Highlander Lounge, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. Info: 644-9910.

The **Writers under the Arch** writing group will meet at the Ladue Barnes & Noble. 7pm, Ladue Crossing Shopping Center, 8871 Ladue Rd., 862-6280.

Wednesday, January 31

The **Forest Park Book Club** will meet to discuss Chris Rose's *1 Dead in Attic*, a photojournalist's portrait of New Orleans during the four months after Katrina. Discussion led by Dr. Matt Devoll. 12 pm, Highlander Lounge, St. Louis Community College at Forest Park. Info: 644-9910.

WU Assembly Series presents "African Americans and Documentary Film," a lecture by **Henry Louis Gates, Jr.**, Chair of the Afro-American Studies Department and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for Afro-American Studies at Harvard University, 11am, Graham Chapel, WU Danforth Campus, 935-4620, <http://assemblyseries.wustl.edu/>.

Notices

St. Louis Writers Guild presents **The James Nash Memorial Short Story Contest**, open for submissions beginning October 1. Visit www.stlwritersguild.org for more information. Entries must be postmarked by January 10, 2006, \$15 per manuscript.

St. Charles Community College's literary magazine *Mid Rivers Reviews* is accepting poetry and short fiction submissions October 1–January 31, for details visit www.stchas.edu/midriversreview or call (636)922-8407.

Literary Calendar

Want a vacation this spring? The **Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators** is hosting the **Missouri Spring Retreat!** Running March 9 -11, this small scale event provides an intimate opportunity to work on your craft as well as to get to know **Randi Rivers**, an associate editor of children's books at Charlesbridge. More info and registration at www.geocities.com/scbwimo.

The NSN **National Storytelling Conference** will be held July 11-15, 2007 in St. Louis. Call 997-3474 for additional information.

Abbreviations

B&N: Barnes & Noble; LBB: Left Bank Books; SLCL: St. Louis County Library; SLPL: St. Louis Public Library; SCCCL: St. Charles City County Library; UCPL: University City Public Library, WU: Washington University, WGPL: Webster Groves Public Library.

Check the online calendar at cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu for more events and additional details. To advertise, send event details to litcal@artsci.wustl.edu, or call 935-5576.

THE CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES ADVISORY BOARD 2006-2007

Nancy Berg
Associate Professor of Asian & Near Eastern Languages & Literatures

Ken Botnick
Associate Professor of Art

Gene Dobbs Bradford
Executive Director of Jazz at the Bistro

Lingchei (Letty) Chen
Assistant Professor of Modern Chinese Language and Literature

Elizabeth Childs
Associate Professor of Art History

Michael Kahn
Attorney at Law
Blackwell Sanders Peper Martin LLP

Chris King
Editorial Director
The St. Louis American Newspaper

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales
Director
Sheldon Art Galleries

Paula Lupkin
Assistant Professor of Architecture
Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts

Larry May
Professor of Philosophy

Steven Meyer
Associate Professor of English

Angela Miller
Associate Professor of Art History and Archaeology

Dolores Pesce
Professor and Chair of Department of Music

Joe Pollack
Film and Theater Critic for KWMU, Writer

Sarah Rivett
Assistant Professor of English

Bart Schneider
Editor of *Speakeasy*

Robert Vinson
Assistant Professor of History and African and African American Studies

James Wertsch
Marshall S. Snow Professor of Arts and Sciences
Director of International and Area Studies

Ex Officio

Edward S. Macias
Executive Vice Chancellor and Dean of Arts & Sciences,
Barbara and David Thomas
Distinguished Professor in Arts & Sciences

Zurab Karumidze
Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia
International Fellow



MISSOURI ARTS COUNCIL
Financial assistance for this project has been provided by the Missouri Arts Council, a state agency, and the Regional Arts Commission.



REGIONAL ARTS
COMMISSION OF ST. LOUIS

 **Washington
University in St. Louis**

ARTS & SCIENCES

The Center for the Humanities
Campus Box 1071
Old McMillan Hall, Rm S101
One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130-4899
Phone: (314) 935-5576
email: cenhum@artsci.wustl.edu
<http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu>

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 2535



the figure in the carpet

One Civilized Reader Is Worth a Thousand Boneheads

Published by The Center for the Humanities at Washington University

The Taste of a River

I finally had a few minutes to sit quietly while I waited. It was ten minutes past ten o'clock and the campus was dark and quiet. The wind rushed between the buildings and it was a little chilly, but still comparatively warm for a day in late November. The person next to me said, "I just returned fifteen of eighty email messages from my friends. I have to return their messages first because I don't want them to think I have forgotten them in the aftermath of being awarded the Nobel Prize. Now, I can sleep well."

