

ness leaders join with blacks to bring about real change. In 1971, the school system of Greensboro was finally integrated—17 years after the famous *Brown* decision.

Contemporary Affairs

**THE STATE OF THE
PRESIDENCY**

by Thomas E. Cronin
Little, Brown, 2nd ed., 1980
417 pp. \$14.95

Americans want a President who is just and decent *and* tough and forceful. We admire humility, but most great leaders have been exceedingly vain, and the public equates being "too nice" with being "too soft." Americans themselves are, to a large extent, to blame for their disillusionment with politicians, contends Cronin, a political scientist at the University of Delaware. (Forty-seven percent of eligible voters stayed away from the polls in 1976.) Cronin reflects that "the presidency was not designed to perform the countless leadership functions that we have come to demand of it." Under the Constitution, he notes, in almost every instance (save, perhaps, the pardon) presidential powers are "shared powers." The President is not free to monopolize policymaking. Yet, today, the chief executive is expected to assume roles—international peacemaker, moral leader, economic manager—not spelled out with any clarity by the nation's founders. This edition of Cronin's 1975 study of the political pressures that have shaped contemporary Presidents' performances includes data from interviews with private citizens, White House aides, Cabinet officials, and Oval Office advisers, from the Kennedy through the Carter administrations.

**UNLOVING CARE: The
Nursing Home Tragedy**

by Bruce C. Vladeck
Basic, 1980
305 pp. \$13.95

More than one and a quarter million elderly Americans reside in nursing homes. The cost of their care exceeds \$12 billion a year. Tax dollars, paid out to public and private facilities alike, cover 80 percent of the bill. (Three-fourths of the country's nursing homes are operated for a profit.) This mishmash of state and federal buyers in absentia and cost-

conscious entrepreneurs has failed to ensure adequate care, claims Vladeck, a former Columbia political scientist and now a commissioner with the New Jersey Department of Health. Too many elderly patients are treated with indifference, in substandard living conditions, without adequate medical attention. Vladeck assesses the prospects for closer public controls as meager, partly because of Americans' dwindling confidence in government's ability to regulate or administer social programs. His recommendation: reduce the number of nursing-home beds (via cutbacks in government financing) by 50 percent. Substitute state and federally funded "sheltered housing," whereby the elderly maintain their own dwellings, and health care is provided for them at home or in hospitals (which now often have a surplus of beds). Community agencies should be charged with running the programs; local volunteers should monitor the quality of care, as well as conditions in the remaining nursing homes. There are no easy alternatives, Vladeck reminds us. By the year 2000, 5 million Americans will be over 75.

**SEX AND FANTASY:
Patterns of Male and Female
Development**

by Robert May
Norton, 1980
226 pp. \$12.95



Picture two trapeze artists, male and female, in mid-air; invent a story to accompany the image. If you are a woman, your narrative will probably involve a trial (husband and wife "have been unable to perform on the [trapeze] because of certain marital conflicts") leading to happy ending ("by clasping hands [they] become man and wife again"). Male scenarios typically move in the opposite direction, from promising beginnings ("He just caught her and both feel the thrill of excitement") to deprivation ("She falls to her death. . . . He loses his confidence and the ability to fly"). Through tests such as these, and numerous case histories of extreme behavior, May, an Amherst clinical psychologist, outlines what he believes to be innate male and female personality differences. Men tend to be outward-oriented—proud, aggressive, and restless; women are more inward-looking, adaptable, and caring. Risking the wrath of radical