SRRT ENDORSES BETTY TUROCK

At its meetings in Los Angeles, SRRT's Action Council members voted to endorse long-time member and activist, Betty Turock, for ALA President. Ms. Turock's statements at the Candidates' Forum and in a special meeting before Action Council won the hearts and votes of many in the Round Table.

SRRT members running for ALA Council, according to the list published in the December 1993 American Libraries, include Randall Hensley, David Searcy, Elena Tscherny, and Sarah Barbara Watstein. The list of SRRT members running for ALA Council may not be definitive. It is based on the information available at press time and doesn't include petition candidates, whose forms did not need to be filed until the end of February. At a minimum, however, SRRT members Denise Botto, Elaine Harger, Alfred Kagan, Elizabeth Morrissett, Mark Rosenzweig, Stephen Stillwell, and David Williams were circulating petitions for inclusion on the ballot. Look for these members and give them your consideration in voting.

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Well, except for a little rumbling of the ground. Los Angeles was a relatively quiet conference. SRRT Action Council passed three resolutions. These resolutions - South Africa, the NII, and a SRRT Review Committee - appear elsewhere in this issue (see Boxes on p. 2-4). The South Africa resolution passed ALA Council. The NII resolution was referred to COPES by Council. Several years ago, SRRT supported a REFORMA resolution on boycotting California table grapes. This finally made it to ALA Council and failed largely because it was not viewed as a library issue. ALA Council decided to support a national health care program. There was some contention in the wings over the resolution on health care passed in 1992, because this new resolution was contradictory. But the SRRT framers of that resolution tied it to specific bills in the Senate and House which were defeated, so ALA Council was able to pass the 1994 version. Council also referred a resolution on child care at ALA Conferences and Meetings to COPES and a resolution on the "centerfold" advertisement in Publishers' Weekly to the Intellectual Freedom.
Committee asking whether complaining about such advertising amount to censorship. One other Council Action of note: SRRT member Nancy Kranich was elected to the ALA Executive Board. There are some more comments about ALA Council in another article (see p. 6).

A number of people got to see the minority recruitment video that SRRT helped finance. I have heard largely positive comments. Congratulations to John Ayala and his team for a job well done.

I was pleased to discover in the ALA Press Office at Midwinter handouts on the Office of Intellectual Freedom and the most-challenged books, the Zappa Memorial Fund, the Coretta Scott King Awards, Censorship in Libraries, the Homeless, and Equal Rights.

ALA Midwinter was late this year. That has thrown off the newsletter schedule a bit. There is other news from Midwinter elsewhere in this issue. My own personal news is that I am taking some time out from being a practicing librarian to get a PhD. in history from the University of North Texas.

Get ready for Miami and 25 years of SRRT!

—Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., Action Council Coordinator

RESOLUTION ON THE NATIONAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE (NII)

Whereas the Clinton Administration in its NII policy statement calls for meaningful and equitable access to information for all, its strategy focuses mainly on the private sector and slight America's already existing public information infrastructure—its tens of thousands of publicly-funded libraries, and

Whereas libraries are an ideal and essential public space to facilitate meaningful and equitable access to the electronic information highway, and librarians have a crucial role to play in helping to mediate access to knowledge and information, and

Whereas funding for libraries is being seriously diminished all across this country, even as we are about to establish a new and costly NII, and

Whereas in the present fiscal and political climate there is no guarantee that access to the information highway will be affordable either to non-affluent Americans or to underfunded libraries, and

Whereas this public policy debate carries enormous stakes for the future of libraries, librarians, and the rights of everyone to information in its various forms, now therefore

Be It Resolved that the American Library Association energetically promote a broad grassroots mobilization of librarians, in local and regional coalitions, with all those concerned with equitable access to information, in order to pressure NII decision-makers to guarantee free access to the NII through the already existing public information infrastructure—libraries, and

Be It Further Resolved that the ALA encourage its affiliate organizations and all libraries to use such occasions as National Freedom of Information Day (March 16) and National Library Week (April 17-23) to focus public attention on these issues, and

Be It Further Resolved that the ALA declare 1995 to be National Access to Information Year and encourage its divisions and affiliates to use this theme in planning programs and activities for the Annual ALA Conference in Chicago in 1995.

(N.B. A rough draft of this resolution was passed in spirit by Action Council. An ad hoc committee was established to revise the resolution and submit it to ALA Council. The final form is above.)

TASK FORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ENVIRONMENT

The Task Force will meet twice in Miami. The schedule will appear in next issue. Work is progressing on a program entitled "Libraries in the Balance: Bridges to Environmental Information." The program will include a keynote speaker with a panel discussion on the role of libraries in providing environmental information to the public. If you have any thoughts, ideas, suggestions please contact Maria Jankowska (e-mail: majanko@uidaho.edu; phone: (208) 885-6631.

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Libraries and Environmental Information Centers in Central Eastern Europe: a Locator/Directory by Czeslaw Jan Grycz, Barbara Rodes, and others was published by World Wildlife Fund and The Wladyslaw Poniecki Foundation. ISBN 1-56513-034-0. The book can be purchased for $27.95 from the Wladyslaw Poniecki Foundation, 8637 Arbor Drive, El Cerrito, California 94530-2728. This directory is a sourcebook for identifying environmental libraries in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia. The book can be used as a tool for establishing linkages between American libraries and environmental centers in these countries.

The Pollution Prevention Information Exchange System (PIES) has established an Environmental Librarians Information Exchange. This mini-exchange is being developed by members of the Environment and Resources Management Division of the Special Libraries Association. For the mini-exchange to be valuable, you as a user, will need to contribute information in the form of ASCII texts or WordPerfect files. Following are instructions for accessing the exchange:

Dial: 703-506-1025 (state and local governments may apply for the toll free number)

Settings: 8-N-1-F,

Follow instructions to register.

Select <j> to join conferences.

Select 3 - Environmental Librarians Information Exchange.

Select <r> to read mail.

Type <-> (hyphen) to see newest mail item.

Technical support can be obtained by calling (703) 821-4800

Green Library Journal: Environmental Topics in the Information World subscribers should contact:

Maria A. Jankowska
University of Idaho Library
Moscow ID 83844

GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

Attendance at Midwinter task force meetings was good. The social hour, organized by locals Stephen Klein and Keith Trimmer, was held at the Trojan Horse Restaurant at the University Hilton, on the edge of the University of Southern California campus. The East Coast contingent was particularly glad to see a fireplace there, despite the fact that it felt like summer to them outside.

