

SOCIETY

compared with a 42 percent Carter vote among other professionals. Academics are also more likely to approve of premarital sex (62 percent) and to favor reductions in military spending (46 percent). They are more likely than leaders of feminist groups, civil-rights organizations, students, and newspaper and television reporters to advocate ceilings on personal income.

However, a sizeable majority of professors (65 percent) indicated confidence in bankers and financiers. More than two-thirds agreed that the growth of government in the United States "poses a threat" to freedom and individual initiative. And more than half endorsed the view that economic growth, not redistribution of wealth, should be the "primary objective" of American economic policy.

Differences in "liberal" and "conservative" orientation are pronounced among the various academic disciplines. Professors in the social sciences and humanities tend to be farthest to the left, followed, in order of declining liberalism, by those in the natural sciences, business administration, and engineering. Professors of agriculture are farthest to the right.

PRESS & TELEVISION*A Small World*

"The Elite Press, the Global System, and Foreign News Attention" by Andrew K. Semmel, in *International Interactions* (vol. 3, no. 4, 1977), 42 William IV St., London WC2N 4DF, England.

Major American newspapers are fond of advertising their worldwide coverage of the news. But one scholar's study of the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Miami Herald*, and *Chicago Tribune*, conducted during the last three months of 1974, reveals that their attention to most nations "borders on the nonexistent."

According to Semmel, a political scientist at the University of Cincinnati, 79 of the world's 132 countries received only 5 percent of the total number of foreign news stories; 12 countries received almost two-thirds of the coverage. This "mix" was virtually identical in all four newspapers.

Semmel speculates that there is a "law of communications magnetism": Nations alike in terms of power, wealth, or culture pay attention to each other; unlike nations ignore each other. Thus, he says, England, the Soviet Union, Japan, France, Canada, Israel, Italy, and West Germany consistently dominate foreign news in the American press. On the other hand, internal developments in Central and North Africa, in most of Asia and South America, and, surprisingly, in Scandinavia, go largely unreported. These neglected areas get coverage only in cases of riot, famine, political upheaval, or war. One exception is the

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in-depth reporting by the *Miami Herald* of Latin America and the Caribbean—an emphasis that appeals to Miami's large Spanish-speaking population.

All nations are not equally important to Americans or to each other, the author concedes. But reliance on occasional “fuzzy snapshots” of events in most countries, he argues, is likely to lead to pervasive ignorance among the American public of the “scope and novelty” of changes occurring throughout the world.

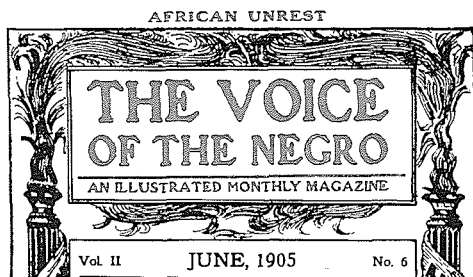
*Black Press,
White Purse*

“Away from Accommodation: Radical Editors and Protest Journalism, 1900–1910” by Abby Arthur Johnson and Ronald M. Johnson, in *Journal of Negro History* (Oct. 1977), 1407 14th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

The conflicts between the “radical” school of race relations, led by black writer-educator W. E. B. Du Bois, and Booker T. Washington’s “accommodationist” school were fought out in the pages of black-edited journals published after the turn of the century. The bitter competition between the two men, write the Johnsons, who teach at Howard University and Georgetown University, respectively, paved the way for the eventual creation of black-financed newspapers and magazines (particularly, the still flourishing NAACP bimonthly, *Crisis*).

Washington’s espousal of gradual black economic advancement, the authors contend, endeared him to the white business community—and attracted financial support. But for black magazines, white money proved as much a bane as a boon. Thus, when editor Pauline Hopkins attempted to publish black protest writing in the Boston-based *Colored American*, she offended the magazine’s white backers. Washington, who had secretly bought into the publication, was able to have her ousted. She was replaced by an editor who “boomed the theories of Washington.” Similar troubles plagued the influential *Voice of the Negro*, which collapsed in 1907.

Du Bois, on the other hand, downplayed “conciliation,” advocated



The Voice of the Negro, Atlanta, June 1905

The Voice of the Negro (circulation, 17,000), like the rival *Colored American*, was troubled by strife between its “accommodationist” owners and its radical editors. Unlike its competitor, the *Voice* folded as a result.