Only days before this issue's deadline, Colorado voters passed an amendment to the state constitution specifically prohibiting laws which would provide equal rights to gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. Within a short time, the electronic networks were filled with messages from angry librarians and other calling for boycotts and other actions. A number of librarians are considering cancelling their reservations for Midwinter in Denver.

There is a question as to whether absenting oneself from Midwinter, thereby having a direct impact on the Colorado economy, or attending and taking part in protest activities there would be the more effective means of making oneself heard on this issue. Already a number of activities are being talked about - wearing some symbol of protest, asking exhibitors to openly affirm their support of equal rights for ALL librarians, candle light marches. It is too soon to tell what the final menu of choices will be.

It is important, however, that the various groups who are concerned about this, both within SRRT and outside it, coordinate their activities and work together to take full advantage of all of the energy that is bound to be released over the Colorado voters' decision. AC Coordinator, Stephen Stillwell, and the Gay and Lesbian Task Force Co-chairs, Karen Whittlesey-First and Roland Hansen, have already been in contact with one another, and they have been working with ALA Headquarters as well. Anyone with ideas should contact one of them. Plans will be announced in a number of ways, including the literature distribution bins at ALA registration.

For those people who do choose to cancel plans to attend Midwinter, please write to your hotels telling them specifically why you are canceling. And while you're at it, send copies to the Colorado Office of Tourism, 1625 Broadway, Suite 1700, Denver CO 80202, and to the Colorado Association of Commerce and Industry, 1776 Lincoln Street, Suite 1200, Denver CO 80203. Just to be on the safe side, you might also send copies to the Denver Post and the Rocky Mountain News, and maybe even the Governor's Office.

Undoubtedly there will be a move to cancel the Midwinter meeting scheduled for Denver in 1998. If you can't be in Denver to let your voice be heard, please write to ALA Headquarters and let them know that you support canceling the 1998 plans for Denver.
The reactions of ALA members to the cover of the July/August issue of American Libraries show that there is a long way to go in the education of our own community on the various issues of the day. In response, I urge all SRRT members to do several things:

1) Recruit a colleague from your own library or local ALA chapter into SRRT, or from your library school alumnae/i friends.

2) If there is a library school nearby, organize a meeting with the students on ALA and SRRT. Students are eligible for free membership in SRRT.

3) If you are a member of SRRT, but not active in the Round Table or one of the Task Forces, become active. We need people to run for Action Council, to fill task force committees, and the like.

4) Consider running for offices in other ALA divisions and for ALA Council. More of our members on the inside can only help.

These points re-emphasize those made in my letter published in American Libraries (September 1992, p. 625). Don't complain if you don't like the way things are going — get your act in gear and do something. See you in Denver. Take your skiing vacations (not in Colorado!) after conference, I don't want to see any broken limbs!

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., CSIA Library, Harvard University

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PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE

The midwinter agenda includes the usual information exchange, and discussion and preparation for the New Orleans program.

Several new nominees for the SIRS/SRRT Peace Award, and volunteers are needed to serve on the award panel. Please contact the chair, Stephen Stillwell, CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; telephone: (617) 495-1408.

CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

The Task Force has been preparing a Civil Rights Action Kit for Librarians. In early January, input and remarks from various reviewers will be compiled and a revised version of the kit will be produced for review at the Midwinter meeting.

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PUBLICATION PROPOSALS IN WOMEN'S STUDIES

The Newcomb College Center for Research on Women at Tulane University solicits proposals for publications in its ongoing Archival and Bibliographic Series in Women's Studies. Previous publications have been a guide to primary sources on women in New Orleans, a bibliography on the higher education of women in the South, and an analysis of scrapbooks as material culture. The series is published annually in October. For additional information about the series or to submit proposals, contact Susan Tucker, Vorhoff Library, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, New Orleans LA 70118.
# SRRT MEETINGS AT MIDWINTER