Gail Defendorf and Dan Hodge were officially appointed co-coordinators of the Clearinghouse. Gail will soon be receiving the boxes of Clearinghouse "stuff" and she and Dan will be deciding how to divide the work of updating, copying, etc. If you
have material to send to the Clearinghouse, contact one of
de the co-coordinators:

Gail Defendorf
Morris Library
University of Delaware
Newark DE 19717-5267
phone: (302) 831-8721
fax: (302) 831-1046
e-mail: gail.defendorf@mvs.udel.edu

Dan Hodge
DataCenter Library
464 19th St.
Oakland CA 94612
phone: (510) 835-4692
e-mail: dan@igc.apc.org

The Steering Committee gave Gail and Dan the go-ahead
to start making selected Clearinghouse materials available
electronically, beginning with the Clearinghouse order
form, documents available without charge, and one or two
of the others (probably the archives list). If all goes well,
these items should be available via GAY-LIBN and the
Queer Resources Directory before the Annual Conference.

Due to the Stonewall 25 celebrations in New York (and
elsewhere), the usual task force schedule for the Annual
Conference has been adjusted. The full schedule will
appear in the next newsletter issue (June), with more
events scheduled for Sunday thru Tuesday than usual.

The combined program and book awards promises to be
an exciting event for the GLTF. Terry Allison and
members of the Program Planning Committee have lined
up several speakers for the 1994 program: "Beyond
Daddy's Roommate: The Evolving Market for Children's
Books." There have been many articles in American
Libraries, Library Journal, and other publications
detailing challenges and defenses of Daddy's Roommate,
Heather Has Two Mommies, and others. The 1994
program will move beyond the debate and will focus on
where gay and lesbian children's and young adult
literature is heading and what challenges await in the
future. Please tell your colleagues who work with
children's and young adult materials to come to the
program; it should generate a lot of discussion.

Help is still needed! First, Midwinter Read-Aloud
coordinator, Gary Klein, has a scheduling conflict, and
someone is needed for this responsibility for the Annual
Conference. Also, coordinator(s) are desperately needed
for the GLTF social hour, along with ideas for locations.
If you live in the area, or know someone who does,
please get in touch with one of the coordinators:

Wendy Thomas
Schlesinger Library
Radcliffe College
Cambridge MA 02138
phone: (617) 495-8647
fax: (617) 496-8340
e-mail: wendy@harvard.harvard.edu

Roland Hansen
SAIC Flaxman Library
37 S. Wabash
Chicago IL 60603
fax: (312) 263-0141

Plans are proceeding for 1995 as well as for 1994. The
Chicago Annual Conference next year will mark the 25th
anniversary of GLTF, and instead of a regular program,
a pre-conference program is being planned to bring
together and spotlight gay and lesbian professional organizations. These may include the Society of American Archivists, the Art Libraries Society of North America, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. There are also plans for a dinner, with an expanded book awards presentation.

Nominations for Steering Committee vacancies are being sought and are due by April 1. Elections will be held at the GLTF membership meeting in Miami on Monday, June 27. The polls will be open from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. All voters must be SRRT members. Also to be decided by vote at the membership meeting is a proposal to change the name of the task force to Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force. If approved, a recommendation for the change will be made to Action Council.

In order to regularize the SRRT budget, it is advisable for the task force to begin to look for sponsors for the book awards. These funds have been allocated in the past as part of the normal budget, but with increased demands for funding with little accompanying increase in revenue, there has been discussion suggesting that awards in general should be sponsored if at all possible. In the meantime, the GLTF budget was approved for $2,200.00, which will cover the ongoing costs of the task force, including the awards to be presented at the 1995 Annual Conference.

**PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE**

The Miami Conference program will feature Marta Daniels, Executive Director of Options at Brown University who will present: "Choices for the 21st Century" Library Project. She will describe a library-based public policy discussion program on foreign policy and domestic priorities that was developed with Connecticut Reading Connections and the Humanities Council. The session will include a 15 minute video showing what the library series is about and how libraries can participate. The Public Library Association is co-sponsoring the program and will assist with publicity.

New nominations are needed for the SIRS/Peace Award. If anyone wants a copy of the award guidelines or wishes to nominate a library or individual please contact the task force chair:

Beth Sibley
University of California, Berkeley
Moffitt Undergraduate Library
Government Documents Dept.
Berkeley CA 94720
phone: (510) 643-9346
fax: (415) 643-7891
e-mail: esibley@uctlibra

Deadline for the 1995 award will be the first day of the Philadelphia Midwinter Conference.

The Institute for Global Communications is offering a special library account of $50/month for unlimited searching (via the Internet) on their networks: Peacenet, Econet, Conflictinet, and Labornet. These networks provide access to public conferences, legislative alerts, newsletters, bibliographies, conference proceedings, news services, etc. related to peace and social justice and environment and international development issues. For more information contact: IGC, 18 Boom St., San Francisco CA 94107; phone: (415)442-0220; email: support@igc.org.

Diantha Schull from Libraries for the Future attended the Midwinter meeting and distributed copies of the LFF newsletter and described the purpose and projects of the organization. The group has recently submitted a National Endowment for the Humanities proposal to fund a library-based humanities program, "Considering Violence, Considering Peace." She is interested in learning about libraries who have sponsored or are sponsoring peace related programs. For more information contact her at: Libraries for the Future, 521 Fifth Ave., Suite 1612, New York NY 10175; phone: (212) 682-7446.

Possible program ideas for the 1995 Chicago Conference include militarism in the schools or conflict resolution techniques. A program coordinator is needed.

The Chair will survey those on the task force mailing list regarding a possible task force name change and to solicit new ideas for programs and projects.
ISRAELI CENSORSHIP ISSUE, UPDATED: A
MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Last summer David Williams, Coordinator of the Task
Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries,
and I were summoned before ALA Executive Committee
to answer accusations and to defend SRRT's position in
support of what had been for about a year ALA
opposition to censorship in Israel and the Occupied
Territories. Further questions were raised about the
motives, funding, and objectives of the ICPL Task Force,
its members and its leadership.

At that session, I was informed that I could review the
letters sent to the ALA leadership on this issue. It has
been a difficult and ongoing struggle to get ALA
Headquarters to fulfill the promise made by the Executive
Board. Mysteriously, such a promise was omitted from
the minutes of the Executive Board meeting, although it
was made before a room full of witnesses. I have been
informed that ALA received 156 letters on this issue.
Some of these are duplicates, i.e. the same letter was sent
to the ALA President and the ALA Executive Director.
I have been given a geographic breakdown showing the
originating points of these letters. All but one came from
within the United States, the other coming from Canada.
(Actually 3 are marked as address unknown.) Forty-five
letters came from New York, with eighteen other states
and the District of Columbia being represented.

