

tual of all the commentators. He was also one of the most respected members of his profession, a fact that led Franklin Roosevelt to name him the director of the Office of War Information in 1942. The *New York Times* said it best when it described Davis as a "horse-sense liberal . . . given neither to hysterical hand wringing nor to fuzzy optimism" (p. 193).

Fang has written a very readable and enjoyable account of several of the radio news personalities of yesterday, ranging from the shallow, uneducated, raucous Winchell to the pompous, scholarly Kaltenborn. Unfortunately, he has chosen to ignore most of the abundant archival sources so carefully utilized by David Culbert in his *News for Everyman* (1976). Fang's account contains a great deal of useful information, but serious students of American radio should use it in conjunction with the more scholarly works of Culbert and Erik Barnouw. A very attractive bonus feature is the inclusion of two soundsheets which contain short, interesting excerpts from broadcasts of the fifteen radio commentators discussed in the book.

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From Main Street to State Street: Town, City, and Community in America. By Park Dixon Goist. (Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1977. Pp. 180. Notes and references, bibliography, index. \$12.50.)

If close personal interaction, extensive cooperation, group solidarity, and a strong identification with a locality define community, then most Americans associate community with the small town. The erosion of community life as a consequence of the growth of large cities, in fact, has been a major image in American thought since the 1890s. Yet by examining the writings of numerous *novelists, reformers, sociologists, and city planners who "sought to rethink the meaning of community in terms more appropriate to large cities"* (p. 7), Park Dixon Goist reminds readers that the American cultural debate over the decline of community has been considerable.

Goist uses Booth Tarkington, Theodore Dreiser, and Robert and Helen Lynd, among others, to illustrate the traditional image of community in town and city. Just as Tarkington's *The Gentleman from Indiana* presents the small town as the embodiment of community life, Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* consistently portrays the city as a chaotic world devoid of socially sanctioned norms or long-term human bonds. And the Lynds' *Mid-*

dletown suggests that Muncie lost its community cohesion as rapid industrial growth divided the city into distinctly different business and working classes.

As Goist shows, however, many American writers envisioned various degrees of community in the big city. Some, like Hamlin Garland, saw only stultification and a repressive sameness in the small town and took refuge in the cultural communities of European cities and New York. Jane Addams sought to develop community cohesion within the urban neighborhood through the settlement house. Radical journalists such as Hutchins Hapgood and Ernest Poole found group solidarity and meaningful social interaction within the labor movement. Sociologist Robert Park theorized that occupational groups, ethnic groups, churches, neighborhoods, and even street gangs provided social integration in the city. Although Charles Mulford Robinson and John Nollen, two of the most influential American city planners during the Progressive era, stressed the role of careful physical planning in enhancing urban group life, neither, Goist suggests, ever questioned the possibility of viable community in the city. Finally, Lewis Mumford had great faith in the potential ability of regional planning and new towns to provide community in the modern metropolis if only modern man would value the community experience above materialism.

From Main Street to State Street very successfully demonstrates the wide range of American thought about the possibilities of community life within large cities. The chapters describing reformers, sociologists, and planners are more successful than those describing novelists because of the greater focus and substance of the source materials. Clearer attention to the writers' viewpoints regarding the social and political limitations of community based upon only small intellectual, occupational, ethnic, or neighborhood subcommunities instead of the urban population as a whole would have been useful. Yet, overall, the book provides a valuable basis to compare the community images of many prominent American writers, including Tarkington and the Lynds.

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Trouble Downtown: The Local Context of Twentieth-Century America. By Henry F. Bedford. (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1978. Pp. x, 213. Illustrations, notes, maps, index. \$5.95.)