After a day full of questions and answers and presentations, Orhan Pamuk—winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize for literature and the first recipient of the Washington University International Humanities Prize at the Center for the Humanities' fifth annual Faculty Book Celebration—is still very talkative, both with me and to himself. He must not have realized that I felt the same way. After his successful visit I can sleep better too. It has been a long day for me, but it has been even longer for him.

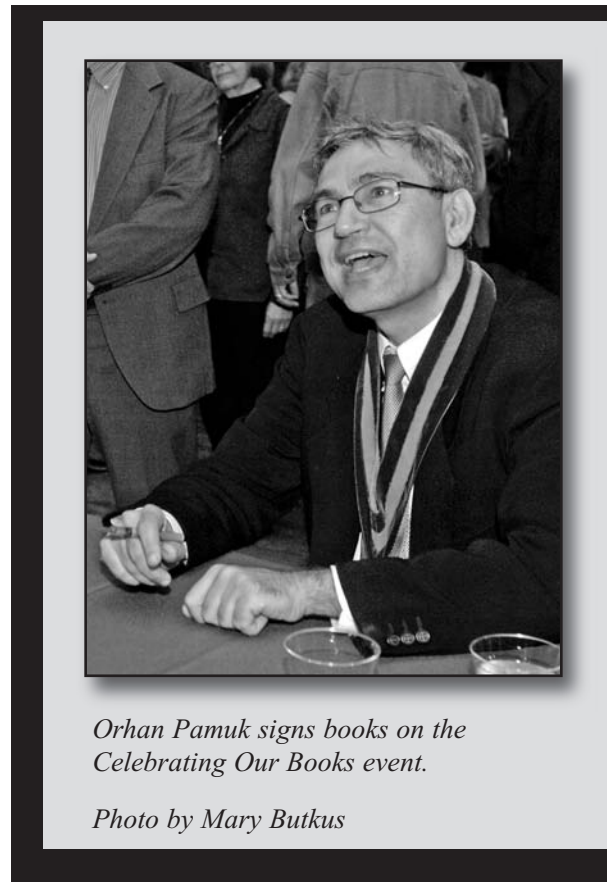
Orhan Pamuk's schedule was very full. Because he is teaching at Columbia University in New York, he could spend only one day with us. To accommodate this situation, we purchased a ticket that had him leaving LaGuardia Airport at 8:30 in the morning and arriving in St. Louis at 10:30. Then he had a lunch meeting with Gerald Early, director of the Center for the Humanities, and James Wertsch, director of International and Area Studies, to discuss his program for the day. Immediately following lunch, they walked him to Hurst Lounge in Duncker Hall for a panel discussion with invited faculty and students of the English Department. The Celebrating Our Books colloquium in Graham Chapel began at 4:00 P.M. A reception and book signing in Holmes Lounge lasted until 6:45 P.M. Then, in a wonderful end to the evening, Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton hosted a dinner in Orhan's honor at Harbison House from 7 to 9 P.M.



Dr. Jian Leng

editor's notes

Visit our blog site at <http://cenhum.artsci.wustl.edu/Blog.html>.



Orhan Pamuk signs books on the Celebrating Our Books event.

Photo by Mary Butkus

As we walked back from the Chancellor's house, I suddenly remembered that Orhan had wanted to use his one free hour in the day to check his email. I was so busy getting the faculty books ready for the celebration that he didn't get a chance to do that. I suggested we stop off at the Humanities Center so he could check his email from my computer. He happily accepted. It was already 9:30 P.M. so he promised he would only take ten to fifteen minutes. It took him longer than that, but it was worth it.

Walking back to the Knight Center, my husband and I joked and laughed with Orhan. He may be a Nobel Prize winner and a famous author, but he has



From left: James Wertsch, Lingchei Letty Chen, Orhan Pamuk, Gerald Early, and John Bowen at Holmes Lounge, Washington University, November 27, 2006.

Photo by Mary Butkus

a “big child” inside him that lets him interact with the world in an innocent, open way that constantly catches you by surprise.

So many images of Orhan during this visit come to my mind, images that say a great deal about the man behind the prizes and the books. These images start at the airport. Normally we pick up speakers at the airport in our own cars, but we were so honored to have Orhan on campus that we rented a limousine. He thought we were joking when we said it was for him. He told Barbara Liebmann, administrative assistant for the Center, that he had been in such a car only once before, and that was in Finland. (The next morning when he was leaving, he made sure to get a picture of himself standing by “his” car.) As there was only half an hour before he had to begin the day’s schedule, he wanted to go sightseeing immediately. Forgoing the luxury of the spacious backseat, Orhan sat by the driver in the front so he could see more. He said he didn’t know whether he would ever return to St. Louis and did not want to miss anything. Sensing that there would be many such trips in the near future, he suggested he might write a journal about his travels, calling it something like “Orhan sees the world through a windshield.” Of course, the car got stuck in morning traffic on the way to campus and we were running late. He apologized many times, blaming his childlike desires for making us tardy.