To date, I have been allowed to see sixty-eight of these
letters. I have reviewed these letters and offer the
following information. One was an inquiry and stated no
opinion on the issue. Nine were duplicates (see above).
One was actually an internal SRRT memo on the issue.
Of the remaining fifty-seven, six endorsed the position
taken and fifty-one were against it. Nearly 41% (21 of
51) charged ALA, SRRT, and individuals within these
groups with anti-Semitism. Nineteen letters identify the
writer as outside ALA; while only eleven actually state
that the writer is a member (two indicated that they had
dropped out of ALA as a result the San Francisco
resolution). One proudly proclaimed herself as a non-
ALA librarian. One of the letter-writers who claims to be
married to a librarian is known to me to be misrepresenting that relationship. (Why, I don't know!)

It is doubtful, at this time, that I will ever be allowed to
see the remaining letters. No letters that I have been
allowed to see level charges of misconduct or violent
behavior against any member of the ICPL Task Force or
SRRT. This is contrary to what we had been told was in
these letters.

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr. Action Council Coordinator

REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP

SRRT membership continues to rise, although on a
somewhat reduced level from prior years. The total
membership at the end of September 1993 was up ninety-
six from the end of September 1992, with regular and
student members making up the bulk of that growth.
Trustee/associate memberships almost doubled, going
from only thirteen last year to twenty-five this year.

Denise Botto has succeeded Steve Murden as Chair of
Membership/Recruitment.

ALA COUNCIL: A SCORECARD

Last summer there was a move to stop the publication and
distribution of the votes of Council. After the third
session of that body in Los Angeles, there should be a
motion to close the meetings to the membership. One
prominent councilor made a convoluted statement on a
motion related to South African investment. Called back
to the floor to explain it, he could not do so. His
problem seemed to be an unwillingness to say the words
"gay and lesbian" or the phrase "sexual orientation." What
he was trying to ask was how could ALA endorse
the South African Council of Churches plan when there
was no specific mention of this minority group in the
SACC plan. It is hard to believe that in 1994 an educated
members of our profession have difficulty getting these
words out without a notable level of discomfort.

Going back to the actual votes in ALA Council, I have
reviewed some of the past records. The absentee rate and
the number of non-votes or abstentions is significant. Linda Dougherty, who seems to have been re-elected in 1992 for another four year term, has missed Annual 1991 and Midwinter 1992 (the last two sets of Council meetings in her previous term), as well as Annual 1992 and Midwinter 93 (the first two sets of Council meetings of her new term. Perhaps it would have been good for the voters to have seen this before voting another term for her. Luis Chaparro, whose term runs until 1995, missed Midwinter 1993 totally and was excused from several sessions during the Annual Conferences in 1992 and 1993, missing a total of fifty-seven votes at those two conferences.

At the two ALA meetings in 1993, Council took a total of eighty-seven issue votes (i.e., not housekeeping items). Thirty-four councilors abstained themselves from one or more meeting sessions or simply did not vote on ten or more of these issues. The most commonly absent or non-voters are at-large member Beth J. Shapiro, California representative Linda M. Wood, Public Library Association representative Linda Mielke, at-large member Anna H. Perrault, and at-large member Michael J. Gorman.

Only one current member of Council appears on the ballot according to the lists I have. Linda Mielke, formerly PLA Councilor, is standing for an at-large seat. How has she done? Well she did not vote on 32 of the 87 issues in 1993 (see above). Some of those non-votes may have been at the direction of the PLA Board. Looking at the substance of her voting and identifying "SRRT-relevant" issues between Midwinter 1991 and Midwinter 1993, she has voted the way that a Round Table Councilor would have been expected to vote on 22 of 31 issues. As a divisional representative, her actual votes may reflect her own philosophy or that of PLA. Her non-voting record, however, should be a matter of concern to this year's voters.

THE BOY SCOUTS AND THE ALA

Last summer SRRT discovered that the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC - a division within ALA) had a special committee to advise the Boy Scouts of America on various issues. Such a relationship would appear to be in violation of ALA Policy 9.5, which states that ALA "shall have no ... formal relationships with organizations which violate ALA principles and commitments to human rights and social justice as set forth in ALA's policies...." Obviously, the continued bias against gay and bisexual teens within the Boy Scouts sets that organization at odds with ALA's principles. Stephen Stillwell, the SRRT Action Council Coordinator, asked the ALSC to reconsider its committee in light of this fact. After some delay, and in reply to some badgering, he finally received their reply. The response was the ALSC was responsible for the decision whether or not to maintain this relationship with the Boy Scouts regardless of SRRT wishes or ALA policies.

Stillwell will be introducing a resolution on the floor of the ALA Membership Meeting in Miami asking for ALSC compliance with ALA policies. It would be good to have as many people there as possible to speak out in support of this resolution. Resolutions approved by Membership seem to carry little or no weight, but they do ensure that ALA Council will take up the issue.

SRRT/AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL JOINT PROGRAM UPDATE

As previously announced, SRRT has a joint program with Amnesty International to respond to Urgent Action needs automatically. So far, however, there are only five participants. Comments on how to expand the program should be sent to:

Al Kagan
Africana - Room 328
University of Illinois Library
1408 Gregory Drive
Urbana IL 61801 USA
phone: (217) 333-6519
fax: (217) 244-0398
e-mail: kagan@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu

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Participants pledge $10 (or $20) per month or can prepay for six months or one year. This program is geared to educators in urgent need of assistance. Telegrams or faxes are sent out in participants' names from a special office in Colorado within hours of the time Amnesty hears of a case. Participation is easy - all that is required is a check. Participants receive a copy of the telegram or fax sent for further follow-up if desired. For more information or to join the program, contact:

ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Urgent Action
First Appeal Pledge Program
Amnesty International USA
P.O. Box 1270
Nederland CO 80466-1270

Participants may write their own letter, saving the pledge amount. For Urgent Action Alerts, contact:

Cheryl Martin
Amnesty International Texas Satellite Office
3237-1/2 Rosedale Ave.
Dallas TX 75205
phone: (214) 768-1209
fax: (214) 768-2669
e-mail: aitexas@igc.apc.org

--Al Kagan, University of Illinois

**OLOS HOLDS HEARING ON LIBRARY SERVICE FOR THE POOR**

The ALA Office for Library Outreach Service held a hearing on ALA Policy #60, Library Services for the Poor: Implementation Activities, at the Midwinter Meeting in Los Angeles. The policy has been reprinted on this page. Comments and suggestions for implementing the policy are welcome, and should be addressed to:

Mattye L. Nelson
OLOS, American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago IL 60611
phone: (800) 545-2433, ext. 4294.

