

SMB

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## Briefly noted

"Barbarism With a Human Face," by Bernard-Henri Levy (Harper & Row, \$10), is a philosophical work that was a surprise best seller in France. It is an attack against Marxist philosophers, and, more particularly, against Jean-Paul Sartre. The thesis is that Marxist philosophy in any shape or form, when applied to government, leads inevitably to tyranny and prison camps. Mankind can only halt its slide into barbarism by ridding itself of illusions, Levy argues, perhaps echoing Sartre.

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"No Business Being a Cop," by Lillian O'Donnell (Putnam, \$8.95), is a detective story in which the sleuth is Norah Mulcahahney, a New York City policewoman. She's out to catch a psychotic murderer who seems out to kill every woman on the force. She has a male sidekick, a captain whom she turns to for help. But she's all by herself when the denouement rolls around.

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"A Recognizable Image: William Carlos Williams on Art and Artists" (New Directions, \$16) presents most of the literary criticism written by the late bard of Paterson. Williams was a very good critic, but a fascinating part of the book is also his thoughts on such famous friends as Evans, John Marin and e.e. cummings.

✓ ✓ ✓

"The Night Letter," by Paul Spike (Putnam, \$9.95), is a novel set against a real-life background of World War II. It is about a German plot to blackmail President Roosevelt by threatening to reveal his secret romance with his secretary. Troubleshooter Jack Jackson gets the job of stopping the plot by fair means or foul. 2

— Roger Harris