Please check program for changes and additions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Task Forces:</th>
<th>Sat. 1/23</th>
<th>9:30 AM - 12:30 PM</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Action Council</td>
<td>Mon. 1/25</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</td>
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<td>Sat. 1/23</td>
<td>8:00 AM - 9:00 AM</td>
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<td>Civil Rights</td>
<td>Sat. 1/23/</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
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<td>Fri. 1/22</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
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<td>Sat. 1/23</td>
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<td>Sat. 1/23</td>
<td>11:30 AM - 12:30 PM</td>
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<td>Gay and Lesbian</td>
<td>Sun. 1/24</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Steering Committee</td>
<td>Fri. 1/22</td>
<td>8:00 PM - 10:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business meeting</td>
<td>Sat. 1/22</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Awards Committee</td>
<td>Sun. 1/24</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Read-A-Loud</td>
<td>Sun. 1/24</td>
<td>4:30 PM - 5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Mon. 1/25</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 11:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steering Committee</td>
<td>Tue. 1/26</td>
<td>2:00 PM - 4:00 PM</td>
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<td>International Human Rights</td>
<td>Sun. 1/24</td>
<td>9:30 AM - 12:30 PM</td>
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<td>(see Int'l Human Rights)</td>
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<td>Sat. 1/23</td>
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NEW TASK FORCE ON ISRAELI CENSORSHIP AND IHRTF IN TRANSITION

As regular readers of this newsletter know, SRRT and its International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF) were finally successful at the annual conference in San Francisco in putting ALA on record against Israeli censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza. Both Membership and ALA Council overwhelmingly passed SRRT-sponsored resolutions on this theme. SRRT's Action Council also tentatively authorized the establishment of a new task force - the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries - with a start up budget for 1993. Final approval of the new task force will be voted on at the Denver Midwinter meeting.

Those who spearheaded the struggle at the ALA convention in San Francisco must now address the question of how to follow up on this symbolic victory by planning strategies by which librarians can continue to highlight Israeli censorship problems and to help Palestinian libraries under continued Israeli military occupation. Michal Schwartz - Israeli journalist and former Amnesty International Prisoner of Conscience who addressed the San Francisco conference - and other anti-censorship activists in Israel have asked for continued ALA exposure of this continuing problem, no matter what diplomatic postures are adopted by the Rabin government in the interminable "peace process." Meanwhile, Palestinian libraries in the Occupied Territories still struggle under difficult legal and material constraints.

Besides continuing our collaboration with Israeli peace and anti-censorship activities, serious follow up of the progress made in San Francisco will require outreach and consultation with numerous organizations and individuals who are involved in helping Palestinian educational and research institutions in the Occupied Territories and East Jerusalem, with the aim of identifying and publicizing ways that librarians in the U.S. can join in these efforts. Such outreach and consultation becomes all the more urgent since the SRRT sponsored "education seminar," planned for October 1992 was cancelled due to insufficient registrations (the cost of the eight day tour of Israel and the Occupied Territories was nearly $2000).

The work of outreach to such organizations in the U.S., Europe, and Israel and the Occupied Territories will obviously be at the top of the new task force's agenda and would require substantial financial support by SRRT. Such outreach and dialogue would be greatly facilitated, moreover, by holding a program on this subject at the 1993 ALA Conference in New Orleans, which should include one or more speakers from organizations involved in helping Palestinian education and research institutions. For these reasons, the new task force will need additional funding (beyond the start up budget) in order to maintain the continuity of its efforts in 1993. If such supplemental funding is not forthcoming at the ALA Midwinter meeting, then the continuity of its efforts - including holding a funded program at the 1993 conference - can only be guaranteed by the IHRTF, which originated this entire project three years ago. Until these issues are settled, the directions of the two task forces is uncertain.

The IHRTF should turn its attention to other human rights issues (the reason for the establishment of the new task force). It needs to build a strong and effective Urgent Action Alert Network which can disseminate and respond to the frequent reports by Amnesty International of abuses against journalists, teachers, and even librarians around the world. A start in this direction was made in early 1992 with the issuance of reports to a select list of SRRT members by Cheryl Martin, a librarian who works on a volunteer basis with the Amnesty office in Dallas. The IHRTF needs to give more attention to greatly expanding this network, both inside and outside ALA, and establishing a more efficient mechanism for making
timely responses to the Amnesty alerts (such as securing the agreement of network participants to have monthly mailgrams sent in their name which can be billed to their phones). Other activity around particular human rights cases and country situations should flow naturally from IHRTF attention to various global concerns.

Anyone willing to join the Urgent Action Alert Network should contact Cheryl Martin, 3237-1/2 Rosedale Avenue, Dallas TX 75205; telephone (214) 855-2523 (day) or (214) 361-7339 (evening). Other comments or questions can be directed to IHRTF Chair, David Williams, Chicago Public Library, Social Sciences and History Division, 400 S. State St., Chicago IL 60605; telephone (312) 747-4629 (day) or (312) 549-6421 (evening).