**NEW LISTSERV FROM ALA**

The American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom has developed a new listserver for the discussion of censorship challenges and other intellectual freedom issues. The following instructions will allow new subscribers to sign up:

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Address your message to: LISTSERV@UICVM. UIC.EDU
Leave the subject line blank

In the message area, write the following message:
SUB ALAOIF@UICVM <your name>

If I were subscribing, therefore, the message would read:
SUB ALAOIF@UICVM TOM WILDING

WHEN CAN "JUNIOR" COME HOME? AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN ASIAN WAR ORPHANS.

(N.B. Versions of the article have appeared in Islander and Passport.)

Hello! Meet Narong Young -- nicknamed "Junior," after his father -- a good-natured attractive 24-year-old American Thai "Amerasian." His father was a U.S. Army officer stationed in northeastern Thailand during the Vietnam War.

Born in the Buddhist Era 2512 -- that's 1969 A.D. -- at Warin Chamrap district in Ubon Ratchathani province, near the Mekong River border with Laos, Junior was abandoned by his American G.I. father, along with his younger sisters, Patti and Sandi, when the war ended in 1975. The father returned to Florida and remarried. Next, their mother moved across country and remarried at Sattahip, near Pattaya, leaving the Young children with her sister.

The children grew up in different homes. For a few years, Junior stayed with his grandmother, until she passed away; later he lived with an aunt and uncle. After having attended ten different schools, Junior finished high school in 1985, when he was 16. Considering his childhood years and adolescent experiences in the school of "hard knocks," completing high school was a major achievement. With minimal support from family, Junior attended school only with the generous sponsorship of the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, which provided his dormitory room, meals, books, uniforms, and other benefits.

During the Vietnam War, the U.S. operated numerous military bases in Thailand, mostly in "Isaan," the underdeveloped, rural, agricultural northeast region. Near each of these bases, thousands of babies were born to Thai women and American soldiers. The lucky ones were adopted by fathers who married their mothers and introduced them to new lives in America. Others were adopted later by their real fathers or other adoptive families. But Junior Young, and thousands like him, were left to fend for themselves when Uncle Sam packed up and left the country in a hurry.

Junior remembers -- he was six when his father left him. The awareness of being an expendable, discarded child inflicted certain psychological and emotional trauma on him and these other youngsters. Some of his American-fathered boyhood buddies are now bitter, serving time in prison for various offenses, from drug abuse to robbery, and worse.

While Junior has steered clear of the legal system so far, it hasn't been easy. Not only did his parents reject him. America also forgot him. And life as an outcast -- a "black sheep," a stranger in his own land, living on the fringes of Thai society -- has been challenging, to say the least. A Thai-speaking, Thai-educated, Buddhist-believing young adult, Junior copes somehow with a system which often excludes him because he looks different from his Thai peers. When he registered for Thai military service, as required, he was informed he was unfit for duty because he was Black.

When Amerasians can find employment, they generally end up with the most menial jobs as busboys, waiters, or bar dancers. Many of the go-go dancers in the bars in Bangkok and Pattaya are Amerasians working for a living. Some are prostitutes out of dire economic necessity.

One of Junior's Amerasian friends, Tony Baxter, was fortunate to graduate from a Thai university with a bachelor's degree in physical education. Although he wanted to teach, he was considered an inappropriate role model for Thai students, with his Caucasian looks. The best job Tony could find was as a masseur at a hotel health club, a job which pays the Thai minimum wage, 100 Baht (about $4.00 U.S.) per day, plus tips, if any. Junior recently applied for a hotel bellboy job but was
turned down, probably because of his African-American appearance. His English-language skills are O.K. No, it's not fair -- but that's just the way it is.

During a holiday visit, I met Junior in Bangkok and hired him for a week as my guide on a tour of southern Thailand. He was thrilled to board the plane for his first flight on the 60-minute Thai Airlines domestic route southward. Though he had never visited Hat Yai, Krabi, Pee Pee Islands, or Phuket, Junior was a more-than-adequate tour guide. He served as a good companion and carried luggage eagerly. But in addition, he translated, asked questions and directions, and haggled prices skillfully, probably saving me more than the lavish wages (by Thai standards) which I paid him -- $20.00 daily. In untouristed areas, Junior read Thai-alphabet signage, which Western tourists may find bewildering. He taught me to appreciate Thai food, and provided an entry into Thai places I would not have seen by myself as a tourist - - a "farang."

Together on the road, we were taken often for American tourists. People would approach Junior speaking English. He would explain in Pidgin English that he was Thai, to their astonishment or disbelief. Amerasians tend to look like their American fathers. And so, I came to comprehend Junior's lifelong predicament -- what he faces every day.

All things considered, Junior has turned out to be a relatively well-adjusted young man. And it was a good match -- he taught me about Thailand and the Thai language, and I told him about America and American English. After learning some of the details of his life, I was surprised that he seems to harbor no grudge against the U.S. or Thailand for his fate -- it's very Buddhist to accept one's karma.

Instead, he has an insatiable curiosity about America and things American. He wants to learn English; he wants to discover his American and African-American heritage. He learned some English in school, and continues learning by listening to and singing along with rock and rap recordings, and watching video hits, when he has a chance, to learn break dancing. He has never given up his dream of going to America one day.

Junior and I returned to Bangkok after a week touring southern Thailand's resorts. My moment of truth arrived when I overheard Junior responding to another orphan's inquiry that I was his father. When I smiled, amused, Junior explained that I was like a father to him, paying attention, spending my time and money taking him places. I was so touched, I cried. That's when I decided that I could make a difference.

