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BOOK REVIEW

A HERSTORY OF WOMEN'S BOOK COLLECTIONS

By Rosemary Rasmussen

As we drove up the deserted New York side street to Tower Press, Maryann Turner, affectionately known to her friends as Buckwheat, was sitting atop a pile of boxes just off the freight elevator. The boxes were filled with her new book which she was absorbed in reading. We took a few snapshots for the record, and then eagerly began our part in distribution, the next step in the birth of this entirely woman-produced book. And how appropriate for a book entitled Biblioteca Femina, A Herstory of Book Collections concerning Women.

Along with most of women's herstory, the record of collections by, for, or about women has been buried or obscured, if the collections themselves survive at all. Biblioteca Femina is named after one such early collection, begun by Grace Thompson Seton for the 1933 International Conclave of Women Writers in Chicago, and now dispersed in the general collection of Northwestern University. The book discusses the growth and contents of this first biblioteca femina as well as many other collections, so

that they will never be lost or forgotten. For example, even in circles of feminist librarians, it is not common shared herstory that in 1935 Rosika Schwimmer had a plan for "a world center for women's archives" to be started with the books filling her New York apartment. Although her dream was never realized, much good came from the effort and her personal collection is now at the New York Public Library. It is not unusual for women to turn their homes over to developing a library. In 1969 in Berkeley, the "Women's History Research Center Library," one of the more famous women's collections, was started by Laura X in her home, where it grew, filling an even faster growing need, until its original housing and finances were no longer

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problem patrons

by Gay Frances Boughourian



Too long have we fitted our stereotypes.
 Too long have we been the passive librarian.
 Too long have we allowed the unwashed, the abusive, the staler, the meager, the genitalia exhibitor, the kooky, the dead, the spread-out, the delinquent, the gang, the disoriented, the disturbed, the uncontrollable and all those who use the library not for its libraryness but as a way station.
 Too long have we chosen not to do anything, not to violate their rights as they have ours and our patrons and our staff.
 Too long have we allowed their rights to surpass the minority of those in the library.
 Too long have we placed the rights of our co-workers and our patrons' and our patrons' in second place because they did not cry out for our attention and we were too unselfish to consider that we even had rights to not being unattended, mentally assaulted or psycho-damaged.
 Too long have we allowed the torture of the water-dropping of these individuals' acts. (Individuals they are, not patrons. They are library abusees not users. They are people abusers, not patrons.)
 Too long have we relied on the good faith of those gone, or at least casually so, those who use libraries for their libraryness, not for their public buildingness, for their sock-washing sick-filled restroom, for their way stationness.
 Too long have we been non-assertive for those who are our patrons, those for whom we were the ones to make a decision, to take action, to take charge, to care for those in our charge.
 Too long have we mistaken a person's right to free expression against the rights of those who work in and those who use the library. How many have we lost because of this mistake?
 Too long have we done nothing.
 And now we have problems.

Small wonder, but...

We came unprepared
 And we were never prepared along the way
 And the idea of denying anyone the use of the library for whatever reason has gone against the grain, was not a part of our librariansness. It was not a part of our lives, our creed of fair access, or the Library Bill of Rights. To deny access was not a part of why we became librarians.

So what's the answer.

By not doing anything about their behavior we are reinforcing them and they will continue to act this way. We lose credibility with our other patrons. Who can call us passive?
 Again we have proven that to do nothing is our modus operandi, and no-do-nothing-behavior has been reinforced because so one has done anything to us to get us to change it. Those who would do something--our patrons--have been passive. Too--it's easier--and they sit back.

Does one find these souls in other public buildings such as museums?
 No, because they are not allowed in. Are paintings and artifacts, scrolls and stains more important than staff and patrons?
 As long as we provide a harbor, they will come unto us.
 As long as we do not make it uncomfortable for them so they are willing to for the staff and the patrons they will come.
 This is not our mission.
 We are not a mission.

Our responsibility is to those who are really patrons. We have courted them, given them programs, listed them into our libraries. They are our responsibility, not only to protect them but to fulfill our promises to them, our promises of a richer, better, more enjoyable life; to fulfill our mission, the mission of our library--"Involving, instructing and enriching the lives of the City's residents." These are our charges, our people, our mission.
 We have dissipated our energies, our time with the others. We have allowed them to dissipate our energies, our enthusiasm, with their daily mental assaults on us, with the bombardment of their acts. We have adapted ourselves to live with the liars.