The next morning, before his departure from St. Louis, he wanted to see the famous Mississippi River. When we arrived at the riverfront, he walked past the Arch and down the large flight of steps to the river. Before anyone could stop him, he stepped over to the river bank, cupped his hands, filled them

with water from the Mississippi, and drank it, curious to see how it tasted. He said that this was not at all an unusual thing for him to do; he likes to taste different bodies of water. Yet, as the Mississippi River quietly flowed by his eyes, the stories he knew about this particular river and names he associated with it must have been in his mind. I wonder how many bodies of water he has tasted and whether the Mississippi River water he had just drunk was different from that of other rivers and lakes. One day perhaps the Mississippi River—the “Father of Waters” that has been the source of many stories about the American experience—will appear in one of Orhan’s books. And perhaps Orhan’s name will join those of writers like Mark Twain who described rivers they knew so well they could taste them.

It is particularly appropriate that these January Notes are about Orhan. The month is named for the dual-faced Janus, the Roman god of gates and doors. The connection for me is that Janus is typically depicted with two faces looking in opposite directions, one behind and the other forward. Orhan’s books are much like this. His work takes cultures that seem to be looking in very different directions and shows how they interlace, with the imprints of the East on the West and those of the West on the East. Moreover, although the activities in his accounts often take place in the past, they speak to the present and throw hints toward the future. Lastly, Orhan’s work looks in opposite directions by taking us out of our own worlds and forcing us to put ourselves into the lives of others. This is, in fact, what he says is so liberating about his art form, the novel.

For the Romans, Janus was also believed to represent beginnings, as one must emerge through a door or gate in order to enter a new place. Orhan passed through a symbolic door with the awarding of the Nobel Prize on December 10. The awarding of the Humanities Prize here at Washington University revealed a man open enough to the world to reach down and drink from a muddy river, yet strong enough to stand in a kind of no-man’s-land of cultural ideas and insights, inventing symbols and characters to bridge the battleground of ideas. In the face of his newfound celebrity, I only hope he is able to preserve the innocent openness that shone through on his visit here.

