EDITORS' COMMENT

On Writing the Postcolon

The essays by Devji and Bhattacharjee which open this issue of the journal are about nation and notation, history and its agents, power and its everyday principles. Focusing in the one case on the anguish of interpellation, as Indian Muslims seek narratives free of the nation-state, and in the other case on women in nations twice-imaged, they are written by authors who are part of the histories they seek to criticize and change. Taken together, these essays point to the fissures in the Indian national narrative, where diaspora and internal colonialism destabilize the secular, masculine and unitary narratives of the early phase of national independence. Migrants and women, often the victims of virile nationalism, may yet deform it in India and elsewhere.

These two essays and the following conversation about the African state (see the section Belly Up) are reminders that it is possible to make humane interventions which are simultaneously scholarly and engaged. Such analyses of the interlinked imaginaries of nation and state might make it possible to build a transnational and collaborative epistemology that is not just a mask for yet another academic panopticon.

(continued on p. 46)
NEW LOCATION

As this issue of Public Culture was going to press, the editorial offices of the journal moved from The University Museum of the University of Pennsylvania to the University of Chicago.

NEW VENUE

Public Culture is the Bulletin of the Society for Transnational Cultural Studies (formerly the Center for Transnational Cultural Studies). Though the intellectual mission of this society overlaps with that of the center, its venue has changed. The executive committee of the society plans to take advantage of telecommunications technologies to form an electronic network whose membership can debate relevant issues on electronic bulletin boards and through interactive e-mail accounts. When appropriate, such exchanges will form the basis for articles or comments in the journal. If you would like to be a participant, please send your e-mail address to STCS: cbre@midway.uchicago.edu.

EXPANDED PUBLICATION PROJECT
* A JOURNAL AND BOOK SERIES *

A special relationship between two forthcoming book series and Public Culture is planned so as to bring reciprocal benefit to both the journal and the series. The first series is entitled Public Planet Books and will consist of short paperbacks and the other is entitled Public Worlds and will consist of monographs and edited volumes.

In recent years much scholarship has developed around issues of cultural studies: gender, race, canon formation, national identities, ethnicity,
sexuality. At the same time, recent political events have drawn attention to the phenomenon of globalization: the breakup of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the formation of the EEC, the Salman Rushdie affair, Tiananmen Square, crises of African states, and the spread of international media. This expanded publication project will link these two areas of inquiry, focusing on the international context of cultural politics and the cultural nature of international crises.

CHANGE OF STAFF

In May, Serena Shanken Skwersky left Public Culture to pursue other options. Public Culture is indebted to Serena for creating a readership for the journal, for keeping the office abreast with new computer technologies, and for underwriting the production and management of the editorial office with her time and resources.

Shreevedvi Thacker, who had worked summers in the office, stepped in as Acting Production Editor and has since managed the editorial office with efficiency and humor. This issue of the journal has benefited from her skill and imagination. She has been supported by editorial assistants who were indispensable to the project, Savita Nair, Branavan Ganesan, Teja Ganti and Merrill Oates, who advanced our capabilities in respect to computer technologies.

Finally, Victoria Farmer has returned full-time to the writing of her Ph.D. dissertation after acting as Coordinator of CTCS. She steadied the center with her organizational skills, her intellectual commitment, and her development efforts. This issue of Public Culture has benefited from her never-tiring eye.