

# SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table  
of the American Library Association

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## FROM THE COORDINATOR:

I would like to express the appreciation of all SRRT members for all the work that Sherre Dryden did while she was Coordinator this past year. I hope I will be able to live up to the standards she and other past Coordinators set.

It was a busy and productive conference in San Francisco. The resolutions adopted are noted elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter. I am concerned about the disregard that ALA Council shows toward membership resolutions. This will be a topic for some discussion over the next several meetings.

I am pleased to report that the new Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries has been given probationary status by Action Council. Please contact any member of the International Human Rights Task Force if you are interested in its work. I am also pleased to report that SRRT has a new member. The Oregon Library Association's SRRT was voted affiliate status.

The revisions to the SRRT Constitution proposed by Action Council at San Antonio were adopted by the SRRT membership in San Francisco. For a copy of the new constitution, please contact me.

Action Council will have three slots to fill for the 1993-1996 terms. If you are interested, let me know. I would like to see more than three candidates for these vacancies, so consider being socially responsible and helping the Round Table by running for Action Council.

SRRT members are encouraged to contact me with questions, problems, issues, etc. My

address is: CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge MA 02138. Phone/Voicemail: (617) 495-1408. Fax: (617) 495-8963. E-mail: STILLWEL@KSGBBS.HARVARD.EDU

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.

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## SRRT ELECTION RESULTS

Four new Action Council members were elected in the Spring for three year terms of office which began at the end of the Annual Conference. Incumbent members **Al Kagan** and **Theresa Tobin** were elected for new terms. They will be joined by new members **Dorothy Granger** and **Becky Ray**. In other elections, Action Council elected **Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.** as its new Coordinator, **Debra Gilchrist** as its new Secretary, and **Roland Hansen** as its new Treasurer. All of them took office at the close of the San Francisco meetings.

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## SRRT MEMBERSHIP ON THE RISE

Even accounting for the granting of free membership to library school students, SRRT's membership rose last year by 60 members, or 4.4%. Based on a report by Membership Chair, **Steve Murden**, in addition to a 5.7% increase in personal members, SRRT added 423 student members to its rolls. Welcome to all of these new colleagues! We hope you will get involved in SRRT's activities.

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**SRRT RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

On Loyalty Oaths:

WHEREAS a democracy must preserve freedom of thought and expression if it is to survive; and

WHEREAS librarians have a special responsibility to provide information on all sides of controversial issues, but cannot do so if intellectual conformity becomes a factor affecting their employment or tenure; and

WHEREAS loyalty tests can easily lead to the violation of the constitutional rights of library employees by allowing inquiries into their personal affiliations and beliefs; and

WHEREAS requiring library employees to sign loyalty oaths contributes to an atmosphere of suspicion and fear and places constraints on intellectual freedom by implying that it is hazardous for library employees to hold or express views other than those condoned by the employer; and

WHEREAS loyalty tests and oaths are requirements for librarians in many library systems, thus effectively compelling many potential employees to sign meaningless and ineffective affirmations of allegiance in order to gain employment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association, strongly protest conditions of employment predicated on inquiries into library employees' thoughts, reading matter, associates, or membership in organizations. We also strongly protest compulsory affirmations of allegiance as a condition of employment in libraries. We call on libraries not to impose loyalty tests or oaths as conditions of employment.

(NB: Adopted by ALA Membership; ALA Council substituted an alternative resolution from the Intellectual Freedom Committee.)

On Wilson Library Bulletin:

WHEREAS Will Manley was last week summarily dismissed as a Wilson Library Bulletin

contributor because his June 1992 column, which included a "Librarians and Sex" questionnaire, displeased the H.W. Wilson Company President; and

WHEREAS the H.W. Wilson Company President has ordered that all remaining copies of the June 1992 issue be discarded; and

WHEREAS Mary Jo Godwin, WLB Editor, has resigned in protest;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association censure the H.W. Wilson Company for this flagrant act of censorship; commend Mary Jo Godwin for her personal integrity and outstanding commitment to intellectual freedom; urge the immediate reinstatement of Manley and Godwin, together with public apologies by the Wilson Company to both persons; encourage all libraries and individuals to immediately cancel the WLB subscriptions and ask all other WLB contributors to boycott the magazine unless and until Manley and Godwin are reinstated with apologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the H.W. Wilson Company and the library press.

(NB: This resolution was passed with a slight revision by ALA Membership by a considerable margin, however its impact was diluted by ALA Council.)

On Israeli Censorship:

WHEREAS ALA in its Policy #57.3 states that "threats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all; therefore ALA adopts as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations General Assembly. The association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern;" and

WHEREAS ALA has over many years voiced its criticism of various countries for practicing censorship and other endangerments to intellectual freedom, in

the hope that these countries would stop these practices in response to international concern; and

WHEREAS ALA reaffirmed its commitment to Article 19 in 1991 by quoting it in Policy #57.4: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers;" and

WHEREAS the Article 19 International Center on Censorship's 1991 World Report on Information, Freedom and Censorship (co-published by ALA) documents the following forms of censorship by the Israeli government in the Occupied Territories of the West Bank and Gaza: banning publications and books; harassing, imprisoning, and deporting journalists; closing universities, research institutions (and libraries); censoring telecommunications, etc.; and

WHEREAS Israel considers itself to be a democracy established with the express purpose of creating a safe haven for the Jewish people; and

WHEREAS Israel has enjoyed a special relationship with the United States as the recipient of the largest amounts of annual U.S. aid per capita; and

WHEREAS the special relationship and annual aid helps offset the costs of the 25-year Israeli military occupation, making the U.S. a party to these censorship practices and other violations of human rights; and

WHEREAS the tight censorship in the Occupied Territories serves to stifle dialogue and nonviolent expression which are preconditions for a just and peaceful solution to the Palestine/Israel conflict, and has led to serious forms of censorship in Israel itself;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association calls upon the Government of Israel to end all censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank, Gaza, and in Israel itself; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association encourages representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian peoples in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict, including an end to the prolonged military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association encourages its members to develop ways to support Palestinian and Israeli librarians, journalists, educators, and others working for peace, human rights, and freedom of information and expression, and that ALA establish a Task Force toward these ends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Israeli Government, the U.S. Department of State, the United Nations, the Article 19 Organization, the International Federation of Library Associations, and the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

(NB: Passed by ALA Membership, amended at ALA Council.)