After hearing Junior's story, I decided to find out how I could help him. I learned that the U.S. Congress approved and President Reagan signed the Amerasian Immigration Act of 1982 (U.S. Public Law 97-359, 96 Stat. 1716), designed specifically for Amerasian children abandoned since 1950 in Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Korea, and Kampuchea/Cambodia. During congressional consideration, then-Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-Alabama) said he and Senator Carl Levin (D-Michigan) were co-sponsoring the bill because America had "too long ignored its responsibility to the abandoned offspring of our citizens in Asia." (Congressional Record, Senate, September 28, 1982, p. 25338) Senator Levin quoted a letter from constituents, reading, "Amerasians are shunned and excluded from full participation in education, marriage, and employment opportunities." (p. 25339) Upon signing the bill into law on October 22, 1982 President Reagan remarked, "Instead of saying welcome to these children, we should say welcome home." (Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States: Ronald Reagan, 1982, Book 2, p. 1372)

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Form I-360, "Petition for Amerasian," provides the regulatory requirements, instructions, and application. The law states that any adult American may file a petition to sponsor an Amerasian orphan. During the last decade, only a few thousand cases have been approved using this little-known act and a 1987 companion law.

One of the problems is that, since the law's enactment, more than eleven years ago, the U.S. Government's Department of Justice and its INS have done little to inform the American people about the law's existence and provisions, nor have they designed a program to assist Americans who might want to apply to sponsor. Furthermore, the Department of State, the "keeper of the gates" through its ambassadorial and consular offices in

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Bangkok and other affected Asian capitals, has taken no action to let the Amerasians know that they may be eligible for this benefit. There has been no effort on the part of our government to match up Amerasian immigrant applicants with potential American sponsors. Some blame may be due to interagency, bureaucratic bungling and the failure to coordinate effectively.

Perhaps the real fault lies with the law itself, which amended the immigration statute to allow approval of petitions for Amerasians, if they can find a sponsor, but which allocated no funding. Instead, the Amerasians are entirely dependent on the goodwill and generosity of individuals and private organizations. Unfairly, the burden for finding a sponsor rests with the impoverished and powerless Amerasians, who are not in a position to be acquainted with many Americans.

Many Amerasians have little or no documentation proving their fathers are American -- sometimes only their physical appearance. Another challenge is that these half-Americans aren't cuddly babies anymore. The war ended 20 years ago, so most of those eligible are in their early 20s or older. Many of them gave up hope for American patrition when they turned 18 years old.

Though the Pearl S. Buck Foundation would have done the detective work for me, for a fee, I preferred to spend my next holiday travelling with Junior to his village in Isaan to gather the documents ourselves. At Phibun Mangsahan, I met his uncle and aunt, who extended gracious hospitality and provided a local sightseeing tour. On the wall in their home, several framed photographs from the early 1970s -- good evidence -- were taken to a photo shop to be copied. His uncle found Junior's original 1969 birth certificate signed by a midwife, tattered and decomposing. This was copied and certified at the Warin Chamrap district recorder's office, which also had on file the 1973 marriage certificate. Junior is lucky because his father and mother married -- and even after having been shuttled around as a child, he has good documentation and photos -- more than enough evidence to prove his father is American.

INS approved my petition to sponsor Junior under its "first preference" category, reserved for unmarried children of American citizens, and he recently received his medical exam authorization and visa interview appointment from consular services at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok. The required medical exam included an HIV test. It's taken a year to learn the rules, locate the needed documents, obtain translations, and file and process the applications, with much correspondence and phoning.

Junior had another birthday recently. He will be coming home to America soon to fulfill his lifelong dream and claim his birthright as the son of an American citizen. Perhaps by the time you read this he will be here already. A friend of mine in Pennsylvania has initiated paperwork to sponsor Junior's friend, Tony.

Exactly what will sponsorship entail? It's not quite the same as the adoption of a minor. It won't mean middle-of-the-night feedings or changing diapers, but it will mean providing financial support for three-to-five years -- travel, room and board, clothing, tuition and books, and spending money -- during the acculturation process. It will mean patience and understanding, English language tutoring, answering questions about American culture and learning about Thai (or Khmer or other Asian) ways. It will mean sharing the American dream with another person who is seeking it.

I believe many Americans will want and can well afford to sponsor an Amerasian once they learn how to do it. We all come from somewhere else, or our ancestors paved the way for us generations ago with their sacrifices. All Americans have benefitted from the blessings of U.S. citizenship. Sponsoring and Amerasian is a way to give something back.

Is Amerasian sponsorship for everyone? Probably not, but Amerasian placements are likely to work out well in happy homes, in multi-racial, multi-lingual communities, such as those on Guam, in California, Hawaii, Alaska, New York, and some other states.

Junior Young and Tony Baxter have found American sponsors, but thousands more are still hoping for their big break. Perhaps you want to sponsor a young Amerasian woman or man. Maybe you can't undertake the responsibilities of sponsorship, but you can make a contribution to enable someone else to be a sponsor.
Information about the I-360 petition requirements can be obtained at any INS office or from an attorney who specializes in immigration law. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the Pearl S. Buck Foundation, which also gladly will help identify potential Amerasian immigrants for interested persons. For more information, contact:

Pearl S. Buck Foundation
P.O. Box 181
Perkasie, Pennsylvania 18944 USA
phone: (215) 249-1516 or (800) 220-BUCK

Another organization involved in the placement of Amerasians is:

Americans for International Aid
435 Wavetree
Roswell, Georgia 30075 USA
phone: (404) 552-0129.

The author may be able to provide the names and addresses of additional Thai-Amerasians who are looking for sponsors. Casual tourists can spot Amerasians easily in the bars and massage parlors in Bangkok and Pattaya, and on the streets in the cities where the American military bases were located, in Bangkok Nakhon Sawan, and throughout Isan -- in Nakhon Ratchasima/Khorat, Ubon Ratchathani, Udon Thani, Sakhon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanom, and other locations.

About 58,000 American soldiers died in the Vietnam War, and many thousands more were injured. Much effort has been expended looking for some 2,000 MIAs and POWs who are not coming home. Their families, and all of us, still feel the losses. But perhaps the hurt can be put to rest by taking care of one of the more than 50,000 sons and daughters some of those soldiers and their comrades left in Korea, Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea/Cambodia, and Thailand.

Efforts continue to pressure Americans to take responsibility for their actions. In March 1993, Joe Cotchett, a San Francisco attorney, filed a class-action suit in the Washington, D.C. Court of Claims against the U.S. Navy. The suit, filed on behalf of Filipino Amerasians, seeks $69 million to help pay educational and medical expenses for the children.

At the November 1993 meeting on Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation in Seattle, Philippine President Fidel Ramos reportedly lobbied President Clinton to revise the 1982 and 1987 U.S. Amerasian immigration laws to include Filipino Amerasians, the "throwaway children of the U.S. 7th Fleet" at the former Subic Bay Navy Base and Clark Air Force Base -- variously estimated to number from 10,000 up to 50,000.

