



Women in Libraries

Volume 31, No. 2

The Feminist Task Force

Spring 2002

Bloomer Project Announces First Annual List

Two years ago, Shana Carey introduced nineteenth-century feminist activist Amelia Bloomer to young readers in *You Forgot Your Skirt, Amelia Bloomer!* This picture book uses humor and history to bring the life and work of this pioneering newspaper editor, feminist thinker, public speaker, and suffragist to a new generation.

In the spirit of Amelia Bloomer, the Feminist Task Force proudly announces the first annual Amelia Bloomer List, a bibliography of appealing feminist books for young readers from birth to 18. Books in this list for this honor are published during the 18 months prior to the selection in January of each year.

Set from prehistoric times to the present, these books, both fiction and nonfiction, provide role models of strong, capable, creative women. They

introduce children growing up in the South during the Civil Rights Movement, photographers on the cutting edge of their times, young women surviving in today's Afghanistan, and pioneers in the fields of flying and space exploration. Other books feature girls who outwit dragons, create petroglyphs to save a tribe, and train to win battles in medieval England.

From a picture book using bear hair and other earthen materials in its illustrations to a biography written in graphic-novel format, these books show girls and women exploring exciting ways to solve practical dilemmas through the courage of their convictions. All spur the imagination and expand the limits of dreams while confronting traditional female stereotypes. And best of all, these books are fun reading!

A bibliography of these books can be found on Pages 5-8 of this newsletter.

Civil Rights a Victim of Current US Regime

Section 215 of John Ashcroft's USA Patriot Act, now the law of the land as passed by Congress and signed by George W. Bush, "grants FBI agents across the country breathtaking authority to obtain an order from the FISA [Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act] court...requiring any person or business to produce any books, records, documents, or items," according to an American Civil Liberties Union fact sheet. Now, the FBI, armed with a warrant or subpoena from the FISA court, can demand from bookstores and libraries the names of books bought or borrowed by anyone suspected of involvement in "international terrorism" or "clandestine activities."

Once that information is requested by the FBI, a gag order is automatically imposed, prohibiting the bookstore owners or librarians from disclosing to any other person the fact that they have received an order to produce documents.

According to Nat Hentoff's column in the *Village Voice*, "Big John Wants Your Reading List" (2/22/02), "never in the history of the First Amendment has any suppression of speech been so sweeping and difficult to contest as this one by Ashcroft."

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Notes

Feminist Bookstore News has four complete sets of its 25-year run available to libraries and archives. The sets start with 1 #1 and go through 22 #5. Most of the issues are originals, with photocopies of original issues filling where originals are not available. The goal is to get these sets into libraries where they will be archived and maintained to be available to future generations of women doing research on the heyday and history of feminist bookstores and publishing. Each set of this valuable source is \$2000 plus p&h. Interested parties should email former editor Carol Seajay at seajay@dnai.com.

Bisexual Resource Guide is looking for regional directors for its 5th edition. This directory includes essays, safe-sex info for bisexuals, and much more. Responsibilities of the regional directors include the checking of listings for correct information, deleting those which no longer exist, and adding new groups as appropriate. Editing will be between April and August. More information about the guide is at <http://www.biresource.org/brg.html>. If interested, reply to ochs@bi.org.

Annotated Bibliography, 1997-2001, on the History of Jewish Women in America: A Supplement to Annotated Bibliography and Guide to Archival Resources on the History of Jewish Women in America (Phyllis Holman Weisbard) contains more than 70 annotated new citations representing the historical scholarship in American Jewish Women's History published since the original bibliography was compiled in 1997. The supplement can be found at <http://www.library.wisc.edu/libraries/WomensStudies/jewwom/jwsupplement.htm>.

The Lesbian Review of Books, introduced as a new periodical in this column [*Periodical Notes in Feminist Collections*] in Summer 1994, has announced its Winter 2000-2001 issue (v. 8, no. 2) as its last. Citing soaring postage and paper costs, declining subscriptions, and shrinking publisher advertising budgets, editor Lorelee MacPike writes: "The outpouring of response from our readers about the continued need of a book review devoted exclusively to lesbian books and interest convinces us that we are still useful. . . . [But] we simply are not able to keep on publishing."