#### On Universal Health Care:

WHEREAS the 50,000-member American Library Association in 1990 adopted a "Library Services for the Poor" policy which enjoins ALA and the library profession to promote "implementation of...national health insurance" as a means of reducing poverty; and

WHEREAS Rep. Marty Russo and Sen. Paul Wellstone have introduced legislation to establish a system of single-payer, Canadian-style national health insurance which has already been supported by the American Public Health Association, the Children's Defense Fund, the Consumer Federation of America, Consumers' Union, the National Association of Social Workers, the National Council of Senior Citizens, Physicians for a National Health Program, and many unions, including the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association endorse H.R.1300 and S.2320, the Universal Health Care Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Rep. Russo, Sen. Wellstone, and the library press.

(NB: Passed by ALA membership and Council.)

On the Seville Statement:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association add its name to the list of endorsing organizations and encourage ALA to do likewise.

On Omar al-Safi:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association protest the deportation of Omar al-Safi from his homeland. Al-Safi, a librarian at Bir Zeit University in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, is being subjected to an "administrative deportation," under which the Israeli military authorities are not required to present any evidence or afford the accused the right to a trial. We note that such deportations are strictly prohibited by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 by a foreign occupier. We call on the Israeli Supreme Court and the Israeli Attorney-General to stop or reverse all deportation proceedings against our colleague, and either release him from "administrative detention" or afford him the right to a formal trial with the public presentation of any evidence against him.

(NB: Passed by ALA Membership and ALA Council.)

On Gay & Lesbian Rights:

WHEREAS the voters in Springfield, Oregon, on May 19, 1992 passed a city charter amendment prohibiting the use of public funds or property for promoting, encouraging, or facilitating homosexuality; and

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WHEREAS this law and laws like it may be used to remove gay and lesbian materials from publicly-supported libraries and to prevent the acquisition of neutral or positive library materials about homosexuality; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Citizens Alliance has succeeded in placing on the Oregon statewide ballot in November 1992, an initiative which would amend the state constitution to prohibit the use of public funds or property to promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality, and which would institutionalize anti-gay discrimination in local and state government throughout Oregon; and

WHEREAS the American Library Association in its Library Bill of Rights and its Freedom to Read Statement strongly opposes all efforts at censorship in libraries, and promotes diversity in library collections, and the inclusion of materials representing the viewpoints of all segments of the community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association condemns any attempt to censor or exclude any viewpoint on homosexuality from libraries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association urges the Oregon Library Association and all librarians to publicly and energetically oppose the implementation of censorship in Springfield, Oregon, the passage of the anti-gay state initiative in Oregon, and any other similar initiatives in other local or state jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Springfield, Oregon, City Council and Mayor, Public Library, and Chamber of Commerce; the Oregon Library Association; the Oregon State Library; OUTPAC (the statewide anti-initiative political action committee); the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the library press; and the major national gay and lesbian press.

(NB: Adopted by ALA membership and Council.)

## TASK FORCE REPORTS

### Alternatives in Print

The "Food for Thought Buffet," held Friday evening in San Francisco was attended by about 400 people. This informal gathering and exhibit by alternative and small press publishers gave librarians an opportunity to meet and chat with the almost fifty publishers who attended. **Jackie Zubanks, Dan Hodge, Nancy Gruber** and other AIP members made the event work, and AIP is considering making this an annual event.

### Civil Rights

Work continues on the "Civil Rights Action Kit for Librarians," a major project of the Task Force in the recent past. It is hoped that the kit will be completed before Midwinter and be submitted to OLOS for advice on production and distribution. **William Welburn**, Diversity Librarian at the University of Iowa, has been extremely helpful in moving this project forward. At Midwinter, the Task Force will be discussing future initiatives.

### Coretta Scott King Award

A family-like atmosphere with an air of anticipation marked the opening of the 23rd Annual Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast, which was attended by more than 600 persons, including authors, illustrators, past winners, publishers, and many newcomers, as well as friends who can still remember the first Breakfast!

Twenty-five children - guests of sponsors from the book world, the media world, and individuals who believe in the importance of this event - received a selection of award winning books, donated by the publishers. Included for each was a copy of Tar Beach, **Faith Ringgold's** winning title. The award winners, Ringgold and **Walter Dean Myers**, autographed copies of their books for the children in the time available. Myers, winner for the text of Now is Your Time (HarperCollins), spoke of his hope for and belief in today's youth, many of whom are succeeding in spite of a chaotic world. He offered them his book as a supportive,

informative, and readable history of the African-American heritage in which they can take pride and encouraged them to use its positive images to serve as springboards for their own futures.

Ringgold, recognized for her illustrations in Tar Beach (Crown), spoke about her background, her art technique, and the excitement she felt about her first venture into the world of children's books. Each award recipient received an honorarium, donated by Johnson Publishing Co., and a set of encyclopaedia - one from Encyclopaedia Britannica and the other from World Book.

Task Force Chair **Henrietta M. Smith** and **Matty Nelson**, ALA/SRRT Office, coordinated the Breakfast, with the help of other task force members. The Jury included **Barbara Jones Clark**, Chair, **Carolyn Garnes, Florenz Maxwell, Ethel Ambrose, K.T. Horning, Lorelle Henry**, and **Henrietta M. Smith**.