A policy of not tolerating library abusers should be promulgated.

Specific guidelines should be set down so that the staff will know how to carry out the policy of the library which we in the front lines must do.

A part of our training/orientation should be daily discuss' excellent panel to acquaint/orient/understand the problem patron and where s/he might be coming from and what help is available for them as well as we. (Tape available)

What is the root otherwise?

What is the cost to lost patrons? What is the cost in damaged psyche? What is the cost in spent energy and enthusiasm? What is the cost of being/surrendering our rights to an uninvited place to work?

What is the cost?

(Reprinted with permission from the **COMMUNICATOR**, the monthly newsletter of the Librarian's Guild of the Los Angeles Public Library. Available to all non-guild members at \$10. per year, Box 71568 Los Angeles, California, 90071.)

SOURCEBOOK

A special report on Appropriate Technology is available free from the Ozark Institute, P. O. Box 549, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, 72632. "Enabling people to respond more fully to the growing need for small-scale technology" is the goal of proponents of the concept. This special issue of Ozarka includes discussions of all aspects of the issue, and useful bibliographies.

The second edition of the **DIRECTORY OF THE BLACK CAUCUS OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION**, more than two years in preparation, is an updated listing of black librarians throughout the United States and other parts of the world. Divided into four sections -- Alphabetical - Home Addresses, Alphabetical - Library Addresses, Classified - Type of Library, and Classified - Geographical Location -- the **DIRECTORY** is an excellent tool for use in locating the black librarian.

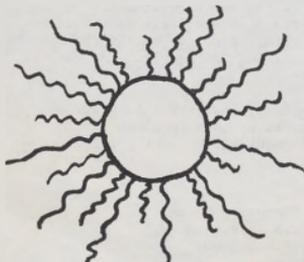
To order your copy, mail \$10.00 and your name and address to:

Richard Griffin
 P. O. Box 11
 Greenvale, NY 11548

Please make check (or money order) payable to the BLACK CAUCUS-ALA. Sorry, no orders can be accepted without payment.



"Sexual Harassment: A Hidden Issue" is a 7-page publication discussing the rights of persons facing seduction on the job or on campus, including a list of organizations to contact and a bibliography. Available from the Project on the Status and Education of Women, 1818 R Street, N. W., Washington D. C. 20009.



SMALL PRESS GRANT PLANS

The project, GAASP, is designed to introduce the publications of small presses to college libraries by experimenting and developing "non-traditional acquisition models" for four-year colleges selected especially for this purpose. The project, funded to the tune of \$58,387, is also to benefit both libraries and the participating independent presses.

Among the plans are poetry readings, freebies for cooperating libraries, and personal visits from among the 1200 or more members of COSMOP; additionally, an important element will be coordination and cataloging of materials added to the OCLC system with some alternative processing through Temple University.

During the ALA 102d annual meeting in Chicago, the first meeting of the project GAASP (Getting and Abetting Small Press) met, under the auspices of the U.S.O.E. Library Research and Demonstration Program. The U.S.O.E. Project Officer for this grant, #G007801814, is Henry Drennan. Principal Investigator for the grant is Mr. Elliott Shore (Temple University Library). The grant is being administered through Temple University, and Elliott Shore is also serving as Project Director. (Telephone: 215-787-8667).

This project is an outgrowth of work of the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Alternatives in Print (est. 1969) and of COSMOP (Committee of Small Magazine Editors and Publishers, est. 1968). Continuing support for the work has been offered by Professor Mimi Penchansky (Queens College Library, for the Task Force on Alternatives in Print), Assistant Professor Jackie Eubanks (Brooklyn College Library), and by Richard Morris, COSMOP Coordinator since its inception.