Subscribers who have paid for more issues may write for a refund to *LRB*, P.O. Box 515, Hilo, HI (96721-0515); other questions can be emailed to MacPike at loralee@hawaii.edu.

We are looking for contributors to *Women in Libraries!* Please contact us regarding articles, book reviews, or other items of feminist interest to librarians!



Women in Libraries

<http://www.lib.wayne.edu/fff/>

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Send articles, comments, or materials for review, but not subscription questions, to Nel Ward, 107 SW Coast Street, Newport, OR 97365. (541-265-9141; email nward@beachhousebb.com)

Send books for review to Sherre Harrington, Stevenson Library, Vanderbilt University, 419 21st Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37240. For reviewing information, go to <http://staffweb.library.vanderbilt.edu/feministbooks>.

Intergenerational Mentoring, "Mothering," Body Shapes, Cancer, Aging—Subjects in Recent *Feminist Collections*

Usually providing an excellent source of materials by and for women, *Feminist Collections'* editors, Phyllis Holman Weisbard and JoAnne Lehman have outdone themselves in the Fall 2001 issue. In their preface to this periodical, Lehman says the larger size is "partly because a call for website reviews last spring brought a terrific response (reviewing Internet resources on African American feminism, eating disorders, women artists, and women in the Christian tradition) and partly because of the special 16-page feature: "A Celebration of Intergenerational Mentoring and 'Mothering.'"

"So . . . age, change, and the progression of generations: universal and unavoidable, yet experienced uniquely by every woman. This issue of *FC* offers rich resources for addressing those themes in a women's studies setting."

In her introduction to books reviews on "Revising Our Cultural Stereotypes of Elderly Women and Old Age," Barbara Waxman discusses the changes from viewing old women as "croncs, hags, or invisible beings." She says, "'Age Studies' has come of age as scholars and artists portray new models of older women that are visible and vibrant, envisioning new communities of interdependent elders and challenging the patriarchal values of individuality and independence." The recent collections of feminist essays about older women reviewed "imagine new ways to age."

"Breast Cancer from Many Perspectives," book reviews by June L. DeWeese, show breast cancer as "a political, social, psychological, economic, philosophical, and medical topic." She says that it is definitely a feminist topic. But despite the thousands of books and articles written about this topic, "there are still no definitive answers to the many questions we all have."

Women's appearance has always been of feminist concern. In "Shifting Shapes: Films on Body Changes and Aging for the Women's Studies Classroom," Frances M. Kavenik reviews films that "honor multiple and diverse perspectives" while beginning feminist analysis about "mortality, aging,

physical change, and deterioration."

Because of the increasing volume of literature on African feminism, Sherri Barnes, author of "African American/Black/Womanist Feminism on the Web" chooses to concentrate on the Black feminist tradition in the U.S., using the term Black because it "seems more empowering than 'African American.'" Although this field is widely discussed, it is not commonly in popular culture or mass media, resulting in the finding of only six websites.

"Critical analysis of web-based health information is vital," according to Mary K. Walstrom ("Eating Disorder Resources on the Internet") because of the influence by web-based health materials. With people using website information for health treatment, Walstrom used strict evaluative criteria, seeking "timely, research-based, well-organized, and reader-friendly eating disorder information." She has divided

sites into four categories: metasites, education/prevention, professional, and academic/research.

"Women Artists on the Internet," reviews by Kathryn Sullivan, "include the reputable Internet resources that offer a broad look at female artists, rather than sites that concentrate on a particular artists or a particular movement."

From past to present in the Christian tradition, "women have often been excluded, marginalized, or silenced" from St. Paul's first-century teaching to recent Southern Baptist censure of female pastors, according to Carol Blessing. In "Women in the Christian Tradition, she says, "Fortunately, recent work in history has uncovered a more varied role for women in the Church, from antiquity through the Middle Ages and throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She reviews websites that include both traditional and reconstructed views of women in the Christian belief.

"History in the Making: Celebrating Twenty-Five Years of Women's studies Scholarship and Activism" was the theme of the University of Wisconsin-System October 2000 women's studies conference. This issue of *Feminist Collections* has printed the panelists presentations.