---David Williams, IHRTF Chair

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ANLIJ Sponsors
Free Reading Rooms in Nicaragua

In May 1992, librarian Kathy Casey, the U.S. representative of the Nicaraguan Association for Children's and Young People's Literature (ANLIJ), took 400 books in Spanish for children and teenagers in Nicaragua to set up free reading rooms sponsored by the ANLIJ, a not-for-profit organization. During her stay in Managua, the capital, Casey revisited the community center in Barrio Jorge Dmitrov, where the first ANLIJ-sponsored reading room was started with 200 books in July 1991. At the community center, the books were being used for four different programs. One of the religious sisters who works in the barrio was helping the younger children with their reading after school. The high school students were using the more advanced books, including science books. (A teenager reported that all graduating students had found Isaac Asimov's book on "the genetic code," DNA, very helpful.) An adult education program was being conducted in the evenings. In a new effort, special help was being offered to students identified in school as slow learners.

Of the four hundred books provided this year, one hundred were given to educational psychologist Luz Danella Talavera to be divided between the preschool on the campus of the Nicaraguan Autonomous National University, which she directs, and a new foundation, La Verde Sonrisa, for which Talavera will coordinate educational work with the poorest children and their families. The pre-school, which is housed in eight small, brightly painted buildings in a park-like area, is filled to capacity with one hundred and thirty-five children, ranging in age from one to five.

Another one hundred books went to the "Los Quinchos" Institute, which serves more than eight hundred students with a primary and a secondary school located in Barrio San Judas. The existing library mainly contains textbooks and is used only by teachers. The new books will enable the reopening of a reading room where students may read for pleasure and will provide a source for teachers who read stories in the classrooms. A second visit to the school to observe performances put on by students and teachers for about five hundred mothers, in celebration of Mother's Day, made it clear that both imagination and enthusiasm are plentiful at Los Quinchos, which also serves many children who are street vendors or whose single-parent mothers are market/street vendors.

Approximately eighty-five books were given to the women's center in Barrio San Luis, for use by mothers who bring their children to the center when the women go there for workshops, classes, meetings, and counselling. This collection will be managed by Danella Velasquez Pulido, a mother of seven and grandmother of six who has been an active organizer among the women of the barrio for many years.

Finally, about one hundred and fifteen books were deposited with the President.
of ANLIJ, Nicaraguan librarian Mayra Miranda, to be used when she conducts book fairs and storytelling sessions at schools in Managua.

Casey purchased some of the books at the Guadalajara Book Fair in November 1991. Others were purchased from various sources in New York City. Several of her colleagues at the New York Public Library donated money with which to buy books for the free reading rooms.

ANLIJ has initiated communication with the John XXIII Institute, which assists in developing self-help projects throughout Nicaragua as part of the Communities of Peace and Friendship program. It is possible that, by working with the Institute, ANLIJ will be able to supply book collections to rural communities that want and could maintain a reading room.

Plans are underway to make ANLIJ a partner in a Central American network of publishers and distributors of children's books. In addition, ANLIJ Secretary/Treasurer Colette Fine, a French artist and graphic designer who has long resided in Nicaragua, has prepared three more children's books in Spanish for publication under ANLIJ auspices. In 1989, a Swedish group published the first prize winning picture book from a nationwide ANLIJ-sponsored children's literature contest, Un guegue me conto, written by liberation theologian Maria Lopez Vigil and illustrated by her brother, artist Nivio Lopez. Copies may be purchased from Casey or through the Latin American Writers Institute at the City College of New York (CUNY). Sample copies of the new books to be published by ANLIJ will be available in the United States by year's end.

--Kathy Casey, 337 W. 21st Street, New York NY 10011; phone: (212) 255-6436.

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David Brower, Founder of Earth Island Institute and Friends of the Earth, provided an informative and inspiring overview of the topic. He stated that economic growth and misdevelopment have combined with overpopulation to create a global environmental crisis. Today in the "North" developed world, 20% of the world population accounts for 80% of the consumption, with the average American consuming 10 times the world average. This wealth has been divided unequally, and Third World people are now demanding a larger piece of a shrinking pie. Although development is held out as the answer for the Third World and for the poor and minorities in America, environmental destruction takes place disproportionately in the "South" and the ghetto.