These plans will be implemented through project staff, through the Principal Investigator, or from among the highly qualified panel consulting with the project. The consultants meeting in Chicago in June 1978 included Sanford Berman (Hennepin County Library, MN), James Danky (State Historical Society of Wisconsin), Judy Hogan (Poet, and Editor of Carolina Wren Press, Carrboro, NC), Jawanza Kunjufu (Third World Press, Chicago), Noel Peattie (Shields Library, UC Davis, and Editor of SIFAPU/KONOCIT BOOKS, and President of Western Independent Publishers), Louis Reyes Rivera (Shamal Books, Inc., NYC, and Coordinator, 1978 New York Book Fair) and Patricia Glass Schuman (President, Neal-Schuman Publishers).

SEATTLE PROGRAM ON SEXUAL MINORITIES

The Social Responsibilities Roundtable of the Washington Library Association will present a program on sexual minorities. The evening workshop will be held at the King County Library System Service Center Building, 300 Eighth Avenue North, Seattle, Washington at 8 P. M., October 20, 1978. The speakers will include a Gay person speaking on concerns for library service, a school librarian, a young adult specialist and an adult services librarian on problems of evaluation and selection of materials for libraries. A literature display will include recommended books and bibliographies. The objective of the workshop is to help librarians build book collections which reflect the needs of Gay men and women, and help others understand this minority. Contact Bernard Polishuk of the SRRT/WLA planning committee for more details, (206)344-7455.

New Task Force On Peace Information

By Elizabeth Morrisett

As information people, we know that communications are selectively received. A great deal of information may be available but remain unused for a long time, then suddenly, it will catch the imagination of a great number of people and political action results.

Disarmament is such an information area. Lord Noel-Baker of England attended both the 1932 international peace conference and the recent one in Geneva. He feels that the 1932 conference was wrecked by "militarist ministers in Britain with the ardent support of militarists in France and Germany." Because of the failure, he believes "Hitler came to power in Germany, and instantly began the rearmament of the country. This caused a renewal of the arms race on a scale with a momentum never known before."

We are currently faced with pressures from arms manufacturers and military spokesmen. The arms business is one of the largest international enterprises, and the United States is the leading exporter of non-productive, terribly destructive weapons and warfare technology and materials. Taxpayer dollars, disguised as "foreign aid," fund many of these exports.

Nuclear energy technology which is in almost all cases closely associated with a potential for nuclear weapons production, is expanding in leaps and bounds. There are many economic boom areas in the western United States where applications for uranium permits are currently running into the thousands. Much of the uranium mined in this country will be exported, thereby increasing the risk of nuclear arms proliferation.

Librarians are not noted for their political activity. But they are a major source of honest information. For example, we can collect material to be studied by concerned citizens who want to find out how uranium mining in the hills will pollute their watershed, what environmental effects hot seawater discharged from a nuclear power plant will have, or what controls the international atomic energy experts can suggest (almost none!) for controlling bomb construction.

Because we are concerned for the future of our children's lives and for the environment in which they must live, the Task Force on Peace Information was begun. We intend to work on core lists of major documents, books, and other materials which will meet the needs of concerned citizens and will draw attention to world crises and how they may become military confrontations.

We now know that there is food enough for all the people now in the world. The problems of distributing it are political. We know that all forms of life on our planet are closely linked by air, and water, and that nuclear fallout and industrial wastes can affect us all. As human migration, both legal and illegal increases round the world and economic investments across international borders continue to accelerate, information is needed on a world-wide basis to correct exaggeration by lobbyists and to protect us from Goebbels-style propaganda. We must come to realize that we have only one planet, on which we must learn to live together.

For more information, and to join our work, contact me at Auraria Libraries, University of Colorado-Denver, Lawrence and 11th, Denver CO 80204.

Herstory...

BLACK HANDBOOK...

BIBLIOTECA FEMINA: A Herstory of Book Collections Concerning Women, by Maryann Turner, illustrated by Ellen Turner, ISBN 0-9601826-0-8, LC 78-062652. \$5.00 from Celebrating Women Productions, Box 251, Warrensburg, New York 12885.

HANDBOOK OF BLACK LIBRARIANSHIP. Compiled and edited by E.J. Josey and Ann Allen Shockley. 392 pp. Nominated for the 1978 Ralph R. Shaw Award for outstanding contributions to library literature. \$17.50 from Libraries Unlimited, Box 263, Littleton, Colorado 80160.

