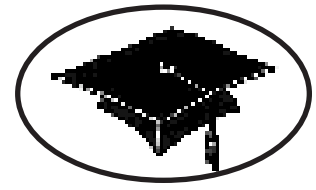

Berkeley Emeriti

TIMES



March 2008

Professor Robert Collier
Visiting Scholar
Center for Environmental Public Policy

“China’s Role in Global Warming: Why Beijing’s Regulatory Clout Must Be Strengthened, Not Weakened, To Save The Planet”

Saturday, March 15, 2008

Robert Collier attended Amherst College, where he received a degree in English. He then took up a career as a reporter, working for UPI in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, covering the Contra-Sandinista war, U.S. military presence, and Honduran politics. This was followed by a period of free-lance reporting primarily in Nicaragua, as well as in Cuba and Columbia, for major U.S. newspapers and the *Times of London*. During this period he again covered the Contra-Sandinista war, the Nicaraguan democratic transition, Cuban social issues and Colombian cocaine trafficking as well as regional diplomacy. In 1991, he joined staff at the *San Francisco Chronicle*, writing primarily on Mexico, Central America, Columbia, Venezela, and Cuba - together with China and Saipan - on immigration, drug policy, WTO and NAFTA. Professor Collier then joined the *Chronicle* editorial board with expertise in foreign affairs, immigration, trade and drug policy. Since 2002, he has been a senior foreign correspondent and has written extensively on the politics and diplomacy of global warming, international energy policy, the environment and trade.

Among Professor Collier’s awards are: the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award for best foreign reporting for coverage in Baghdad before, during, and after the U.S. invasion (2003); Allantik Brueke Foundation, Journalists’ Fellowship (2004); East-West Center, Jefferson Fellowship for research in East Asia (2005); and the National Press Foundation Thomas Stokes Award for best reporting on energy issues (2006).

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Berkeley Emeriti

T I M E S



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The End Justifies the Means – A Key to Presidential Greatness?

On Saturday, January 26, 2008, Professor John Yoo of the Boalt School of Law addressed the Emeriti Association. The title of his talk was “Presidential Power in Emergencies.”

Professor Yoo cited numerous cases where US presidents took actions that exceeded their constitutional authority. Examples he cited included Abraham Lincoln’s suspension of habeas corpus during the Civil War, and Franklin Roosevelt’s transfer of 50 destroyers to Great Britain before the U.S. entered World War II. In both of these cases the president reacted to real threats to the country’s security. Thomas Jefferson was aware and troubled by the fact that there was no part of the constitution authorizing him to unilaterally purchase Louisiana, causing him to draft a constitutional amendment dealing with territorial acquisition. However, he never presented it for ratification, apparently concluding that this extraordinary opportunity was of such future benefit to the nation that his action was justified. There may be little difficulty defining the emergency in Lincoln and Roosevelt’s actions, but it was not made clear who decides that an emergency exists and what will be its duration. Professor Yoo clearly minimized the role of congress in dealing with national emergencies.

Professor Yoo then discussed the rankings of American presidents by historians who usually rank Washington, Lincoln and Roosevelt as the three greatest presidents. It was not made clear what criteria determine “greatness”, but professor Yoo associated this attribute with a president’s willingness to exert authority that might well be unconstitutional.

In the discussion a questioner found Professor Yoo’s approval, even admiration, for presidents who violate their oath to defend the constitution surprising, considering that he is a legal scholar. Do good ends justify illegal means? Not every president is great, and indulging violations of the presidential oath subjects the country to reckless actions of mediocre presidents, erodes respect for law and may also subvert the national interest. Professor Yoo conceded the risk, but was dubious of trying to design and implement a more risk-averse system. He suggested examining the process by which we select presidents.

Professor Yoo is not a typical professor of law, but comes before the Emeriti Association with some notoriety because of his service in the Justice Department under Attorney General Gonzales, where his legal opinions supported actions that many Americans consider outrageous violations of law and justice. His influential legal advisory role in the administration was suppressed in his remarks, and his long answers permitted only limited questioning in thirty minutes, leaving unanswered the questions of many of the audience. Listening to the questions and impassioned statements of audience members crowding around him at the podium following the program, revealed their frustration and desire to confront him with their disapproval of what they perceived to be his legal enablement of measures they detest. However, civility prevailed on all sides.

Larry Waldron

Campus Happenings – The Spoken Word

Lunch Poems

Morrison Room - Doe Library 12:10 – 1 p.m.

Thurs., March 6 Diane di Prima

Thurs., April 3 Jessica Fisher

Thurs., May 1 Student Reading

Story Hour

315 Wheeler, Maude Fife Room 5 – 6 p.m.

Thurs. March 20 Daniel Mason

Thurs. April 17 Melanie Abrams

Holloway Series – Poetry Readings

315 Wheeler, Maude Fife Room 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Thurs., March 21 Linh Dinh

Fri., April 24 Ariana Reines

Thurs., May 1 Lytle Shaw

The Spoken Word in the evening...