The Task Force has undertaken a project to recognize the work of a beginning author and/or illustrator. More will be reported on this in the future.

### Environment

The Task Force held two programs in San Francisco, and combined attendance exceeded 200 people. A bibliography, "Environmental Racism," was distributed at the programs as well as at the SRRT table in the exhibit area. Work continues with ALA Conference planning staff to distribute a suggested list of environmentally conscious actions which vendors should take in managing their exhibits. The Task Force is working with ALA Books on an annotated bibliography on the environment, and individual members are involved with other publishing projects as a result of their Task Force involvement.

### Gay and Lesbian

Several new appointments have been made. **Joseph Eagan** was reappointed Secretary/Treasurer; **Edmund SantaVicca** was appointed Clearinghouse Coordinator; and **Bonita Corliss** was appointed Feminist Task Force Liaison. **David Streeter** has agreed to accept the position of Assistant Editor of

the newsletter, and will be appointed editor in July 1993, at the conclusion of Kathy Anderson's term. Karl Fattig will begin editing the book review section of the newsletter. Karen Whittlesey-First was officially appointed Female Co-Chair, even though she has actually been working in that capacity since Midwinter.

A new publication for distribution via the Clearinghouse was approved by the Steering Committee. Religion and Spirituality: a Checklist for Lesbians and Gay Men, by Don Bell, is organized by general subject areas, and along with bibliographic information, includes a list of religious organizations. It should be available by September.

Karl Fattig and Elizabeth Brackeen volunteered to begin the revision of the Directory of Gay and Lesbian Library Workers for a 1993 edition. Robert McCabe is beginning to revise the list of libraries, archives, and special collections. Many items still need to be revised and/or rewritten. Anyone interested in working on a Clearinghouse project, or anyone wanting an order form for materials should contact the American Library Association, Office for Library Outreach Services, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

The Gay and Lesbian Book Awards, announced in the June 1992 SRRT Newsletter, were presented to Paul Monette for Halfway Home (Crown, 1991) and Lillian Faderman for Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers (Columbia University Press, 1991). Monette accepted his award in person and read from his new book Becoming a Man. Dimi Berkner accepted the award for Faderman and read some comments from her. Approximately 250 people attended the presentation. Future plans of the Gay and Lesbian Book Award Committee include developing an Exceptional Achievement Award, identifying outside funding for the awards, and re-evaluating the structure of the presentation itself.

Thanks are due to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California for hosting a Friday night reception and tour. The Historical Society displayed many of the paperback novels of the 1950's and 1960's from their collection, to the great amusement of all. Bill Walker was responsible for the display. Bill Stanton

and Jim Van Buskirk were responsible for the Saturday night social at the Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Branch of the San Francisco Public Library. Thanks are due to them and the staff. Jeff Escoffier of Out/Look Magazine and Sasha Alyson of Alyson Publications presented the OutWrite/Vanguard Award to Carla Mari Trujillo, editor of Chicana Lesbians: the Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About (Third Woman Press, 1991).

The GLTF relies on volunteers to work on many projects and activities. If you would like to get involved, please contact either of the Co-Chairs: Karen Whittlesey-First, Harvard Law School Library, 434W Langdell Hall, Cambridge, MA 02138 or Roland Hansen, School of the Art Institute, Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60603.

#### Peace Information Exchange

About forty people attended the Task Force program this year in San Francisco, where Michael Closson of the Center for Economic Conversion spoke. The 3rd Peace Award was presented to Steve Atkins at the beginning of the program. A jury is needed to review nominees for next year's Peace Award. To serve on the panel, get in touch with the Task Force Chair, Stephen Stillwell, CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; telephone: (617)495-1408.

The Task Force Chair was elected Coordinator of Action Council, and is seeking a volunteer to share the management of the Task Force. People willing to serve as Co-Chair should get in touch with him at the above address.

Rebecca Malek-Wiley will serve as local arrangements coordinator for New Orleans. Tentative plans were made for a program on the future of Central America.

SRRT members and friends are encouraged to write letters protesting the abolishment of the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security. Send them to Brian White, M.P., Room 213 West Block, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6. Bill Delzell, a regular Task Force attendee, is encouraging support of H.R. 5060, the Military Conscientious Objectors Act of 1992, sponsored by Ron Dellums.

## Refugees, Migrants, and the Homeless

At a start up meeting in San Francisco, plans were made to begin to network with other ALA groups and to plan events and meetings for upcoming meetings in New Orleans and Miami. The Co-Chairs, **Julie Hersberger** and **Sherrill Weaver-Wozniak**, prepared testimony which was presented at an open hearing before the Task Force on Preparation of Guidelines Regarding Patron Behavior and Library Usage. Their testimony particularly commented on the language used which links homelessness with problem patron behavior, asking that that language be deleted.

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## **ALA GOES ON RECORD AGAINST ISRAELI CENSORSHIP**

After a two and a half year struggle, the efforts of SRRT's International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF) have finally succeeded in putting ALA officially on record against Israeli censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied Territories and in Israel itself. ALA membership and ALA Council each passed two resolutions by large majorities, one on the deportation of Omar Al-Safi, and the main resolution, a protest against Israel's stringent censorship policies (the text of both resolutions appears elsewhere in this newsletter).

Regular readers of this newsletter have some familiarity with events which led up to the San Francisco meeting. A report summarizing these events appeared in the March 1992 SRRT Newsletter, as did the text of the draft resolution passed by Action Council at Midwinter 1992. Considerable pressure had been applied by those inside and outside ALA, both on the IHRTF, the originator of the resolution, and personally on its Chair, particularly during and after last year's ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta.