The problem is that most growth is not sustainable, but based on destruction of the entire ecosystem, e.g. clear-cutting or ozone loss. This destruction is business and government sponsored, through such mechanisms as oil depletion allowances. In the last twenty years, we have lost so much topsoil that the resulting loss in agricultural production would have fed two billion people. The long term costs of manufacturing and disposal are not built into their purchase price. For instance, we have a minimal gas tax in this country, but we pay the military the equivalent of $2.00 per gallon to protect American petro-investments. (Related to this, organically grown fruits and vegetables are priced slightly higher than their counterparts, but they do not extract a premium on the soil, water, or air.) To quote Hazel Henderson, "Economics is a form of brain damage."

Brower recommends reading John Berger's Restoring the Earth. In the spirit of
the International Red Cross, he would like to form the International Green Circle, in which people of all ages, races, and sexes work to restore the earth ("Here in the Bay Area, we have at least eight distinct sexes..."). Conservation and "green industries" tend to be labor intensive and can help solve unemployment and income distribution problems.

The media promote overconsumption and denial of the crisis along with a "both history and the future is now" attitude. Libraries are an important tool for raising awareness to counter this trend. Librarians should develop bibliographies, feature materials, and actively promote education about the environment. The current orientation is seriously skewed in favor of a "business as usual" mentality and activist materials are needed to balance existing collections. We need to promote government publications about the environment, because the government itself will not. We should also prod publishers to promote more actively the environmental books they do publish. Librarians should also stop buying non-recycled paper and materials made from it. If we were to do so in a concerted way, publishers would get the message quickly.

Christina Peterson, of San Jose State University, discussed "Environmental equity" issues affecting women, children, minorities, and local communities. These include evolution of the environmental movement, impact of ethnic beliefs on attitudes, sociological aspects of minority participation, siting of hazardous waste materials, pesticide-herbicide (and chemical fertilizer) hazards to farm workers and consumers, control of tribal resources, inner city pollution, government response to charges of inequity, and recruitment into environment oriented professions and occupations.

Sources include journal articles, legal materials, newspapers, government reports, including EIRs, privately published reports and technical papers, datafiles, and books. Toxic Release Inventories and the Gaia Atlas of Green Economics are excellent sources. Problems for reference librarians and patrons are that this field is multidisciplinary, that one needs to use many indexes, and that subject headings are often nonspecific. (Paul Metz's 1990 College and Research Libraries article examines collection gaps in multidisciplinary studies.) Using cited reference searching, i.e. following the citation trail, helps bridge the gaps. The Rocky Mountain Institute (Amory Lovins, et al.) also provides valuable material.

Local libraries can provide localized information - "The truth about where we live." This goes one step beyond a bibliography by suggesting local action and membership in local groups. Peterson provided a resource list.

Jeannine Senrau, of Madera County Library, urged librarians to be role models for environmental responsibility since education is central to our mission. That means improving one's own expertise and discussing the issues with staff and the public; recycling; demanding materials made of recycled paper; communicating electronically with minimal printouts; talking to vendors about their products; talking to local groups; developing the children's collections; and publicizing EIRs. Part of recycling is demanding that materials be published on recycled paper products. The paper recycling market is "soft" because of lack of demand. She recommended reading "The Green Librarian" (Wilson Library Bulletin, February 1991). She also espoused "The Weapon of Love", i.e don't just blame people for doing bad things; thank them for doing good ones.

--Jim Dwyer

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The 1992 winners of the Gay and Lesbian Book Award were announced in a previous issue. The books, however, were selected from a list of fifteen finalists. The runners-up, all worthy of recognition as some of the best books of 1991, include:

**Literature**


**Non-Fiction**


**Spirit of Law Librarianship Award**

Daniels, Professor of Law and Director of the University of Miami Law Library, has been named the 1992 recipient of the Spirit of Law Librarianship Award.

The award, created by Roy M. Mersky and Richard A. Leiter, (the compilers of *The Spirit of Law Librarianship*) is presented annually to the American Association of Law Libraries member who, through his or her position, makes a contribution toward the improvement of a social condition or the increased awareness of a social concern. In lieu of accepting royalties for their book, Mersky and Leiter and their publisher, Fred B. Rothman & Co., are setting aside funds to annually endow the "Spirit" Award.

Daniels was presented this award for his valuable contribution in the area of public interest law and his extensive work on behalf of the homeless in the Miami area. He has been active in both volunteer work related to the homeless as well as in raising the consciousness of his colleagues and students at the University of Miami Law School.

