

## State of the union

Like pumpkin pie and the bald eagle,  
the con game is so utterly American  
that it probably deserves its own  
series of postage stamps.

But something is different today.

The quacks and the mountebanks  
own the place, and everyone knows it.  
The con game is our national pastime.

Everyone either is in on it  
or has a plan for getting in on it soon.

**Thomas Frank, *Rendezvous with Oblivion***