After receiving endorsement in spirit of the revised resolution at Midwinter, intensive negotiations within the IHRTF finally produced a resolution for San Francisco which was believed could win broad support, while retaining mention of the twenty-five year occupation. There also seemed to be a growing groundswell of support for such a

resolution in reaction to the ALA leadership's efforts the previous year to avoid criticizing Israel. Action Council easily adopted the revised resolution - as well as the Omar Al-Safi resolution - and closed ranks behind its presentation to the ALA membership.

The Israeli Consulate and Anti-Defamation League again refused to debate the issues at the IHRTF program meeting (they had also refused to do so in Atlanta in 1991), and the Consulate pressured ALA to cancel the program. Leah Stiff, Consulate Public Information Officer, wrote an angry letter to Library Journal accusing **David Williams** of "selective indignation" in singling out Israel, while Haifa University Library Director Shmuel Sever wrote to Wilson Library Bulletin, calling the IHRTF Chair "at best anti-semitic."

The IHRTF panel on "Intellectual Freedom Violations Arising Out of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict" was addressed by **Michal Schwartz**, an Israeli newspaper editor and peace activist who was imprisoned in 1988-89 along with her co-editors on treason charges after their bi-weekly Hebrew-Arabic publication was banned by the Israeli government; **Dr. Ghazi Falah**, an internationally-renowned Palestinian geographer whose borrowing privileges at Haifa University Library were revoked as a consequence of an academic witch hunt against him in the Israeli geography profession; and **Khader Hamide**, the remaining defendant in the case of the "Los Angeles Eight" legal resident aliens, whose deportation has been sought by the U.S. government for distributing the "subversive" journal Democratic Palestine. While the defenders of the Israeli government refused to join the panel, its defenders in the audience made a concerted effort to disrupt the program during Schwartz's presentation. The meeting was further disrupted by a false fire alarm in the hotel.

Further personal attacks were made on the IHRTF Chair following his presentation of the Omar Al-Safi resolution at the first ALA membership meeting on June 29, including another letter by Sever labelling him as a "PLO professional." Other SRRT members rose to Williams' defense, and the resolution was passed by a large majority.

IHRTF member **Al Kagan** presented the main resolution on Israeli censorship at the second membership meeting on July 1, and in very reasoned tones spoke to its issues. Sever once again participated and tried to justify Israeli censorship by referring to its permanent state of war with the Arab countries. A highly dramatic moment in the debate came when Schwartz, not an ALA member, asked to address the meeting. She made an impassioned plea for the membership to pass the resolution and put pressure on her government to end these censorship practices. Incoming SRRT Action Council Coordinator, **Stephen Stillwell**, spoke in support of the resolution, as did SRRT members **David Williams**, **Elaine Harger**, **Mark Rosenzweig**, and others. The resolution passed by a wide majority.

When the resolution was presented to Council, it was hard to be optimistic given that body's stance a year ago. The Omar Al-Safi resolution passed easily, however, and when the main resolution was considered, councillor after councillor rose to speak in its support. The resolution was passed without significant dissent.

What happened to change things? A number of possible factors have to be considered. First, for two and a half years the IHRTF distributed information and background material on these issues, leaving little doubt about the fact of Israeli censorship policies. The Task Force sponsored programs challenging the Israeli government defenders to public debate and provoking controversy within ALA. Attempts by ALA leadership to exempt Israel from any criticism actually seems to have worked against them, generating concern among many members who may not have otherwise felt strongly about the issue. The Bush administration's face-off with the Shamir government over the loan guarantees may also have removed some of the taboos against criticizing our "democratic ally." The presence of an articulate Israeli journalist who had been victimized by her government certainly helped sway some. Finally, the unity of SRRT and the participation of a variety of SRRT members in speaking to the resolution went a long way toward generating the needed support.

Much remains to be done in developing practical ways to work with peace forces in

Israel and the Occupied Territories against censorship and to help Palestinian institutions under occupation. It is expected that Action Council will approve full status for a new Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries, which gained probationary status in San Francisco, to carry on this work on a long term basis. We will go back to the International Relations Committee to seek their implementation of those aspects of the resolution with which they have been charged, but, whatever the future brings, SRRT can be proud of having stood firm on a very difficult issue and of having finally convinced the Association to do the right thing in spite of entrenched opposition at all levels.

--David Williams, IHRTF Chair

#### AIP DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVE PRESS LIST

In these times of lean library budgets, it is more important than ever that titles from alternative publishers be present in library collections. To help support these presses, the Alternatives in Print Task Force is developing an annotated list of significant alternative presses. The project's purpose is to recognize those small presses that have had a substantive history of publishing alternative materials. Alternative press is defined for this project as a publisher of literary or politically left material. Only publishers of significant print material are being included.

Input was requested from all AIP Task Force members. Each was asked to identify up to ten significant alternative publishers. The responses loosely represent the combined collective knowledge of approximately sixteen knowledgeable librarians interested in alternative presses.

The end result will be a directory of approximately one hundred publishers complete with an extended description and address information. The core list of presses is not meant to be exhaustive, but will serve a variety of purposes, for example, finding elusive information on addresses or on publishers in specific subject areas. The directory is meant to be an acquisitions tool for either library or

personal use. The books published by these presses should be considered for purchase based on the press's reputation (as recognized by a group of librarians who have a vested interest in this type of material).

The directory is approximately one year from completion. When completed the directory will be distributed free of charge. Information will be forthcoming in the SRRT Newsletter and elsewhere. For further information on the project, contact **Byron Anderson**, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115, or, via BITnet: C60BPA1@NIU.

#### WHEN SEX IS THE QUESTION

"The World Has Sex 100 Million Times Daily," read the front page headline in a recent issue of the San Francisco Chronicle, citing a World Health Organization (WHO) international study of reproductive health. Librarian-sexologist **Martha Cornog**, of the American College of Physicians, used this story as an example of the great public interest in sex and sexuality in her presentation to the thirty-five participants at the SRRT Gay and Lesbian Task Force (GLTF) pre-conference meeting, "When Sex Is the Question: Who Asks, Who Answers?" before the ALA Annual Conference in San Francisco.