**FROM THE EDITOR'S INBOX**

* Stephen Stillwell, AC Coordinator and Chair of SRRT's Peace Information Exchange, has been appointed to the Board of Directors of OPTIONS, a national organization whose purpose is to further public dialogue and debate on international security issues by employing the resources of the academic community.

* Griffin-Wirth Associates has released *Lines in the Sand*, a twelve minute video essay exploring how information was
controlled and news managed during the Gulf War to keep the disturbing realities of war from affecting the conscience of the U.S. public. It raises critical questions concerning the ways limited access to information shapes public opinion. More information on the critically acclaimed video can be obtained from Peter Wirth at (315) 476-3396. Orders should be addressed to 168 Parkway Drive, Syracuse NY 13207 ($24.00; $37.95 with guide.)

* A new national publication, focusing on censorship in the media, was announced by Carl Jensen, director of Project Censor. America's CENSORED Newsletter, published monthly, will provide an insider's look at censored issues in including stories that the major news media overlook, cover up, or ignore, according to Jensen. The newsletter premiered with the April 1992 issue, and may be ordered by writing the newsletter at P.O. Box 310, Cotati CA 94931, for $30 per year.

* Scarecrow Press, Inc. has published E.J. Josey, an Activist Librarian, edited by Ismail Abdullahi, with a forward by Major R. Owens, and in it many well known contributors pay tribute to Josey, a long time SRRT member. "The editor and contributors have generously agreed to give all royalties from this volume to ALA's Black Caucus Scholarship Fund," states the flyer. The book is priced at $32.50. ISBN: 0-8108-2584-8. ISSN: 0895-6014. Order from P.O. Box 3000, Dept. OTI, Denville NJ 07834.

* On the Issues, the Progressive Woman's Quarterly, contains materials on women's issues and the status of women in the world today. The institutional rate is $24.75 per year. Orders to: P.O. Box 3000, Dept. OTI, Denville NJ 07834.

* Nolo News contains up to date information on changes to the law that affect Nolo books, along with practical information. The Fall 1992 issue contains a complete catalog of Nolo Press books, and a two year subscription is free with the order of a Nolo Press book or software program (otherwise it is $12 for two years). ISSN: 0890-2208. Order from: Nolo Press, 950 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94710.

* Covering what it describes to be cutting edge issues, Whole Earth Review, an offshoot of the Whole Earth Catalog, provides news and reviews, articles, cartoons, and commentary on cultural and environmental activities. The review, priced at $35 per year, is available through subscription agents or direct from the publisher: Whole Earth, 27 Gate Five Road, Sausalito CA 94965 (ISSN: 0749-5056).

* The International Fellowship of Reconciliation, an international network of men and women committed to active non-violence as a means of social and political change, publishes Reconciliation International, a quarterly journal. Information on the journal can be obtained by writing: IFOR, Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar, The Netherlands.

* Propaganda Review is a publishing and organizing project of Media Alliance, a San Francisco-based non-profit organization of writers, journalists, and other media professionals. Information about the quarterly publication can be obtained from the alliance at: Fort Mason Center, Building D, San Francisco CA 94123.

* Covering draft and military concerns, The Objector, the Journal of Draft and Military Information is a bi-monthly publication in a newsletter format. It includes information on events affecting those who object to military service and war, life in the military, activist victories, and other features. Library subscriptions are $22 per year. Information is available from: CCCO-WR, The OBJECTOR, P.O. Box 42249, San Francisco CA 94142.

* Latinamerica Press, and its Spanish edition, Noticias Aliadas, are available by subscription from P.W. Box 2635, Cheyenne WY 82003-9811. The newsletter concentrates on major events and analysis related to women's issues, the environment, human rights, church, and
indigenous people in Latin America.

* The East Timor Action Network/United States produces East Timor Documents, a monthly publication, to publicize the impact on East Timor of the Indonesian occupation of that country, including what is described as large scale killing of the Timorese. Information about the network can be obtained from P.O. Box 1182, White Plains NY 10602.

* The Highsmith Co., Inc. has issued its 1992/93 MPE Highsmith catalog of multicultural books, offering a selection of books by and about African, Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic and Native Americans. The catalog features cover art work by Faith Ringgold, winner of the 1992 Coretta Scott King Award, and articles by prominent supporters of multiculturalism. To receive a free copy of the catalog, write to: MPE, c/o The Highsmith Co., Inc., P.O. Box 800, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538-0800, or call 1-800-558-2110.