From past to present in the Christian tradition, "women have often been excluded, marginalized, or silenced. . . ."

Carol Blessing

Rights of US Citizens Abridged in This Time of "War"

(Continued from Page 1)

An example of this suppression is that, under the provision of the USA Patriot Act, there is no way to track what is happening. If a judge puts a gag order on the press, it can print that it has been silenced and even file to have the gag order lifted. The new law, however, prevents libraries and bookstores from telling anyone they have received an order to produce documents.

"If the agents are unwilling to permit you to contact your attorney, you should cooperate with them. Otherwise, you may be arrested for disobeying a court order. This is a quotation from a letter sent by the American Booksellers Association.

Judith Krug, director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom (ALA) says that librarians should call her and say, "I need to talk to a lawyer." The "Patriot Act" does not allow anyone to explain why there is a need for a lawyer.

The loss of rights is evident in other areas of the United States. In November, Donna Huanca, a docent at the Art Car Museum, was approached by two FBI agents at the avant-garde gallery in Houston, TX. "They said they had several reports of anti-American activity. . .and wanted to see the exhibit," she says. The show, "Secret Wars," was commissioned before September 11, 2001.

At one point during the inspection of the exhibit, they questioned the mock surveillance camera pointed to the door of the museum, asking if "they were being recorded," says Huanca. After viewing the exhibit, they asked her several questions, including whether her parents knew that she worked in a place "like this."

James Harithas, director of the Art Car Museum, served as director of the Corcoran Art Museum in Washington, D.C. in the late 1960s. "It's unbelievable," he says. "People should be worried that their freedoms are being taken away right and left."

Barbara Wien was forced to resign from her position as program officer and conflict resolution trainer at the U.S. Institute of Peace. She recalls, "I said I would hope that the United States would not resort to military retaliation and that we need to do a great deal of soul-searching in this country about how U.S. policies might have contributed to the emergence

of terrorist policies." The Institute is, according to its website, "an independent, nonpartisan federal institution created and funded by Congress to strengthen the nation's capacity to promote the peaceful resolution of international conflict."

This staff reporter for the *Sun Advocate* in Price, Utah, wrote in an editorial column: "War is not the only action available to us. Seeking justice is action. Making peace is action." After she talked to the publisher about why her column did not run, although several pro-war columns did, she said she needed to take the afternoon off, getting permission from her editor to take a personal day. The next day, the publisher told her that she had quit.

"What concerns me is we're not seeing an enormous outcry against this whole structure of repression that's being rushed into place by the Bush Administration."

Ellen Schrecker

Other concerns are with untenured faculty voicing their opinions. The American Council of Trustees and Alumni, co-founded in 1995 by Lynne Cheney and Senator Joseph Lieberman issues a report after September 11 called "Defending Civilization: How Our Universities are Failing America, and What Can Be Done about It."

The report says, "When a nation's intellectuals are unwilling to defend its civilization, they give comfort to its adversaries." The report also cited more than 100 examples of unpatriotic acts by specific academics.

"I'm terrified," says Ellen Schrecker, author of *Many Are the Crimes: McCarthyism in America* (Princeton University, 1999). "What concerns me is we're not seeing an enormous outcry against this whole structure of repression that's being rushed into place by the Bush Administration."

"What's analogous to McCarthyism is the self-appointed guardians who are engaging in private blacklisting," says Eric Foner, professor of history at Columbia University. He also wonders if loyalty oaths will be demanded of teachers.

"I've been talking a lot about the parallels between what we're going through now and McCarthyism," says Nadine Strossen, President of the ACLU. "The term 'terrorism' is taking on the same kind of characteristics as the term 'communism' did in the 1950s. It stops people in their tracks, and they're willing to give up their rights and to scapegoat people."

(*"The New McCarthyism," The Progressive, 1/02*)

Feminist Task Force Amelia Bloomer Project List - 2002 Recommended Feminist Books for Young Readers

Picture Books - Fiction

Falconer, Ian. *Olivia Saves the Circus*. Atheneum, 2001, unpaginated (0-689-82954-X). \$16.00.

Imaginative and intrepid, Olivia exudes confidence as she accessorizes her school uniform and embellishes her report about summer vacation.