**Terry Allison**, librarian at California State University-San Marcos, served as moderator of the panel discussion. The keynote speaker, **Dr. Estelle Freedman**, a history professor at Stanford University, outlined the history of sexuality briefly, stating that questions concerning sexuality have been strongly linked to gender and racial issues.

Cornog, author of many articles and editor of Libraries, Erotica and Pornography (Oryx, 1991), asserting that librarians need help in answering sex questions, chronicled libraries' and librarians' treatment of sex education materials, from the "guardians of the best of civilization" to freedom-to-read ideology.

Doctoral student **Christine Jenkins**, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, called her presentation, "Looking for the Good Parts: Sexuality Information in Young Adult

Novels." According to Jenkins, love and sex are not usually presented explicitly in YA novels, but are romanticized. Not many details are provided most of the time, so kids get frustrated and are still looking for "the good parts."

Owner and publisher of Spinsters and Aunt Lute book companies, **Sherry Thomas**, said she has noticed more overt homophobia on the exhibits floor at recent ALA conferences, because conferees represent only their personal views, not the policies of their institutions. In contrast, she believes she feels less homophobia at American Booksellers Association conferences, due to the marketability of gay and lesbian books.

Questions and comments from members of the audience elicited reactions from and interaction among the panelists and registrants. Specific local materials challenges were cited and policies and practices of libraries were discussed.

--adapted from a report prepared by **Mark C. Goniwlecha**, University of Guam, for Cognotes, which was distributed at the ALA Conference in San Francisco

#### BOOK REVIEW EDITOR APPOINTED

**Steven R. Harris** has been appointed Book Review Editor of the SRRT Newsletter. Steven, a recent graduate of the University of Arizona Library School, joined the staff of the Humanities Reference Library at Texas A&M University in June of this year. He also has a master's degree in English from the University of Utah. Steven will be establishing relations with new publishers in order to try to broaden the scope of materials reviewed in the newsletter, particularly from alternative presses.

By the way, even with the positive response from a number of people after the last call, the newsletter is still in need of additional reviewers, especially for feminist materials. If you are interested, please get in touch with either the Editor, Tom Wilding (see last page), or Steven Harris, Reference Department, Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-5000; telephone: (409)845-5741 - office/(409)774-7499 - home.

#### GLTF TO LEND NAME TO NEW PUBLICATION

Action Council approved the use of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force name in conjunction with Gay and Lesbian Literature, a forthcoming publication by Gale Research Inc.

#### INTERESTED IN WOMEN'S STUDIES?

A doctoral student in library studies is doing dissertation research on the information access problems experienced by academic scholars in women's studies, e.g. misleading subject headings, shallow collections, and minimal electronic information tools. While numerous articles and books on certain aspects of the topic are available, it is very hard to find material produced by the scholars themselves in which they discuss these problems. If you have any suggestions or materials of any kind to discuss regarding any aspect of this topic, please contact: Lynn Westbrook, 2877 Bellwood, Ann Arbor, MI 48104; telephone: (303)973-0139 - home/(313) 764-4481 - office; email: BitNET - usergd1d@umichum.bitnet or Internet: lynn\_westbrook@um.cc.umich.edu.

An extensive bibliography and reading log are available to anyone interested.

#### UNA-USA FILM-VIDEO LIBRARY PROJECT

The East Bay Chapter (Berkeley-Oakland, CA) of the United Nations Association has compiled a forty film-video syllabus guide to selected United Nations documentaries that explore functional pathways to peace through the UN system. The guide includes thoughtful reviews of films and videos related to various UN peace building efforts, questions for public discussion, and bibliographies for further study. The films and videos accompanied by the guide are intended for broad public use and could be easily incorporated into programming for libraries. Film/video rental information is available in the packet. A grant from the U.S. Institute for Peace has made it possible to distribute a limited number of free copies of the guide. If you would like a copy for your library or community organization, please write to: Beth Sibley,

Government Documents Dept., 350 Main Library, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720; telephone: (510)643-9346.

#### INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES CLEARINGHOUSE FORMING

The Committee on International Exchanges of ALA's International Relations Committee and International Relations Round Table is establishing a database of U.S. and international libraries and librarians interested in study visits and exchanges. In the first years, the Committee is focussing on visits and exchanges from the states of East and Central Europe and of the former Soviet Union. Libraries interested in hosting exchanges should request an input form from the committee's chair, Opritsa Popa, University of California, Davis, CA 95616 (please enclose an SASE). Librarians interested in exchanging should send an abbreviated resume and a short statement of interest and professional expertise to the same address.

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S IN-BOX

\* Chinese, French, German, English, Irish, Portuguese, Norwegian, Icelandic, Russian, Iraqi, African, Indian, Micmac, Zuni, Japanese, Filipino, Vietnamese, and Appalachian versions of the Cinderella tale have been issued in a single volume as the first of The Oryx Multicultural Folktale Series. Contact Oryx Press, 4041 N Central, Phoenix AZ 85012.

\* Against the Current is a bi-monthly magazine focussing on the movements for social and political change. The address is 7012 Michigan Ave., Detroit MI 48210.

\* The New Internationalist exists to report on the issues of world poverty and inequality and to focus attention on the unjust relationship between the powerful and the powerless. Its December 1991 issue featured - "Hidden History: Columbus & the Colonial Legacy." The address is 1011 Bloor St. W. #300, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M6H 1M1.

\* The Southern Oral History Program and the Southern Historical Collection announce the

publication of Women's Voices in the Southern Oral History Program Collection, edited by Kathryn L. Nasstrom. The guide to the collection contains abstracts of over 300 oral history interviews with southern women, grouped together topically, with an introduction describing each series. It is priced at \$17.00 and can be ordered from the Southern Oral History Program; CB# 3195, Hamilton Hall, UNC-Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill NC 27599-3195; telephone: (919)962-8076.

