

The New Criterion

Notes & Comments

June 1996

Professor Sokal's Transgression

On Alan Sokal's hoax in *Social Text* & the responses to it by Andrew Ross & Stanley Fish

Some things are definitely worth waiting for. In our May issue, we devoted prominent attention to the latest issue of *Social Text*, a trendy, left-wing quarterly put out by the trendy, left-wing academic publisher, Duke University Press (see "'Diversity,' 'cultural studies' & other mistakes" by Roger Kimball). Edited by Andrew Ross, a postmodern parlor Marxist who occupies an expensive professorship at New York University, this special issue of *Social Text* was devoted to the so-called "Science Wars"—that is, to the attack on science and rationality that has lately become such an embarrassing growth industry among chic academic "humanists," social scientists, and other partisans of "cultural studies."

Given the topic, it is likely that we would sooner or later have caught sight of this episode of academic irresponsibility. What brought it to ou ...

This article originally appeared in *The New Criterion*, Volume 14 June 1996, on page 1

Copyright © 2012 The New Criterion | www.newcriterion.com

<http://www.newcriterion.com/articles.cfm/professorsokal-notes-3526>