Justice delayed is justice denied. But it’s still not too late to rescue one of these precious lives and demonstrate that the United States is a just and compassionate nation. As the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy said, "Few of us will have the greatness to bend history itself. But each of us can work to change a small portion of events, in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation." Each individual can make a contribution toward accepting responsibility for these children of U.S. citizens. Belated enactment of a law shows good faith on the part of the American Congress, but keeping the faith requires the participation of many caring persons.

--Mark Goniewiecha, University of Guam (The author is an assistant professor of library science at the RFK Memorial Library. He represents Guam on ALA Council and is a SRRT member.)
The American Association for the Advancement of Science Council has accepted for affiliate membership the National Organization for Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals, according to a February 24, 1994, report in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. According to the report, this ends a seven year fight among members to accept this affiliation.

* Mouth, the Voice of Disability Rights, has a snappy looking poster available, showing the Statue of Liberty in a wheelchair. The price is $7.00 for one, with reduced prices for multiples. Order from: Mouth, 61 Brighton Street, Rochester NY 14607. They can also give you subscription information. I have some correspondence between the editor and the library director at San Jose Christian College, who wrote to express concern about what she saw as offensiveness, to thank for knowing about this one.

* The National Library of Poetry has announced that $12,000 in prizes were to be awarded in 1993 to over 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. A new contest has opened as of January 1, 1994. To enter, send one original poem of no more than twenty lines, in any style and on any subject, to: National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-ZP, Owings Mills MD 21117.

* The 1994 commemorative poster for National Women's History Month portrays eleven 20th century women or groups of women: Margaret Bourke-White, Elizabeth Eckford, Kitty O’Neil, Althea Gibson, Martha Graham, Mae Jemison, and Judith Baca, as well as Japanese picture brides, California suffragists, garment workers on strike in 1909, and delegates to the National Women's Conference in Houston in 1977. In addition there is a "Celebrating Black Women's History" poster, depicting Mary McLeod Bethune, Rosa Parks, Marian Anderson, and others, and another entitled "A Salute to Historic Black Women," a full color collage of eighteen notable Black women. The 1994 poster and the "Celebrating..." poster are available for $6.00, plus $3.50 for shipping and handling each. The "A Salute..." poster is available for $9.95, plus $3.50 for shipping and handling. They can be ordered from: National Women's History Project, Dept. P, 7738 Bell Road, Windsor CA 95492; phone: (707) 838-6000.

* Women, Ink. has produced their second catalog, with more than one hundred development-oriented publications of relevance to women. It contains both recent and classic works, an expanded gender analysis section, and new resources on women's concerns in Eastern Europe. Women, Ink. is a project of the International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) and is supported in part by the United Nations Development Fund for Women. For information, write to: Women, Ink., 777 United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017.

* Vol. 1, no. 1 of the Aids World Newsletter was published by the AIDS Prevention Fund in August 1993. It contains both international and local news related to AIDS and AIDS research, and is published by the same folks who publish the Rubber Bros. Comics. For information, contact: The Rubber Bros. Reading Club, P.O. Box 431, Wilbraham MA 01095-0431; phone: (800) 745-1057 or (413) 734-1057 from Western Massachusetts.

This carefully executed, annotated bibliography is designed for public librarians seeking to develop or add to their collections in the field of international security and conflict management. A further emphasis is made on collection development for the benefit of college-educated readers, though not necessarily those with a specialty in this field. A large body of specialists, from librarians to scholars and researchers, was consulted in the compilation of materials for the bibliography.

Books included in the bibliography must have met the following criteria, which the authors hope will ensure that the bibliography remains current and helpful for some time: 1) the book is in print and expected to be in print for some time; 2) the book is of interest to the college-educated lay reader with a serious interest in the subject; 3) the list, as a whole, illustrates the full spectrum of debate, both in selection of topics and selection of titles. These are commendable criteria, although only the first offers any means of concrete selection. Criteria 2 and 3 are subjective and lend themselves to debate.

The bibliography is divided into seven subject categories: arms control, disarmament, and proliferation; causes and nature of international conflict; conflict management, diplomacy, and negotiation; human rights and ethnic and religious conflicts; international law and international order; international organizations and transnationalism; other approaches and overviews; religion and ethics; and ready reference and bibliographies.

The scope of the bibliography is traditional, if not somewhat conservative and "strict constructionist", in its approach to peace, security, and conflict management, a matter not all together surprising, given the work’s sponsor. Well-known scholars such as John Burton, Yohan Galtung, Joseph Nye, and Stephen Krasner are represented, as well as more mainstream writers such as journalist Strobe Talbott. The bibliography ignores non-traditional types of security such as food and health care security, two definite factors contributing to peace and conflict management.

There is also a surprising lack of effort to bring political economy and classic international relations theory into the fold of the bibliography. The decisive role that economic stability, or a lack thereof, contributes to political stability, peace, and conflict management is missing. Writers of various political, historical, and economic viewpoints such as Immanuel Wallerstein, Karl Marx, E.H. Carr, Raymond Aron, Robert Gilpin, Paul Kennedy, Karl Deutsch, and Samuel Huntington do not appear here, and yet their works on capitalism, economics, war, political development, and international relations history would provide a valuable philosophical and historical complement to the cited works. These works are still in print and therefore meet that criterion for inclusion.

The chapter on religion and ethics is a welcome source of philosophical approaches to peace and conflict, although it is weighted toward Western religion (the Catholic Church seems well represented).
international organizations is far too heavily weighted on the United Nations. There are many other types of international organizations that were ignored. For example, missing is the role of multilateral development banks such as the World Bank. At a time when the role of economics in the "new world order" is so clear, this is a serious gap.

Journals and serials are not included in the bibliography, although it seems that this is where public librarians might need more assistance, especially when serials budgets are tight. There are several journals, including *Journal of Democracy and International Organization*, that could be justified in a public library and could certainly be understood by a college-educated lay reader. Their longevity, however, might be drawn more into question than a monograph.

Despite the drawbacks mentioned here, the bibliography would serve as an excellent reference for public librarians, especially those without access to other resources such as academic colleagues or local scholars. Works of other writers such as those mentioned above should also be reviewed in order to provide a more divergent, "bigger picture" of international security and peace.


War is not a pretty subject, and this comic book is not very funny. It focuses on the history of lies, cruelties, and injustices committed by the U.S. military, and how the defense industry and mass media have a vested interest in continuing this disease. As a diatribe against blind patriotism, the book is strong medicine indeed.

