

# The New Criterion

## Letter from Paris

April 2003

### Anglo-saxon attitudes

by [Theodore Dalrymple](#)

What do unintelligent or uneducated Parisians read?

One of the questions that always crosses my mind when I visit Paris is, What do unintelligent or uneducated people read there? Certainly, the daily newspapers cannot meet their requirements: *Le Monde*, *Libération*, *Le Figaro* (to say nothing of *L'Humanité*) strenuously eschew the wilful vulgarity that the British are inclined to mistake for vigor and a critical spirit, but which is, in reality, just plain old vulgar vulgarity. I confess that it is a relief to read for once newspapers that do not worship at the shrine of meretricious celebrity, and assume that their readers might actually be interested in the affairs of faraway countries of which they currently know nothing. But their circulations are small, at least by British standards: and the rest is silence.

I confess also to a mild frisson of irritation—so tonic in the mornings as one sits in a café—at their incessan ...

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This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 21 April 2003, on page 44

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