(continued from p. 1)

adequate. Today in New York, the Lesbian Herstory Archives are housed in a room of Joan Nestle's apartment, where they also are growing with donations of time and materials, and funding is being sought.

To this day, rare is the collection which is well-housed or well-funded. As a rule, a few personally interested women dedicate their own time and money, materials, and even their homes. Included in *Biblioteca Femina*, however, is a detailed grant proposal for a regional women's library, hopefully pointing a way to financially better times. For those wishing to do further research, to visit existing collections, or to build on the work already done, there is a list of women's collections by state. In fact, the whole volume serves as inspiration and example.

Buckwheat writes with great faith in women. She shares her excitement at finding women scholars of the past, she makes you feel her hope for sisters today and in the future. Women and our herstory are important. Her sensibility is such that she matter-of-factly intersperses lesbian collections, lesbian subject headings, lesbian contributions in with the rest of the women, as they should be.

Biblioteca Femina is a valuable research tool, a welcome addition to women's history in general, and inspiring feminist reading, even for non-librarians.

By Jim Dwyer

The *Handbook of Black Librarianship* is a multifaceted work which is valuable either as a text, as a source of professional reading, or as a reference book. It contains essays, bibliographical essays, and direct information on many aspects of librarianship and highlights the largely ignored contributions made by Afro-Americans. A list of the main sections reveals the broad scope: pioneers and landmark episodes, early library organizations, contemporary black librarianship, vital issues, significant books and periodicals for black collections, African resources, and Afro-American resources. The essays are supplemented by lists such as libraries serving predominately black communities, and black book publishers, among others.

E. J. Josey and Ann Allen Shockley are certainly not newcomers to the editorial field, and their experience and expertise are evident throughout. Most of the ground covered here is new, and the *Handbook* can be seen as a companion volume to Josey's *The Black Librarian in America* and Shockley's *Living Black American Authors*. Like these earlier works, the *Handbook* is a source of both extensive information and interesting, thought-provoking reading. I had originally planned to skim the book, but ended up reading it cover to cover!

Why should this work be of interest to the majority of librarians who are white or who work in predominately white communities? Considering that a film like the *Speaker* could be produced by supposedly enlightened professionals, it appears fairly clear that we have not traveled far along the road to racism/sexism awareness. Because white insensitivity to subtle, institutional racism is as potentially damaging as outright hostility to people of color, a certain amount of self-education would seem to be in order.

In the introduction, the editors state that "Afro-American contributions to libraries, library education, and learning in general are feats of no small means when one considers the discrimination with which their works and indeed their persons were often met." (p. 11) Josey later refers to a "highly visible faction of the membership, who happen to be black, and who, in spite of all their accomplishments, are demeaned or ignored by many white professionals." (p. 67)

Considering that Josey wrote these words shortly before the release of the *Speaker*, they seem unnervingly prophetic. Are we doomed to follow our liberal road to hell which is lined with good intentions but pitted with ignorance, misunderstanding, and insensitivity? My only regret regarding the *Handbook* is that it was not released a few years ago; a broader understanding of the history, frustrations, and aspirations of Afro-Americans might have helped to prevent the debacle in Detroit. It is hoped that subsequent editions will provide coverage of the *Speaker* controversy—ideally after AIA has admitted its mistake and removed its name from the film.

This book does indeed "fill a void for a variety of people" (p. 11) and has many uses: as an acquisitions tool for the bibliographer, a resource list for the scholar, an educational tool for the librarian and for students, and, finally, as a counterbalance to the concept of libraries as predominately white, middle-class institutions, and to the Office of Intellectual Freedom as a consciousness-raising experience!



A Grant Proposal...

Abstract

There is a need for a Mid Hudson Women's Library. The procedures for its accomplishment have been outlined. The library can be funded on a variety of levels through the elimination of one or more of the described procedures. Women have been given the right to equality in education through the Women's Education Equity Act of 1974. Classrooms, institutions of learning, and libraries must be cleared of the sexism that has existed in the past. This will take many years. Meanwhile another decade of students will experience what has already been determined unfair to them. An immediate solution is to create new classrooms, institutions, and libraries, while waiting for the existing one to catch up. Some women are doing this. The proposed Mid Hudson Women's Library will help provide a balance to all of the other educational institutions existing in the valley that must take time to undo sexist curricula and sexist subject headings.

