

## BLOOM AND DOOM

IT WAS A DELIGHT TO SEE MARTIN KIHN'S short story "Bloom in Love" [Books, November], and no less a delight to notice GQ's continuing affection for contemporary American fictions. I know that I must speak for many of your readers when I say how eagerly I look forward to further evidence of Mr. Kihn's exertions in the humane arts. God love him and God love GQ. You are doing important work in the world. If there is any justice, your high labors shall not go unrewarded. *Gordon Lish*  
New York City

IN RESPONSE TO MARTIN KIHN'S SENSATIONALIZED and mostly inaccurate prose: His wholly eroticized reconstruction of Professor Bloom could only be the product of an all-out search for a lurid tale.

Merely labeling Bloom's critical work as "Oedipal" is to miss its significance. I guess that is why the article could persistently misattribute Bloom's popularity to erotic rather than intellectual pursuits.

To say that Bloom can't abide criticism is simply ridiculous—he takes serious criticism with great humor. His intellect is overpowering, but if someone is overwhelmed as a result, that is not Bloom's problem.

But then, your entire article doesn't show any interest in seeing people in any other light than the lurid one you cast on it from the first powerful image: the Siren. When will you stand up and refuse to sell sex, even imaginary, for \$3 a copy?

*Joy Lawrence*  
Allston, Mass.

## THE GUNFIGHTER

SAN JOSE'S POLICE CHIEF, JOSEPH MCNAMARA, may well be "a very clever man," as reported in your article "The Cop Who Bends All the Rules" [by Jeffrey Goodell, October]. His role as a spokesperson parroting the emotionalized and manipulative fabrications of gun-control advocates brings him media attention that enhances book sales as well as ego. However, it doesn't enhance his credibility among those of us who believe public policy should be based on the facts honestly stated and objectively considered. The constitutional rights of Americans should not be compromised to serve a political agenda.

*Herbert Lanford*  
Columbia, S.C.

BLIND OPPOSITION TO THE NRA DOES NOT demonstrate a gutsy attitude—current chic demands an unthinking acceptance of opposition to anything having the least bit to do with the NRA. San Jose's police chief, Joe McNamara, has found a ready audience for his tirades against the NRA, and he is milking it for everything he can possibly get. What McNamara will never find is NRA advocacy of unlawful behavior.

*Rod Shewchuk*  
Edmonton, Alberta

## SHORTCHANGING SHORT

RICHARD MERKIN LEFT OUT ONE IMPORTANT thing in his otherwise-fine reflections on Bobby Short [Merkin on Style, "S Wonderful," October]. Sure Short is aided by his enunciation, memory and passion, but what no one ever talks about is his excellence as a pianist. But if you fight the 101 percent attention his voice demands, you might notice that he's a virtuoso on the keyboard. His playing is so eclectic and powerful—yet seems so effortless—that it's hard to believe he's the only one making all those sounds. Sitting in the Café Carlyle this past spring, I was greatly tempted to get up on the piano stand so I could watch his hands do gymnastics.

*Ed Wetschler*  
New York City

## THE FIRST CUT

I FOUND THE ARTICLE "THE UNKINDEST Cut" [Body and Soul, by Steve Fishman, September] to be very interesting. Having studied the subject of circumcision extensively before marriage and the birth of any children, I've found that very few American studies have been done—one has to read European medical journals to find out anything new. One study I did find showed that most American men, the most circumcised of any population, don't really know what circumcision is and if they have been circumcised.

If men began asserting control over their own body as well as their sons', we could begin to convince the uninformed that God and/or Nature knew what they were doing when creating the male body.

*Bruce Forbes*  
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