A Conversation with journalist and author Michael Pollan: In Defense of Food.

Wed., Mar. 5, 7–9 p.m. Wheeler Auditorium,

Annual Sather Lecture Series: Re-imagining Greek Tragedy on the U.S. Stage.

Feb. 27, Mar. 5, 12. Valley Life Sciences Bldg.,

Mar. 19, 60 Evans Hall, 8–9:30 p.m.

Una's Lecture: "Blackface Then and Now," Greil Marcus. Thur., Mar. 6, 7:30 p.m. 315 Wheeler Hall.

Avenali Lecture: "The Book of Revelations," Elaine Pagels. Tues., Mar. 18, 7:30 p.m., Wheeler Auditorium.

Ernest Bloch Visiting Lecture: Whim and Rigor: Rethinking Musical Influence, Steven Mackey.

Mon., Mar. 31, 8 p.m. Hertz Hall.

The Forum on the Humanities and the Public World: Leon Fleisher in Conversation.

Thur., Apr. 3, 7 p.m. Berkeley Art Museum Theater, 2621

Durant, access via Sculpture Garden.

The American Presidency in the Year 2008: Looking Back at the Bush Presidency.

Thur., Apr. 10, 7:30–9:30 p.m. Dwinelle Hall, Call 510-642-4111 to reserve space, refer to EDP 023655.

Nominations for your Executive Committee

The time is approaching for our annual election of members of the Executive Committee, and a nominating committee has been set up to consider possible nominees. I have one thing in common with the President in Washington DC and that is that I will be stepping down as President of the Association on July 1st, while he will stay on only a little while longer. It is very important for the Association to continue to have active leadership that will deal with important issues that come up, and I am asking each member to consider putting some names forward of individuals, including your own if you wish, whom you believe could serve on your Executive Committee. The job is not onerous and might even be fun, and it is an opportunity to contribute to the welfare of all faculty retirees.

Please send nominations as soon as possible to me at: dickm@nature.berkeley.edu.

Dick Malkin

President, UCBEA

UCBEA Awards

I am pleased to announce the awardees and nominees for our three annual awards:

Dickson Emeriti Professorship – Professor **Robert Sawyer**, Department of Mechanical Engineering. Professor Sawyer' was elected to the National Academy of Engineering this month.

Berkeley Emeritus of the Year – Professor **Howard Schachman**, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, was chosen because his "...contributions to science since his retirement are staggering."

Berkeley Panunzio Distinguished Award nominee – Professor **James Matisoff**, Department of Linguistics, who is considered one of the world's foremost authorities on Southeast Asian Linguistics, especially Tibeto-Burman and Tai. Professor Matisoff's name has been forwarded to UCLA where a final decision will be made on the Panunzio award in early April.

More details on these awardees will appear in the Emeriti Times.

Dick Malkin

**From George Washington to George W. – Presidents Getting Verse
Woodcuts and Rhymes by Joe Ellick, Professor of History, San Francisco State University**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt 1933-1945

Unemployment everywhere, system failure near.
Another day, another care. Pessimism, fear.
Enter Franklin Roosevelt: aristocrat, assured.
How could he know what poor folks felt, what they had
endured?
Yet something in his confidence, conveyed in fireside
chats,
His lordly tone and common sense, persuaded democrats.
He went to work immediately—he called a holiday—
Then S.E.C., F.D.I.C., and later triple A.
Pursuing, so the histories say, recovery and reform.
Relief, as well, through public work.
The critics yelled, “These men just shirk.”
And “Who will pay?” and “This is wrong!”
Another way—Townsend and Long
Said “Help the old” and Help the poor.”
While workmen bold, united, sure,

Without much tact, but with maturity,
Got the Wagner Act and Social Security.
No more hand-to-mouth for labor.
And south of the border we found Good Neighbors.
But across the seas danger pervaded:
China on its knees, Europe invaded.
The Rising Sun attacked Pearl Harbor’s ships.
Johnny got his gun. No more loose lips.
Kick ‘em in the Axis. North African campaign.
Rationing and war taxes. Win at Alamein.
Coral Sea and Midway. The Italian fight.
Normandy was D-Day, Germans now in flight.
Leyte Gulf and Yalta—we had turned the tide.
But before the war was halted, FDR died.

Dr. New Deal became Dr. Win the War.
The commonweal changed as it never had before.

While you’re in the Library, be sure to see a small piece of the Berlin Wall, purchased by Professor Nelson Poulson and shipped to Berkeley by the Free University of Berlin, “...presented to IGS as a reminder of the fragility and preciousness of human freedom...”

Institute of Governmental Studies Library, 109 Moses Hall, EXHIBIT CLOSES Monday, March 24.