Jian Leng
Associate Director
The Center for the Humanities

Book of the Month by Gerald Early

Blind Oracles: Intellectuals and War from Kennan to Kissinger

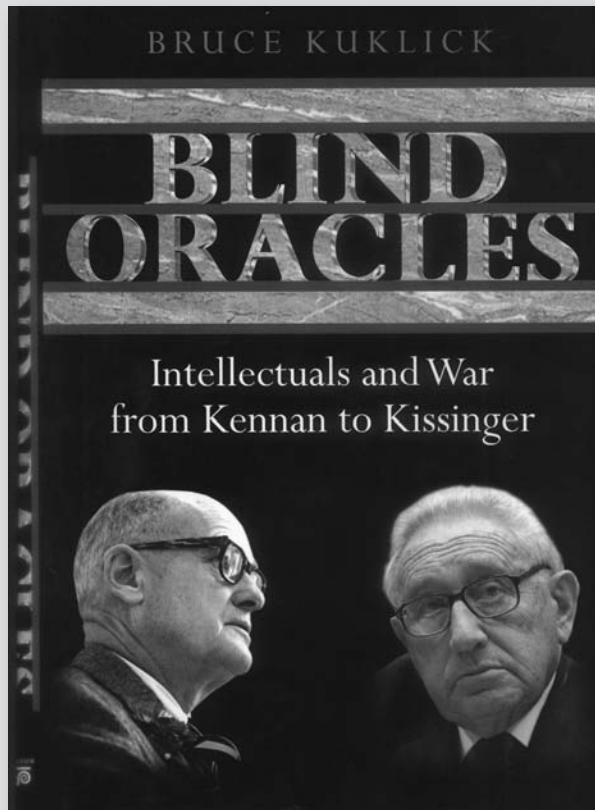
By Bruce Kuklick

Princeton University Press, 2006,
241 pages including index

Part One: Lessons of War

It might be said that the current distressing situation in Iraq is proof that the United States has learned nothing from any war it has fought in the twentieth century, but particularly it learned nothing from the Korean War (1950–53), the first truly limited war we fought. Limited warfare means (1) not urgently mobilizing our civilian population for war through rationing, mass conscription, government control of industry, and government control of popular culture to issue propaganda; (2) not using the complete array of weapons in our arsenal to defeat the enemy, particularly nuclear and certain biological weapons; and (3) not necessarily seeking the complete and unconditional surrender of the enemy. Limited warfare was a strategy to enable the United States to pursue certain circumscribed political ends while preventing the possibility of a major war between dominant nations. Thomas Schelling, Harvard professor of economics, RAND-connected intellectual, and military reformist, referred to limited war, in historian Bruce Kuklick's words, as "a form of signaling." "It is in wars that we have come to call 'limited wars,'" wrote Schelling, "that the bargaining [associated with warfare under any circumstances] appears most vividly and is conducted most consciously. The critical targets in such a war are in the mind of the enemy as much as on the battlefield." A warring nation in such circumstances must hope that its signals are read rightly and that, like an expert salesman, it knows how to make a good bargain.

What did we learn from Korea? That it is necessary to make the right



historical analogy so that one knows that one is fighting the right war in the right way. President Truman misunderstood the North Korean invasion of the South and thought it was a repeat of 1938 and German aggression in demanding Czechoslovakia, a demand that British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain acceded to. As Bruce Kuklick points out in *Blind Oracles: Intellectuals and War from Kennan to Kissinger*, political scientist Richard Neustadt, one of President Kennedy's in-house intellectuals and author of the seminal book *Presidential Power*,¹ argued that the Korean situation was more akin to the Balkans in 1914, right before the start of World War I and required a different response than Truman's decision to commit American ground forces in a United Nations war where very little strategically was at stake for the United States, as Korea was not vital to American security interests in Asia. Kuklick summed up

Neustadt's view: "Korea required circumspection more than pugnacity." But as Kuklick suggests, who is to say that Neustadt is right simply because it is almost certainly true that Truman was wrong in how he read the political situation in Korea at the time (something he himself was probably willing to admit if someone had asked him off the record anytime after 1951, when both he and the American public soured on the Korean War and when everyone wanted most desperately a way out). And even if Truman was wrong, the war may not have been a bad idea or at least the outcome may not have been bad. Who is to say that had Truman done

something else, the situation might not have turned out worse? Clearly, some of President Bush's advisers were wrong to see the Iraq War as a reenactment of the Spanish American War of 1898, and Bush himself was wrong to see it as the reenactment of World War II without the public inconveniences. Is Iraq simply Vietnam once more with feeling or Korea with guerilla warfare instead of is it a frontline, without right-wing nationalists like Syngman Rhee and with Islamic terrorists substituting for communists? How do you correctly read the war you are in or the war you want to have?

"Analogical reasoning," writes Kuklick, "is a special case of counterfactual analysis." Or, put another way, historical analogy always leads to speculation about what might have happened if the president or a nation's policymakers had responded to a situation in another way, had read it differ-

ently. The period covered in Kuklick's book—the Cold War from the end of WWII through the presidency of Nixon and the end of Vietnam in the 1970s—was really for intellectuals involved in war-making policy about the scientific construction and deconstruction of decision making, about creating the methodology and the formula of the good decision in a time of crisis. Of course, they failed. The only way to know if a decision succeeds is to make one that, ultimately does not do great, obvious harm. But why certain decisions succeed and others fail is a mystery. Is rationality the key? But how so, since no decision for our nation to go to war was ever irrational. In fact, the illusion of rationality may be greatly overrated.

Part Two: The Men Behind the Lads Who Serve the Guns

Blind Oracles is the story of “the role of knowledge in politics” or how “political and learned culture contrast.” It is the story of how intellectuals, academics, and professors advised presidents about making decisions about war and peace. It concentrates on the era of 1945 to 1975 because the concept of war itself was problematized by the existence of the atomic bomb, the ultimate weapon of mass destruction. Was it possible to use the bomb in a limited way or to integrate it into a conventional war? How did the existence of the bomb affect how peace was conceived and maintained? This book might best be seen and read as a complement to the noted 1983 work *The Wizards of Armageddon* by Fred Kaplan, which covers some of the same ground but is a substantially different take. There are three major strands in *Blind Oracles*:

(1) How civilian intellectuals tried to reform the military after WWII and disrupt conventional, hidebound thinking in that institution. Most intellectuals found military leadership to be peculiarly anti-intellectual and especially ill-equipped to deal with the ideas of modern war-

fare because it did not understand or appreciate or generate *theory* itself. So, the scholars came in with game theory, deterrence, mutually assured destruction, second-strike capability, massive retaliation, limited warfare, war fighting, and the like. War had to be scientifically managed and theoretically framed and in concept and execution could not be left to generals and other such dunderheads. This story begins with the formation of a new field during WWII called operations research that generated close interaction between government officials and social scientists, particularly economists. This interaction was intensified with the creation after WWII of the RAND Corporation (RAND stands for Research and Development), which was largely connected to the Air Force, having emerged from the war as the most important branch of the military because bombing was the thing that defeated enemies. RAND, a think tank started by the Douglas Aircraft Company, eventually became a breeding ground for a number of intellectuals who were interested in issues of military reform and national security.