\* SRRT member Vincent Jennings sends word of Ballot Access News, which covers ballot access lawsuits and court decisions and is very helpful in keeping track of how "other" candidates are coping with the tangle of state ballot access obstacles. It is available from the Coalition for Free and Open Elections (COFOE), 3201 Baker St., San Francisco CA 94123, for \$7.00 for 13 issues per year (\$9.00 for first class mailing). COFOE also endorses PR, a new national organization, Citizens for Proportional Representation, which had its founding convention in Cincinnati this past June. Dues are \$30.00 (\$15.00 for those on low incomes) and can be reached through P.O. Box 11166, Alexandria VA 22312.

\* Buzzworm, the Environmental Journal, an independent magazine reporting on national and international environmental issues, is directed at the general reader. It was the first consumer magazine in the United States to print entirely on recycled coated paper, and is the winner of a number of awards. The subscription rate in the United States is \$21.00 per year, and information is available at (800)825-0061.

\* The Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP) publishes the Middle East Report, a bi-monthly publication in its twenty-second year (\$25.00 per year for individuals; \$45.00 for libraries and institutions). MERIP also publishes other educational materials as well, including a special series of pamphlets on human rights. The address is Suite 119, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington DC 20005; telephone: (202)223-3677.

\* The Directory of Intentional Communities is available from Sandhill Farm, Route 1, Box 155, Rutledge MO 63563, for \$16.00 (plus \$2.00 postage and handling). A

product of two years research, it lists 350 communities' names, addresses, and phone numbers and includes their descriptions. It also include articles on a variety of topics, including finding your own community, personal growth, land trusts, and community economics.

\* CovertAction Information Bulletin, a quarterly published since 1978, devotes itself to research and documentation about the activities of the U.S. intelligence operation at home and abroad. Much, though not all, of the magazine's focus is on the Central Intelligence Agency. It is available by subscription (\$19.00 per year in the U.S.), and back issues are available, from CovertAction, 1500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., #732, Washington DC 20005.

\* APT for Libraries: Alternative Press Titles for the General Reader (ISSN 1062-0664) is a new annual bibliography culled from books and periodicals displayed at CRISES Alternative Press Exhibits at the two ALA conferences each year. It is intended as a selection tool for small press monographs and serials in the social and environmental sciences for college and public libraries. It is available at \$12.00 per year from CRISES Press, Inc., 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville FL 32608; telephone: (904)335-2200.

\* The ALA Washington Office has issued "Less Access to Less Information By and About the U.S. Government: XVIII, a 1992 Chronology: January - June." Semi-annual updates of this publication have been compiled in two indexed volumes covering the periods April 1981-December 1987 and January 1988-December 1991. Updates are available for \$1.00; the 1981-87 volume is \$7.00; the 1988-91 volume is \$10.00. For information, contact the ALA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Ave., N.E., Washington DC 20002-5675; telephone: (202)547-4440.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am responding to the reviews of my bibliographies Rape: a Bibliography and Eating Disorders: Feminist, Historical, Cultural, Psychological Aspects: a Bibliography, which appeared in the March 1992 issue of this newsletter. These are

two bibliographies in our series Contemporary Social Issues: a Bibliographic Series.

The main purpose of our bibliographic series is to provide very current information, in an inexpensive format, on current topics of social concern. The bibliographies present a variety of viewpoints on the topic; however, we particularly search out alternative, radical, small press and feminist materials to be included out of a concern about the lack of access to these materials in libraries today. We understood this to be a concern of SRRT also.

In the review of our title Rape: a Bibliography, the reviewer states that only minor amounts of alternative and feminist materials are included and that most of the journals included are covered in places such as Academic Index. The literature search included The Left Index, Alternative Press Index, Women's Studies Abstracts, The Small Press Record of Books in Print, Feminist Periodicals, Feminist Collections, New Books on Women and Feminism, the examination of feminist books on the topic, bibliographies, and journals about women and women's issues. We include as much alternative, feminist and small press material as we can find.

The reviewer states that including the contents of books (analytics) is an attempt to inflate the citation count. Including the contents of books is one of the most unique and useful features of the bibliographies. We are providing access to materials within books (including small press, alternative and feminist books) not readily available elsewhere. For example, including an article about marital rape which appears in a book about the general topic of family violence is useful (Rape, p. 17).

In the review of our title Eating Disorders: Feminist, Historical, Cultural, Psychological Aspects: A Bibliography, the reviewer says that she could not locate many of the materials in the local medical school library. The materials included are not medical, scientific or technical, but are concerned with eating disorders as a social, feminist, psychological issue. The reviewer suggests an online search would be more helpful and efficient. What about the

cultural, feminist aspects of eating disorders. Very little of that material would be found in an online search.

Both reviewers recommend an online search as being more useful than the bibliographies, but in fact the bibliographies contain much more alternative materials than online databases do. I find the conclusions made by the SRRT reviewers, librarians concerned with improving access to alternative materials, remarkable.

--Joan Nordquist, Reference and Research Services, The Left Index

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

DANGEROUS MEMORIES: INVASION AND RESISTANCE SINCE 1492. Chicago: Chicago Religious Task Force on Central America, 1991. 272 p. (ISBN: 0-9631026-0-5) \$17.00 (plus \$2.50 postage and handling) pbk. Publisher's address: 59 E. Van Buren, Suite 1400, Chicago IL 60605.