* Daisy Zamora's anthology of feminist and women's poetry, La Mujer Nicaragüense en la Poesía (Menagua: Nueva Nicaragua, 1992), is available for $22.95 from Libros Sin Fronteras, P.O. Box 2085, Olympia WA 98507-2085. The catalog of other adult books available from LSF can be obtained for $2; their children's offerings for $1.


* Southern Illinois University Press announced the completion of a major project - the 37-volume Collected Works of John Dewey, 1882-1953. The works of this major philosopher and social theorist have influenced many. Order from: SIU Press, PO Box 3697, Carbondale IL 62902.

* UMI reports the availability of two new collections of papers in microformat. The Works of Joseph V. Stalin contains almost all the writings, articles, and speeches of the Communist leader. Salem Witchcraft is a compilation of materials from the Salem Village Witchcraft Collection at the Danvers (MA) Archival Center; it contains over 60 different works. Order either one from UMI, Box 34, 300 N Zebee Rd., Ann Arbor MI 48106.

* The Esperantic Studies Foundation, Inc. has started issuing a newsletter. The foundation's mission is to conduct, disseminate, and promote research on international language problems and solutions. To learn more about Esperantic Studies (which is written in English) contact the Foundation at 3900 Northampton St. NW, Washington DC 20015.

* SPICE (The Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education) is a non-profit educational program dedicated to improving the educational standards in elementary and secondary schools through internationalization. Their classroom-ready materials have been field-tested extensively and reviewed by experts at various university faculties. Contact them at The Littlefield Center #14, Stanford University, 300 Lasuen St., Stanford CA 94305.

* Mr. Cogito Press runs contests (with cash prizes) for poetry and short prose pieces on a specific theme or topic. These are then published in a short volume with the winner's piece first. Their 28th issue had as its theme of the Arab/Muslim World. The next issue will contain pieces from Eastern Europe. For more details, contact either John M. Gogol, PO Box 66124, Portland OR 97266 -or- Robert A. Davies, U.C. Box 627, Pacific University, Forest Grove OR 97116.

The publisher has announced the release of The Directory of Intentional Communities: A Guide to Cooperative Living. Over 400 such communities the world over are noted, along with resources and services for these communities and individuals. The address is Sandhill Farm, Route 1, Box 155, Rutledge MO 63563.

* MERIP - the Middle East Research & Information Project - covers the most pressing and controversial issues of that area in its journal and various pamphlets. For more information, contact them at 1500 Massachusetts Ave, NW #119, Washington DC 20005.

University Microfilms has announced the top-selling dissertations for 1991, those titles selling more than twenty-five copies in a single year. Included are The Miners of Windber: Class, Ethnicity, and the Labor Movement in a Pennsylvania Coal Town, 1890s-1930s, by Mildred A. Beik, PhD, Northern Illinois University, 1989, and Changing Khmer Conceptions of Gender: Women, Stories, and the Social Order, by Judy L. Ledgerwood, PhD, Cornell University, 1990.


Beneath all of these beautiful stories by Charlotte Watson Sherman memory flows like an underground river—not the memory of tranquil recollection or idle nostalgia, but the memory of inheritance and genealogy, of history rising to the surface in sudden moments of epiphany, of frightful dreams, and the ageless mechanisms of ritual. This river often carries disturbing images in its stream—the Klan, abandoned children, forty acres given and later stolen away, drownings, lynchings—but always there is the water coursing beneath our lives, murmuring truths, fighting our forgetfulness. "Put your ear to the ground," a character in "A Season" says. "Do you hear it? The sound of water and darkness?"

Memory isn't always safe, nor is water. Thus, one character's remembrance of the womb might be of "floating like a pickle in a jar," but another may suffer the continuous recollection of a drowned sibling and how much his mother loved him (the undrowned child) before that accident. The water can be ominous as in "Swimming Lesson" when some mischievous and faithless youngsters convince a religious playmate to attempt walking on water. Or it can be cleansing like it is in the stories "Big Water" and "Spirit Talk", where two characters, Kita and Reba, reaffirm, each through a different ritual, a link between the waters of memory and life and their own sexuality.

The unusual imagery of these stories might be called magical (suggesting Garcia Marquez or even Faulkner), but that wouldn't fully represent the workings of this world and the status of its characters, who are neither helpless nor particularly superstitious. Although water/memory has the power of the inevitable, if they listen to it carefully it also carries the message of redemption.