(2) How the National Security Act of 1947, through creating the Department of Defense and bringing the various competing branches of the military under the control of one civilian secretary, furthered the aim of having intellectuals run the military and create national security policy. Civilian intellectuals found it difficult to keep the various branches of the military from competing unproductively against one another and nearly impossible to coordinate single weapon systems for all the branches, Robert McNamara's failed F-111 fighter plane that was to serve both the Air Force and the Navy was a telling case in point.

(3) How intellectuals tried to create a

science of decision making as well as rational quantitative analysis of all situations. The emphasis on the quantitative meant that intellectuals like George Keenan, an old-fashioned diplomat with all the snobbery of the typical humanist who can speak a foreign language, knows the Great Western Tradition, and can order the proper wine for any occasion, or a realist like Hans Morgenthau, did not last long in government circles because they lacked formulaic math driven theory. Historians were dismissed for being indecisive. It was really the era after WWII that saw the rise of the social scientist as the nouveau courtier, the adviser at the right hand of political power, and the complete displacement of the humanist as anyone who mattered in public discourse concerning policy, ideas, or theory.

Eisenhower distrusted intellectuals, despite (or perhaps because of) having served as president of Columbia University (1948—1950), and his instinct was partly right.² Kennedy loved having intellectuals around him and was partly wrong in the deference he gave them, although like any competent leader, he knew when to ignore them. President Nixon hated intellectuals but loved Henry Kissinger, his most prominent scholar/adviser, because he saw in his National Security Advisor and Secretary of State the same type of misbegotten outsider that was himself. Vietnam, the liberal intellectuals' war, was a fiasco but Iraq—largely the result of group of intellectuals and policymakers called the Vulcans (who were also military reformers)—threatens to be the conservative's version of a similar fiasco. Intellectuals bring knowledge to the table of any decision maker, clearly, but they also bring the unsettling irony of uncertainty disguised as hubris. Any decision maker must learn how to use them and never to use them as intellectu-

The Chancellor's Fellows of the Graduate School of Washington University are pleased to present

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of W. E. B Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University

Who will speak on the theme of:
"African Americans and Documentary Films"
at Graham Chapel on
Wednesday, January 31, 2007 at 11 AM

To be followed by a Panel Discussion
At The Women's Building Lounge, 2 PM to 4 PM

Joining Professor Gates will be

- Orlando Bagwell, Documentary Filmmaker
- John Baugh, Margaret Bush Wilson Professor of Arts and Sciences and Chair of African and African American Studies, Washington University, Moderator
- Clayborne Carson, Professor of American History and Editor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers, Stanford University
- Marcia Smith, Documentary Filmmaker

Sponsors include:

The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Washington University, the African and African American Studies Program, Olin Library, the Center for the Humanities

Both Events Are Free and Open to the Public



Book of the Month continued

als themselves wish to be or think they ought to be used.

Blind Oracles is a rich, fascinating, and compact study, especially timely in these days. It comes highly recommended and should be read with *The Wizards of Armageddon* and *The Worlds of Herman Kahn: The Intuitive Science of Thermonuclear War* by Sharon Ghamari-Tabrizi (2005). One should also watch again two science films of the 1950s for what they say about the relationships among scientists, politicians, and the military: *The Day the Earth Stood Still* and *The*

War of the Worlds. Add to that, of course, the great 1960s classic *Dr. Strangelove*. After reading Kuklick's book, where he talks about two of these three films, you will appreciate them much more for what they are dramatizing.

¹*Presidential Power* was so popular that I remember reading it, with modest profit and limited understanding, as a junior in high school simply because it was prominently displayed in bookstores and because every college kid I knew was reading it for a course. I learned more about the presidency from reading, at the same time, Irving Wallace's

garish potboiler novel, *The Man* (1964), about a black man becoming president of the United States.

²Eisenhower hated the idea of limited war and thought Korea was a mistake. He adumbrated the Powell policy in that he believed that the United States should only fight wars that it was certain it would win and that it should enter any theater of combat with overwhelming force.