Dangerous Memories is an intriguing book, a source "for reading primary documents, comments on history, and historical summaries related to the colonization and conquering of the Americas." It brings together a very broad range of usually hard to find information. Organized by themes of invasion, resistance, and culture, the book covers European culture, Native Americans, Columbus, slavery, revolts by oppressed peoples, revolutions, and civil rights. It provides an historical background for such events as the Mayan conquest, Sandino's assassination, and the occupation of Wounded Knee.

Unfortunately, the format makes it awkward for traditional library use. Dangerous Memories works best for study, either individual or more formal, and the chapter on teaching strategies is wonderful. But the thematic organization and lack of an index make it cumbersome to extract information quickly.

This is a book of diverse voices and commentaries. It challenges mainstream thinking and provides much-needed perspective. Librarians who want to stock

up on alternative sources for the upcoming quincentennial should consider this work.

--**Bleue J. Benton**, Hillside Public Library, Hillside IL

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**SEXUALITY AND EROTICISM AMONG MALES IN MOSLEM SOCIETIES**. Edited by Arno Schmitt and Jehoeda Sofer. New York: Harrington Park Press, 1992. (ISBN: 1-56024-047-4) \$19.95 hbk. (ISBN: 0-918393-91-4) \$12.95 pbk. Publisher's address: 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, N.Y. 13904.

Unlike many of Haworth's other titles, this is an original work and has not been published as a special issue of one of their many journals. As a gay male with an undergraduate major in Middle Eastern studies, this book's title intrigued me, and I looked forward to reading it. It did not live up to my expectations.

The book attempts to be all things to all people: an academic work, a collection of life vignettes, and a sexually explicit portrait of the area. It might have succeeded as any one of the three but the mixture of approaches, often within chapters, does not work well. I could have enjoyed the book more and could recommend it more enthusiastically had any one of the three styles been chosen.

The core of the Islamic community is covered from Morocco to Uzbekistan. Arab, Persian, Turkish, and Jewish cultures are discussed in the various chapters.

There is a major gap in the book with the failure to include the xanith. This group of men living primarily in Oman are similar to the berdache among the Native Americans. The position of this group within its local society might be a key to the understanding of all forms of human sexuality on the Arabian Peninsula and maybe within the larger Islamic world.

I will recommend this book even with its limitations and omissions. It is the first book on the subject and as such is a landmark. By the way, the book is listed in **BIP as HOMOSEXUALITY AND EROTICISM...**

--**Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.**, Harvard University, Cambridge MA

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**RADIOACTIVE HEAVEN AND EARTH: THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING IN, ON, AND ABOVE THE EARTH, A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PHYSICIANS FOR THE PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR AND THE INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH**. New York: Apex Press, 1991. 208p (ISBN: 0-945257-34-1) \$15.00 (pbk.) Publisher's address: Suite 9A, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.

For the past forty years, our national leaders have insisted that "Mutually Assured Destruction" (in Cold War parlance) has made the world safer and more politically stable. This MAD stability, the argument goes, is worth almost any cost. The International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) set out to calculate what the cost of nuclear weapons testing might be in terms of human and environmental health.

This book presents an inventory of weapons testing methods and safety procedures used by the world's nuclear countries, which have detonated over 1900 nuclear devices since the "Trinity" test in 1945.

One of the problems revealed here is the tremendous lack of public information. Because the responsibility for safety has typically been assigned to the same bodies charged with developing the weapons themselves, a sort of conflict of interest develops. Public safety becomes supplanted by public relations. Ironically, the IPPNW must rely on these same conflicted agencies for most of the data they examine, which makes any epidemiology of nuclear testing questionable.

But the IPPNW does reveal that governments, in their rush to produce weapons, have exhibited an often willful disregard for public health. For example, the Nevada Test Site (NTS) now used for all U.S. tests was chosen primarily to save the cost of buying private land and secondarily because it was close to the development facility at Alamogordo.

During the era of above ground tests, use of the NTS cast a shadow of fallout across the entire continent. In some "rainout" situations (a development the government considered harmless) cities as far away as Albany, NY became hotspots of radiation.

The IPPNW presents this book as a remedy to public ignorance, hoping that informed people will reject the necessity for nuclear weapons testing, much less a nuclear war.

Yet, despite the fact that nuclear processes and terminologies are carefully explained, it is doubtful that a wide audience will be willing to wade through the rather dry committee prose of this volume. A more compelling history of our nuclear legacy will have to wait for other hands.

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

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CONFRONTING COLUMBUS: AN ANTHOLOGY. Edited by John Yewell, Chris Dodge, and Jan DeSirey. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1992. 217 p. (ISBN 0-89950-696-8) \$24.95 hbk. Publisher's address: Box 611, Jefferson NC 28640

This new anthology "challenges the popular historical accounts" of Christopher Columbus and his exploits in the Americas. It includes pieces by North and South Americans, many of them members of indigenous groups of those areas, and by teachers, historians, religious leaders, and librarians.

The seventeen essays express a multitude of viewpoints of Columbus and his followers. Ward Churchill's "Deconstructing the Columbus myth" compares contemporary U.S. popular opinions of Columbus and Hitler. Jose Barreiro's "A Note on the Tainos" describes some of the indigenous people of the Caribbean and Columbus's treatment of them. "Rereading the past," by William Bigelow focuses on a high school teacher's attempt to have his students learn about themselves and their education by learning more about Columbus. Jan Elliot's "Exhibiting Ideology" recounts protests by American Indians over an exhibit at the Florida Museum of Natural History. The selections vary widely in tone and style, but they are well integrated into a collection which has something to offer almost any reader.

A bibliography of materials on the Columbus Quincentenary and a resource directory of organizations concerned with indigenous people and their rights and needs are included. The appendices contain several important documents and proclamations relating to the Quincentenary, among them the Declaration of Quito and resolutions of the American Library Association and the National Council for the Social Studies. No map is included. Confronting Columbus is recommended for all libraries that want to

present a full picture of Columbus or need sources to balance older, possibly misleading materials.