If one accepts the provocative metaphor that militarism is an addiction, then the answer that the title promises appears to be the same as for any other addiction. We need a recovery group that will take us through some sort of a twelve-step process out of the vicious cycle of greedy producers and sellers, hustling pain to desperate and impoverished addicts. Andreas gives us his radical historical "screenplay" as our initial eye-opener.

The audience could be any naive citizen who has not already brushed against these horrors, or if so, has not quite understood why. It also serves as a quick refresher course for activists who have forgotten their rage. With its 161 appended references it could also serve a researcher who wishes to delve further into this quagmire.

School and youth libraries might find this book over-stimulating! Public and academic libraries might appreciate this popularization and condensation of leftist political science. Community organizers could use this as a tract for consciousness-raising on the obstacles to waging peace. Even librarians and educators might gain an awareness of the inverse relationship between their funding and military expenditures. Special libraries and collections focusing on war/peace, media and social psychology need this critique.

While not the reasoned, traditional scholarly approach taken, for instance, by Ann Markusen’s and Joel Yudkin’s *Dismantling the Cold War Economy* (Basic Books, 1992), this rallying cry for peace and justice uses the snappiness found in eye-catching brochures and expands it into a sixty page docudrama. Good for getting the juices flowing! But as peacemakers let us remember our responsibility to be peaceful, not wallowing too long in legitimate hatred of warmongering.

—Chip Stewart, City College Library, New York NY

This should clearly be considered a unique book in the burgeoning literature on gays and lesbians in the military. Its uniqueness, however, is not a guarantee that it will someday be considered a seminal work in the field. Author Steven Zeeland, a research associate at the Center for Research and Education in Sexuality (CERES) at San Francisco State University, presents essentially verbatim interviews he conducted with 16 young, gay soldiers in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany during 1990-91. At the time, Zeeland was a civilian employee of the Army in Frankfurt.

Most succinctly, Zeeland has stated that the purpose of the book is to "promote queer GI visibility." More broadly speaking, he attempts to present close-up portrayals of what it is to be young and gay, and a man, in the U.S. Army in the 1990's (lesbian soldiers were purposely left out). Unlike Randy Shilts in Conduct Unbecoming (1993), Zeeland makes no attempt to portray these soldiers within a greater historical context of homosexuals in the military. This is strictly a here and now, "in your face" look at these young men.

Readers might, and probably should, immediately question Zeeland's relationship with his subjects, and this is primarily what contributes to the book's uniqueness. In many cases Zeeland chose his subjects as a result of sexual liaisons with them which in turn led to more contacts with friends or acquaintances of these lovers, lending a casual incestuousness to the whole book. Zeeland rather effectively defends this methodology by stating that it is unlikely he could have engaged these men in such honest interviews unless they knew him and had established at least a basic level of trust with him. Unfortunately, because of this, the author is not detached from his subjects, and the interviews, in many instances, are reduced to banal conversation and private jokes about undisclosed sexual liaisons or practices.

To his credit, Zeeland engages his subjects in questions of coming out, family relationships, and lover relationships, as well as the Army as an institution, and often times in cross-cultural critiques between the U.S. and Germany. (Germans are often considered by these men to be more hospitable, or at least less hostile, towards gays than Americans are.) However, the nature of the interviews and the frequent focus on sexual acts and partners lends a prurient, voyeuristic inquisitiveness to Zeeland's point of view, and by default, to that of the reader. On the other hand, what else do young men talk about besides sex? As Zeeland points out, this would likely be the case in interviews with young straight male soldiers too (a point too often overlooked by heterosexual America). So, it would be unfair to classify this as a soft-core pornographic example of what homosexuals do or how promiscuous they are.

Despite these shortcomings, there is probably no other source currently available that expresses such honest feelings and emotions about being a young gay soldier. Barrack Buddies would well be included in any gay studies collection.

—Christopher Lee Cochran, Academy for Educational Development/USAID, Washington DC


In this controversial book, "outing" pioneer, journalist and gay/AIDS activist Signorile explores outing, homophobia and aspects of lesbian and gay lives in contemporary urban America. Much of the book is intensely personal, serving as a coming-of-age and coming-out narrative.

For Signorile, "outing" means exposing the hidden homosexuality of public figures who either condone or promote homophobia. He focuses his exploration of closeted lives and homophobia on three power centers in three cities: the news media in New York, the political and military establishment in Washington, and the entertainment industry in Hollywood. Signorile's passionate moral, political and social arguments against these "closets of power" often represent insightful social analyses of the painful consequences of homophobia and of remaining closeted.
Unfortunately, Signorile’s exhortations are compromised by his frequent use of pseudonyms to shield the identity of the closeted lesbians and gays whom he interviewed for the book. In addition, the author’s preoccupation with personalities (i.e. columnist Liz Smith, actor Richard Chamberlain) leaves scant room for in-depth, thoughtful analysis of the causes of homophobia and ”the closet.” Finally, Signorile’s credibility can be questioned on a number of fronts, including hiding his own sexual orientation from his parents while parading as a gay activist.

*Queer in America,* ironically, has been a commercial success, largely because of the media hype that Signorile both craves and abhors. Libraries may need to purchase this book due to public demand, but there are others that explore homophobia and contemporary lesbian and gay lives more thoroughly. I recommend *Queer in America* only for comprehensive lesbian and gay collections in public libraries.

—Joseph M. Eagan, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore MD

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The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader is a cross-disciplinary anthology of forty-two critical or scholarly English-language essays originally published between 1974 and 1992. Major disciplines represented include politics, history, literature, and anthropology, as well as cultural, ethnic and African-American studies. In their introduction the editors admit to excluding some outstanding works by contemporary authors due to space considerations. Older scholarly pieces have been omitted deliberately from the collection. Genres such as fiction, poetry, and personal narrative have also been excluded.

This anthology, which was partly intended as a basic undergraduate/graduate textbook or curriculum resource in proliferating lesbian and gay studies courses, draws primarily on the American academic community for its contributions. Most of the essays are thought-provoking, and some are truly ground-breaking in their discipline.

The editors’ bibliographic essay of recent English-language publications in lesbian and gay studies is well arranged by discipline, subject matter, or type of publication, and includes all the major works from 1980 to mid-1992. This bibliography supplements the footnotes and references accompanying most of the essays in the collection.

Unfortunately, the brevity of the editors’ introduction, and the lack of an index detract from the book’s usefulness as a reference source or as a basic text for undergraduates or independent learners. Furthermore, most of the authors’ writing styles, use of vocabulary and presuppositions of background in lesbian and gay studies may limit this collection’s potential readership to a sophisticated elite. *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader* is recommended for academic and metropolitan public library collections.