I hesitate describing this as a collection of "African American" or "Women's" stories for fear of committing the worst kind of marginalization, as though to say, "Don't read these stories, if you are a white male," when, as much as possible, the opposite is true. On the other hand, to deny their voice, to appropriate and rehabilitate them, as it were, into the great homogeneous main stream of American
culture would be a mistake. These stories have a heart different than the typical New Yorker short story. Read them and rejoice in that difference.

--Steven R. Harris, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX.

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Publisher's address: 141 The Commons, Ithaca NY 14850

Alison Bechdel's cartoon collections, beginning with Dykes to Watch Out For, More Dykes to Watch Out For, and continuing with the titles noted above, have sold more than 50,000 copies to date, and her popularity continues to rise. And deservedly so--her Dykes are hilarious, timely, irreverent, unforgettable and right on target. What a gift Bechdel has given to all of us with these books, with her clear and loving vision of lesbian life!

Bechdel's characters--Anti- heroine Mo ("chiefly motivated by free-floating guilt in combination with a hypersensitive moral fiber"); her consort Harriet; sensual Lois; the transcendental Sparrow; long-term lovers Clarice and Toni ("... hurling headlong into the brave, new world of lesbian nuclear familyhood")--tangle with each other and with life. Bechdel fearlessly tackles the topics of commitment ceremonies; lesbian parenthood; monogamy; political correctness; therapy; sex; queer activism; disability and more.

For the reader, the Dykes to Watch Out books are pure fun, inducing not only laughter but also moments of rueful recognition and flashes of insight into ourselves. Her cartoons are a delight, especially in their small, telling details, like the newspapers and books tucked into bookshelves and character's hands: "Out of Coffee: The Newspaper for Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Caffeine Addicted"; "Outgeek"; "Sexing the Fruit Cocktail"; "The Lesbian Erotic Polka"; "Yoga for Inflexible People."

Bechdel's work is syndicated to 50 U.S. and Canadian newspapers and periodicals. Firebrand Publisher Nancy Bereano says that, despite the books' popularity, some bookstores "are afraid to put a book with the word 'dykes' in the title on their shelves" (Publishers Weekly, 3/9/92, p. 24). Let's hope that libraries aren't following the same path with Bechdel's books, which deserve a place on popular reading shelves in libraries of all types.

--Kathy Anderson, Atlantic County Library System, Mays Landing, NJ.

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From the subtitle, one might expect a tome. TRADING FREEDOM isn't, though. In forty short (2-5 page) essays, the authors present a devastating critique of the proposed free trade agreements.

From the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), these treaties portend a wholesale redistribution of power and wealth. This redistribution will be from the least developed nations and least organized populations to the most powerful.

The far-reaching consequences of the agreements are legion. Some of the
likely effects include: 1) increased relocation of industry south in search of ever-cheaper labor; 2) increased ability of corporations to "whipsaw" communities, states (and even nations) competing for their presence. This competition results in a downward spiral of wages and labor standards and an upward spiral of tax breaks and taxpayer subsidies; 3) rural dislocation in the southern hemisphere as dwindling subsidies eliminate small farms; 4) further degradation of the environment as factories move to areas with lax enforcement and as local rules are superseded by looser international agreements.

The authors are activists, academics and journalists from the U.S., Canada and Mexico. The essays are concise, well-written and accessible to non-economists. They are supplemented by a resource list of publications and organizations. The book's format, while ensuring a range of perspectives, does however, lead to some overlap and repetition.

The tremendous consequences of these agreements (and other macro-economic policies) make it crucial for ordinary citizens to understand the issues. How else are we to decipher the rhetoric and read between the lies of the policymakers?

--Rob Lerman, Woburn Public Library, Woburn, MA.

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The whole idea of resistance as a political statement so often aligned with combatting authoritarianism should be intriguing enough to readers of SRRT Newsletter to make this book a welcome purchase for their shelves. I, for one, was drawn to the book by the subtitle; the editor's introduction further raised my hopes by defining its goal to represent "both . . . a health-sustaining process and the practice of resistance as a political strategy."

Resistance in clinical practice has meant "obscuring or burying psychological truths or avoiding key memories and feelings, and thus has been seen as an impediment to the creation of a working therapeutic relationship." What the contributors to this book attempt to do is to show how they have redefined resistance to include "the capacity of the psyche to resist . . . [and to therefore propel] the willingness to act on one's own knowledge" in a healthy manner. In four sections, they explore conceptions of resistance in the practice of psychotherapy and in the literature of developmental psychology, manifestations of resistance among adolescent girls, means of strengthening girls resistance to false relationships, and specific clinical problems with suggestions for new approaches.