Lasky, Kathryn; paintings by Rocco Baviera. *First Painter*. DK Ink, 2000, unpaginated (0-7894-2578-5). \$16.95.

Exquisite watercolors combined with earth and animal materials capture the birth of the artistic imagination as young Mishoo creates cave paintings to save her prehistoric clan from starvation and drought by catching a spirit.

Lipp, Frederick; illus. Ronald Himler. *The Caged Birds of Phnom Penh*. Holiday House, 2001, unpaginated (0-8234-1543-1). \$16.95.

A young Cambodian girl longs to buy and free a caged bird to fulfill her wishes for a better life for her family, but first she must learn to select the right bird, the one that chooses freedom instead of returning to its cage.

Littlesugar, Amy; illus. Floyd Cooper. *Freedom School, Yes!* Philomel Books, 2001, unpaginated (0-399-23006-8). \$16.99

Burning down the church where Freedom School fighters teach kids and adults about Black heritage during the summer of 1964 doesn't stop their small Southern community, and one young girl named Jolie learns about fear and courage.

Woodson, Jacqueline; illus. E. B. Lewis. *The Other Side*. Putnam, 2001, unpaginated (0-399-23116-1). \$16.99.

The fence that separates the Black side of town from the white side is less of a barrier when one daring girl climbs to the top, invites the girl on the other side to join her, and finds that they have lots of company.

Picture Books - Biography

Borden, Louise and Mary Kay Kroeger; illus. Teresa Flavin. *Fly High! The Story of Bessie Coleman*. Margaret K. McElderry, 2001, unpaginated (0-689-82457-2). \$16.00.

Determined to be somebody when she grows up, Bessie Coleman leaves her life as a cotton-picker in Texas in the early 1900s to become the first African American to earn a pilot's license.

Brown, Don. *A Voice from the Wilderness: The Story of Anna Howard Shaw*. Houghton Mifflin, 2001, unpaginated (0-618-08362-6). \$16.00.

From her childhood hacking out a life in the Michigan wilderness to her graduation from college as a minister and doctor, Anna Howard Shaw lived as a pioneer before she battled for women's suffrage.

Moss, Marissa; illus. C.F. Payne. *Brave Harriet*. Harcourt/Silver Whistle, 2001, unpaginated (0-15-202380-1). \$16.00.

In the early days of aviation, people said that a woman couldn't fly solo across the English Channel—so Harriet Quimby did it and made history in 1912!

Rockwell, Anne; illus. R. Gregory Chase. *Only Passing Through: The Story of Sojourner Truth*. Alfred P. Knopf, 2000, unpaginated (0-679-89186-2). \$16.95.

Modern illustrations in the style of African-American folk art dramatically illustrate Sojourner Truth's struggle under slavery and her fight for freedom for herself and all African Americans and women.

Wooldridge, Connie Nordhielm; illus. Jacqueline Rogers. *When Esther Morris Headed West: Women, Wyoming, and the Right to Vote*. Holiday House, 2001, unpaginated (0-8234-1597-X). \$16.95.

Esther Morris, a large woman with ideas to match, finds her place in frontier Wyoming when she gets elected to office after women win the right to vote in the state in 1869.

Feminist Task Force Amelia Bloomer Project List - 2002 ***Recommended Feminist Books for Young Readers***

Intermediate Books - Fiction

Calhoun, Dia. *Aria of the Sea*. Winslow Press, 2000, 264p (1-89-817-25-2). \$18.75.

In the kingdom of Windward, 13-year-old Cerinthe Gale dreams of being a dancer, but the anguish of experiences directs her toward her legacy of becoming a healer.

Ellis, Deborah. *The Breadwinner*. Groundwood, 2001, 170p (0-88899-419-2). \$15.95.

Eleven-year-old Parvana faces death in the harsh world of Taliban-controlled Kabul as she masquerades each day as a boy to get food for her family.

Girls Got Game: Sports Stories and Poems. Ed. Sue Macy. Henry Holt, 2001, 152p (0-8050-6568-7). \$15.95.

Eighteen short stories and poems show girls learning, growing, dreaming, playing—baseball, stickball, football, soccer, basketball—and celebrating their lives through sports.