—Joseph M. Eagan, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore MD


Slide’s analysis of gay and lesbian mystery themes and characters is sure to please many gay mystery buffs and literary academics. Covering more than 500 novels, the author provides an invaluable insight into the historical development of the gay persona in modern mysteries.

The text, arranged alphabetically by author and subject content is meticulous in detail. Author entries contain select biographical sketches, evaluation of relevant works
with critical analysis, and personal comments from several mystery novelists. Subject postings provide cross references to applicable authors. Included within the book are a title and character index. Materials analyzed in the book are from mainstream and gay/lesbian publishers.

Covering a period from the 1800's to present Slide's guidebook provides a fascinating mosaic of the evolution of the gay mystery genre. The author concludes that John Jasper, in Charles Dickens' The Mystery of Edwin Drood (1870) was the first homosexual in a mystery novel. The following 100 years were replete with denigration of gay and lesbian mystery characters. Dialogue expressed about these characters contained derogatory terms such as "faggot", " queer", "poof", "nance" ad infinitum. In many cases the representation of gay men in mysteries was marked by a desire to dress in female clothing. With the publication of Joseph Hansen's Dave Brandstetter mystery series in the 1970's, followed by the development of lesbian and gay presses, more realistic portrayals came to the forefront. Soon afterward, publication of St. Martin's Stonewall Inn editions denoted the initial mainstreaming of gay life into the mystery circuit.

Slide's critical guide is a valuable resource for both gay studies and literary collections. As an avid mystery reader it is one item I wouldn't want to be without.

-Mike Lutes, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN


Kathleen J. Alcalá has written fourteen amazing stories in this collection entitled Mrs. Vargas and the Dead Naturalist, and they share a powerful age old message: the need for the human spirit to be free. The thread that weaves these stories together is the constraint of culture, religion, gender, parenthood, and childhood. Each story tells the tale of an individual battling the expectation to "fit in" and adhere to the norm in a particular circumstance, rather than hear one's own true calling. Of course, not all of the characters can determine their own true calling. Alcalá introduces the reader to a different and somewhat quirky Latino world without a formula-driven happy ending in sight. Instead the reader is treated to short stories that provoke thought and teach in a unique way. These stories are the mystical stuff that science fiction is made of with an interesting ethnic twist.

In her preface, Kathleen Alcalá states that these stories "concern the women who came of age in the United States within a Mexican social structure . . . [and] are about inner landscapes . . . " But her characters transcend their Latino culture in struggles that all ethnic nationalities can relate to. These individuals in otherworldly settings are faced with the pressures of fulfilling expected roles. Alcalá presents the tales of how they cope. Her stories of imprisoned spirits are full of symbolic caged birds, manicured gardens and elegant fountains juxtaposed with wild birds and flowers, or free flowing rivers.

Alcalá weaves the theme of perfect and not-so-perfect in the same characters. An alcoholic piano tuner can find the perfect pitch, but always searches for the next drink. The perfect fireworks display leaves its creator incinerated. The woman who can sing the perfect song of a canary experiences unrequited love. A long suffering mother who thinks heaven to be a perfect and final resting stop finds her life's issues have followed her. A tortured husband longing to roam free like a river struggles to leave the confines of a perfect family business and an unfulfilling marriage. This same man struggles with his true religious identity in a predominantly Catholic community. His past and the present strangle him. Happiness and truth literally come in searching for gold.

Consider this work a great addition to a high school, public, community college or academic library's fiction collection. It provides an unusual set of short stories, blending Latino culture and magical settings. This is a nice twist to the science fiction offerings, appealing to all age groups interested in a new perspective. Not being familiar with any Latina writings, this reader was left wanting to seek out other Latina authors in search of another rich read.

-Deborah R. Hollis, Government Publications Library, University of Colorado at Boulder.
The issue of ethics seems to have invaded almost every topic of study over the past few years, and without a doubt, it has received a significant level of attention from those in the business of retaining, codifying, and disseminating information. The Journal of Information Ethics is representative of an area of interest that seeks to address "ethics in all areas of information or knowledge production and dissemination". This is a pretty big world to cover in one journal, and the editors make no attempt to limit their scope in any way by including, but not limiting their interests to "library and information science, education for these professions, technology, government publication and legislation, graphic display, computer security, database management, disinformation, peer review, privacy, censorship, cyberspace, and information liability approached from sociological, philosophical, theoretical and applied perspectives."

There has been a loud and ongoing discussion for several years about the narrow focus and high cost of many professional journals. The Journal of Information Ethics seems to be attempting to answer these critics by providing a broad definition to the term "information." By doing so, however, they have created a forum in which there is no defined audience. Yes, the Journal of Information Ethics is addressing itself to the university and graduate level student, researcher and professor, but for what purpose?

The topics addressed in the review copy (Vol. 2, No. 1) are interesting and informative, to a point. But it is not clear why they are gathered in this particular collection. They are not all directed at librarians, or programmers, or educators, or MIS professionals. Nor are they all directed at the student of ethics. This lack of clear audience focus makes me wonder whether it would be perhaps more useful to researchers and students of both information and ethics if these same articles were instead published in the professional library science, computing, and MIS journals, or better yet, in a journal of Ethics, rather than Ethics, diluted by the pressure to publish.

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This book consists of eight articles, each by a different author. The focus here is on the experiences of six occupational therapists who worked within their fields in foreign countries (and Alaska). Territories covered range from Finland to Zanzibar. Each therapist answered a set of eight questions put to them by the editor.

In general, these professionals stress that flexibility is essential under the circumstances in which they found themselves, as things are never quite what one expects. Most participants found theirs to be a learning experience for both themselves and members of the cultures involved. Many had new appreciation for America's health care practices and for the status of occupational therapy as a profession in the United States.

Creativity and ingenuity are noted as important qualities, for there often existed a language barrier and lack of proper equipment. Misconceptions regarding American culture are discussed. Indeed, many "life lessons" were learned by the therapists involved, and these were brought back and applied to the therapists' practices in the U.S. The existing contrast between hospital and traditional treatments is noted.

Written in lay language except for a few (necessary) technical terms, this book is a must-read for those planning to work/teach in a therapy or other medical setting in another country. Recommended for medical, academic, and large public libraries with strong career collections.

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Debra L. Bencini, Longwood Public Library, Middle Island NY
Titles Received:


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