The strong point of all the essays is the effort on the part of the authors to present their own hesitancies about psychoanalytic practices, to "resist" themselves. Catherine Steiner-Adair writes beautifully and poignantly of her work with an anorectic girl. She notes specific examples how she is uncovering and dismantling the false facades of therapy at the same time as helping girls with eating disorders uncover and dismantle the false facades of the world they are unable to inhabit." Similarly, "Two-Part Inventions: Knowing What We Know", by Meg Turner, shows how a therapist can use her own past and her own intuition in helping a client to not only articulate but also to grow from both her connections to and separations from other people. The client's insight, in turn, aids Meg Turner in her writing.

My complaints with the book center around a failure to suggest how more psychiatrists or psychologists could be
drawn into helping women and girls to find healthy forms of resistance. And, the poetic and caring language, while exemplary of feminist discourse on the interdependence of our lives, also adds to the lack of a political agenda that will readily present itself to readers. I also found the index inadequate. Concepts of resistance are only noted to be found on two pages. Esteem and self-esteem, so crucial to the entire book, are missing entirely.

The book presents a step towards the building of a society which will nurture girls into stronger women and as such should be bought by university libraries and large public libraries as well as specialized collections on women. The book optimistically states that "girls' psychological health in adolescence, like the psychological health of women, depends on their resistance to inauthentic or false relationships" and as such, presents a compelling message. I hope that each of you might not only buy this or other works built around feminist psychology but might also consider smuggling a copy into the waiting room of a therapist of your choosing. The people who need such research the most will not find it otherwise.

--Susan Tucker, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, New Orleans.

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This volume continues the series which identifies and analyzes "the barriers that threaten our access to information and freedom of expression". In the introduction, Zoia Horn highlights three recent events of significance—the breakup of the former Soviet Union and the "end" of the Cold War, the Bill of Rights Bicentennial and the reaffirmation of democratic principles, and the quincentenary "celebration" of Columbus' "discovery" of the Americas— which demand a critical examination.

An exploration of domestic consequences of the Cold War, which has permeated every aspect of life in the United States since 1946, "might reveal the hidden harmony... and would certainly uncover some of the misinformation... disseminated as truth about the now defunct USSR." Claiming the Bill of Rights Bicentennial "fizzled into just another public relations campaign," Horn calls for a serious, massive, educational campaign at all age levels using all media. The Columbus Quincentenary "discovery celebration" affords an opportunity to compare and contrast long-accepted written histories with the "embarrassing realities of incredible cruelties, torture and enslavement that histories have hidden." Today racism and institutionalized prejudice, though challenged, have not ended. "... One needs look no further than dateline Los Angeles, May 1992, to recognize that the inequities and injustices that affect" Black, Brown and "other" people, including women, continue to scandalize people around the world.

The articles reprinted in the volume represent both mainstream and alternative presses and are organized into topical chapters: attacks on the right to know; overt censorship; the press and the media; corporate power over information; secrecy and suppression of information; propaganda, misinformation and disinformation; dissent control; technology, First Amendment and privacy rights; other hidden barriers; and affirmations of our right to know.

A selected bibliography of sources regarding freedom of information is included as well as a list or organizations which support and defend the right to know. Cumulative author and subject indexes make accessible the contents of all four volumes.

SRRT Newsletter 14 December 1992
In the words of Ben Badikian, former assistant managing editor of the Washington Post, "What is not reported may not be lost forever, but it may be lost at a time when it is most needed." This assemblage of essays, many on little-known stories, helps assure that the writings of authors published in varied forums, from the New York Times and the San Francisco Chronicle to the Covert Action Information Bulletin, Lies of Our Times and Z Magazine, receive timely and wide dissemination and readership.

This outstanding book furnishes a fascinating, eye-opening, relevant and enjoyable read for all persons and library collections concerned with governmental and cultural treatment of the myriad information access issues. The book is recommended particularly for small libraries, which may not be able to afford complete alternative press acquisitions.


---Mark C. Goniewicha, University of Guam.

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TITLES RECEIVED:

If you'd like to review one of these or any other book, please contact the book review editor: Steven R. Harris, Reference Department, Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-5000. Tel. (409) 845-5741.


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