SHARE...

SHARE - A Directory of Feminist Library Workers
3rd edition, 1978. Compiled and edited by
Carole Leita. \$3.00 prepaid or \$3.50 invoiced
from Women Library Workers, Box 9052, Berkeley,
California 94709.

By Susan Firestein

SHARE (Sisters Have Resources Everywhere) - **A Directory of Feminist Library Workers**. 3rd edition, compiled and indexed by Carole Leita, is a geographical listing of feminist library workers who are willing to share their personal and professional expertise helping people in the library world as well as feminists at large. The directory is a handy reference tool but not specifically a roster of feminine achievers or their achievements. Actually, all the entries have one basic characteristic in common - an indication of a state of mind and awareness, a receptivity and willingness to interact, to share talent, ideas, feelings, and frustrations concerning feminism and/or librarianship.

Each entry contains an individual's name and address, area of work, special skills, interests, memberships in professional associations, and other - which ranges from swimming pool invitations to Bavarian folklore. The entries are listed geographically by country or state and are comprehensively indexed by name, subject, organization, and publications.

The concept of the **SHARE** directory is an extremely useful one for any group organized around specific issues. The **SHARE** directory

format has been used by the New Jersey chapter of Women Library Workers to produce their own **SHARE** directory on a state-wide level. Many other organizations inside and outside the library field could benefit from a personal skill/resource directory specific to their interests to establish an effective communication and idea-sharing network.

The directory is especially helpful for those people locating in a new area or seeking employment in a specific region, since important personal contacts and information sources not easily documented are readily available through the content and indexes of **SHARE**. Also, for any people physically or emotionally isolated from those with a similar interest in feminism or librarianship, the directory provides an enormous resource of otherwise underground information. The **SHARE** network for specialized skill and interest sharing fills a gap left open by most other library-oriented publications.

SHARE has been published biennially since 1975 by Women Library Workers, a national feminist organization, and will now be published annually. The directory is a natural offshoot of the organization, a group which seeks to explore the existing distribution of power in the library world and to provide a communication network and woman-affirming forum for all library-information workers. Anyone interested in being listed in the forthcoming issue will find an entry form in the current edition. The deadline for all entries for the 1979 issue will be May 1, 1979. The editors suggest sending information to them immediately and providing updated information if need be.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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There is a great need for information, not only of the existence of the program and its requirements, but also for the resources to help have meaningful impact on the planning, once citizens have found ways to open the door.

The new regulations require the following as minimums for citizen participation:

1. That the applicant shall provide citizens with an adequate opportunity to participate in an advisory role in planning, implementing, and assessing the program.
2. The applicant shall prepare a written citizen participation plan to make sure all the requirements set forth in the regulations are implemented. The plan shall go into effect no later than August 1, 1978.
3. There must be citizen participation at the community-wide level. In communities over 50,000 there must be a process of citizen participation at the neighborhood level where significant amount of activity is planned.
4. Participation shall involve low and moderate income persons, members of minority groups, residents of areas where significant amount of activity is proposed or on-going, the elderly, the handicapped, the business community, and civic groups concerned about the program.
5. Citizens are required to be involved in development of the application.

6. The plan shall provide for a sufficient number of public hearings.
7. Citizens have the right to review all documents and make an assessment of the program.

These are the important regulatory tools that are available to the citizens. The local government has a responsibility to make sure that citizens understand these regulations, but a little outside help never hurts and is often needed. Once citizens have realized the goal of having a written citizen participation plan, then the important part of the process begins, making sure citizen views are actually involved.

Once involved in the political process, there is a much better chance that citizens will make sure the plan is carried out. This not only provides for necessary development but also accountability of the local government. Without such an approach, the dollars will continue to flow from Washington to the cities rather than to the benefit of the people. The verdict is now being created.