--Gwen Gregory, United States Courts  
Library, Phoenix AZ

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CHICKEN LITTLE, TOMATO SOUP, & AGRICULTURE: WHO WILL PRODUCE TOMORROW'S FOOD? By Joan Dye Gussow. New York: The Bootstrap Press, 1991. 152 p. (ISBN: 0-942850-32-7) \$12.50 pbk. Publisher's address: Suite 3C, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York NY 10017.

With so little material that is both nontechnical and accurate in its presentation on the factors underlying the issues of sustainable agriculture and world hunger, it was gratifying to encounter Ms. Gussow's book. It would have been invaluable to high school libraries as a source book a few years ago when the National Forensic League debated this topic.

Unfortunately, the "chicken little" metaphor which the author borrows from Pohl & Kornbluth's The Space Merchants is over-used throughout (at least nineteen times, or one for every seven and a half pages of text). Otherwise I could be unreserved in recommending it highly as a thought-provoking contribution to the available non-technical literature on food sources for the world's future.

Since the content is so valuable, however, despite the pedestrian writing I do recommend it to any library where such materials are needed.

--Marsha Valance, Wisconsin Regional Library  
for the Blind & Physically Handicapped,  
Milwaukee WI

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WOMEN, AGING AND AGEISM. Edited by Evelyn R. Rosenthal. Binghamton NY: Haworth Press, 1990. (Simultaneously published as the Journal of Women and Aging, Vol. 2, no. 2) 166 p. (ISBN: 0-86656-984-7) \$24.95 hbk. Publisher's address: 10 Alice St., Binghamton NY 13904-1580.

In the beginning of this book, the reader is invited to "engage in a voyage of self-discovery." This is exactly what happens. One's ideas of women and aging are challenged and preconceptions are debunked. The reader will also "find here...essays

written with passion, going to the heart of the female experience, and finding there some crucial lessons for us all."

The pluses of this book are many: the integration of disciplinary perspectives, as the authors represent a variety of fields of study; the varied and challenging subject coverage; and a succinct organizational structure for the information presented.

Interspersed with the articles are five poems on aging. These are poignant and to the point. Each could be used on its own as a thought-provoking commentary on aging.

At the beginning of each article there is a helpful summary of the material to be covered. The background of contributors is given at the beginning of their articles. Helpful references follow each article. The whole volume is also indexed.

The volume opens with personal perspectives on being old by seven women, aged 70 to 81. Their views give a vivid accounting of what it is like to grow old in today's society.

Another interesting article deals with the graying of hair and the need to color it and deny age. Regardless of one's chronological age, gray hair shouts out "OLD." This article talks of the graying process, how few examples there are in the media of women graying naturally and the advantages of leaving gray hair untouched. The information in this article conveys how society can influence what a woman thinks of herself and how she lives her life.

Other subjects covered include: friendships with other women; needs/impediments/solutions; care-giving experiences; dual-career families and retirement; physical changes through hysterectomy; older women inventors; and poetry by older women.

Reviewers of this work have said that it is "an enjoyable, enlightening reading experience," "fresh, insightful and eye-opening," and a "laudable opening up of dialogue." This reviewer found the book thought-provoking, challenging, disturbing, and exciting. Because of the variety and nature of the coverage, it would be a good addition to any women's studies program or program on aging.

--Memory Wilson, Amos Memorial Public Library, Sidney OH

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SIRS GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES. Edited by Eleanor C. Goldstein. Boca Raton: Social Issues Resources Series, Inc., 1991-. Annual. Loose leaf. Updates issued in October. 70 articles each in four volumes: Economics (ISSN 1058-1758), Government (ISSN 1058-1774), History (ISSN 1058-174X), and World Affairs (ISSN 1058-1766). Also available in microfiche and cd-rom. Publisher address: SIRS, Inc., P.O. Box 2348, Boca Raton, Florida 33427-2348. Price: \$280 for four volumes series, \$80 for individual volumes. Microfiche and catalogue cards included with print version. CD-Rom available as part of total SIRS package, which includes other titles: SOCIAL ISSUES, CRITICAL ISSUES, and SCIENCE. Accompanying hardware available.

This is a new series which chronicles international issues and events. The GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES series focuses on and documents four different aspects of international affairs. ECONOMICS highlights economic concepts and developments around the world in the 1990s: the downfall of communism, the savings & loan debacle, the BCCI scandal, and Europe '92. In GOVERNMENT, powerful political ideas are discussed along with the structure of various national governments. In the decade of democracy's flowering, these issues command everyone's attention. HISTORY focuses on anniversaries of events and the people who made the news - from Columbian expeditions, past the anniversaries of the World Wars, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Six Day War, to the Lunar Landings and Kent State. WORLD AFFAIRS documents the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc, the coups and civil wars in Liberia, Haiti, and elsewhere, and the Persian Gulf War and its aftermath.

Each loose leaf notebook contains seventy articles gleaned from over 800 sources worldwide. Subscribers receive a new set of 280 articles each October. The reprints are well done and contain photographs, cartoons, maps, tables, and graphs that may have accompanied the original piece. The sources include newspapers from 43 U.S. states, the District of Columbia and fifteen countries on five continents. While coverage is broad, there are still some gaps, with Nicaragua as the only Latin American country and with no coverage from the Arab World. Sources further include other periodicals from the United States, fourteen countries, the United Nations and its affiliated groups, the Organization of American States, Amnesty International, and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Periodicals

from India, Vietnam, China, and South Africa begin the coverage of the Third World. The articles themselves are well-chosen for their coverage of the issues and readability. There are well done indices for each volume and a comprehensive one for the series.

A fiche copy of each volume comes with the print version. The fiche are clear and legible, although some of the photographs lose a little in being viewed as negatives. The fiche contains the indices.

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., Harvard University, Cambridge MA.

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