For more information about specific programs and a list of organizations involved in the community development block grant program contact:

Andy Mott
Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007
202-223-4315

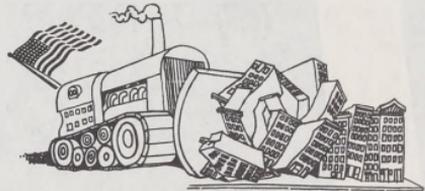
URBAN DECAY AND THE PROCESS OF 'COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'

By Phil Star

The federal response to "community development" is contained in many programs, enough to keep a research librarian busy for weeks, but the main effort to deal with urban decay is Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (24 CFR Part 570 Community Development Block Grants), replacing the Urban Renewal Program and Model Cities. The 1974 Act is firmly grounded in a philosophical position and congressional recognition that people who suffer the problems are best able to understand them and most be incorporated into any process that will find solutions. Solutions cannot be imposed from on high but citizens must see the possibility of change, have input into the needed change and then work for that change. The program may contain the most democratic ideal that has come out of Washington in a long time. The 1974 Act also contains one other important corollary, which is that Washington cannot plan for the nation. It recognizes that there is not one program to deal with urban problems in every city. Rather, individual communities must spend funds in an integrated fashion to meet local needs and priorities. The program also calls upon funded municipalities to program affirmatively for fair housing. Dual systems which fix up white neighborhoods and black neighborhoods and contain people within those neighborhoods are no longer permissible.

The law recognizes that local government units know better than Washington what is needed in a municipality. Implicit in this is the need for citizen participation in the development of a plan of action since it is the citizens not the politicians who live the problems and have become the experts on urban blight. Unfortunately, what has occurred in many instances is that local government has shown that it is as out of touch with the community it serves as Congress. While citizens are good enough to vote candidates into office, somehow they are not responsible enough to be trusted with deciding what their community needs are. Citizens are supposed to be involved in the preparation of the application for the community development block grant funds, however, before the new amendments, effective March 1, 1978 (Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 41, Wednesday, March 1, 1978, p. 8450), few citizens were actively involved. Cities have used the money very often to bail out programs rather than to plan strategies to effectively alleviate urban blight and plan for community development.

When city planning departments or community development administrations sit down with citizens, they will in all likelihood bring forth plans and as the professionals they may indicate options they have rejected. The picture painted will not be blurred, but may not be presented in its true dimensions. Citizens will often not get from government the full panoply of options. Program possibilities will not be discussed. The mentality that the "hired professional paid by tax dollars" knows best is a road block that must be overcome. Citizens need support and need somewhere else to go for options. I believe that libraries can fulfill this function by holding seminars, providing materials, providing information on the requirements of the program, being a depository for all community development documents, providing a forum for discussion and debate as to the possibilities and potentials of the program.



The neighborhood is the basic building block of the city. When the fabric of a community is cut by extensive demolition, that special essence of a neighborhood is not easily recreated. The Community Development Block Program gives us the ability to look at a neighborhood with serious problems but that still identifies itself as an entity, and then have the citizens invest themselves in planning for the betterment of their environment.

Urban planners once considered the way to save the cities was to destroy them. The idea of creating a terra raze, removing all the old and building anew out of the rubble has given us the Urban Renewal Program and many empty weed covered spaces.

Community Development has over time been dictated by industry and government and often imposed upon communities. The northeast and midwest urban centers are living with the results of these planning efforts and many other communities are now involved in a process that will eventually take the same toll. One lesson well documented by urbanologists like Jane Jacobs and Richard Sennet is that without neighborhoods, the basic building blocks of cities, cities cannot survive.

The failure of the Urban Renewal approach led to a re-evaluation and a concern for preservation through rehabilitation programs. However, much of the early rehabilitation strategy was based on getting money into the economic mainstream which meant helping the construction and mortgage industry. The results have been similar to those of prior approaches. Decisions as to what could or would be preserved, where and for what reasons were still made outside of neighborhoods and without concern for neighborhoods. Such planning was further compounded by the government's insistence on categorical grants. Cities could not obtain from the federal government what was needed, but rather what the government was offering. Highway funds were made available which meant that even if water purification facilities were needed the community would apply for highway funds since that was all that was available.

We are now facing what could be called the third generation of federally provided community development programs. These programs are in a response to the reality that our nation's urban centers are in serious trouble. With loss of population and jobs, the financial base of many cities has eroded. Those with the least resources have been left to contend with some of the most serious problems by those who could get out. School financing, municipal services and unemployment loom as major issues for most American cities.

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