Joseph, Lynn. *The Color of My Words*. HarperCollins/Joanna Cotler Books, 2000, 138p (0-06-028232-0). \$14.95.

Rosa, a blossoming young writer struggling with oppression in a poor seaside village in the Dominican Republic, learns that her words have the power to transform the world around her in a country where words are feared.

Murphy, Rita. *Black Angels*. Delacorte, 2001, 163p (0-385-32776-5). \$14.95.

As the town of Mystic, Georgia, prepares for the arrival of the freedom Riders, 11-year-old Cellie is torn between the love and loyalty she feels toward Sophie, the Black woman who helps out at her house, and her fear of being cut off from the white community.

Intermediate Books - Fiction

Sturtevant, Katherine. *At the Sign of the Star*. Farrar Straus Giroux, 2000, 140p (0-374-30449-1). \$16.00.

Meg Moore, motherless only child of a bookseller in seventeenth-century London, knows she will marry well—until her father remarries and Meg's life is thrown into disarray.

Testa, Maria. *Some Kind of Pride*. Delacorte, 2001, 117p (0-385-32782-X). \$14.95.

Ruth DiMarco, named after Babe Ruth, must come to terms with her mother's heroic death as a firefighter, her upcoming interview with *Sports Illustrated*, her desire to play baseball in the major leagues, and her father's comment about her incredible talent, "but I can't help thinking what a shame it is that it's all wasted on a girl."

Wiles, Deborah. *Love, Ruby Lavender*. Harcourt/Gulliver Books, 2001, 188p (9-15-202314-3). \$16.00.

Ruby fears she will lose her fun life in Halleluia, Mississippi after her adventurous grandmother leaves for a trip to Hawaii, but Ruby is resourceful and feisty—and in for some big surprises.

Intermediate Books - Nonfiction

Appelt, Kathi and Jeanne Cannella Schmitzer. *Down Cut Shin Creek: The Pack Horse Librarians of Kentucky*. HarperCollins, 2001, 53p (0-06-029135-4). \$16.95.

The courageous women who delivered library materials to the impoverished people living in hills and hollows of Depression-era Kentucky to carry out the Pack Horse Library Project are shown through photographs and riveting text.

Feminist Task Force Amelia Bloomer Project List - 2002

Recommended Feminist Books for Young Readers

Intermediate Books - Nonfiction

Gerson, Mary-Joan; illus. Maya Christina Gonzalez. *Fiesta Feminina: Celebrating Women in Mexican Folktale*. Barefoot Books, 2001, 64p (1-84148-365-6). \$19.99.

Vibrant retellings of eight Mexican folktales, with illustrations inspired by Mayan and Mexican motifs, show strong girls and women beginning with the story of the Hungry Goddess and continuing through the story of the Virgin of Guadeloupe.

Jemison, Mae. *Find Where the Wind Goes: Moments from My Life*. Scholastic, 2001, 196p (0-439-13195-2). \$16.95

Humor, courage, imagination, and a stubborn streak—that's what it takes to go from a fear of heights to the world's first African-American woman to travel into space.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis; illus. Stephen Alcorn. *Let It Shine: Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters*. Harcourt/Gulliver Books, 2000, 107p (0-15-201005-X). \$20.00.

Profiles of ten revolutionary Black women from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries who faced inequality, oppression, prejudice, and fear produce a story about challenges and triumphs of the battle for civil rights.

Savage, Candace. *Born to be a Cowgirl: A Spirited Ride through the Old West*. Tricycle Press, 2001, 64p (1-58246-020-5). \$9.95.

Vignettes of women ranchers and cowhands combined with period photographs show a rip-roaring romp through their hard, yet adventurous, lives.

Intermediate Books - Nonfiction

Tchana, Katrin; illus. Trina Schart Hyman. *The Serpent Slayer: And Other Stories of Strong Women*. Little, Brown, 2000, 113p (0-316-38701-0). \$19.95.

Bold, dynamic ink and acrylic illustrations highlight 18 folktales about girls and women who use their courage, wit, and intelligence to overcome obstacles.

Young Adult Books - Fiction

Bauer, Joan. *Hope Was There*. Putnam, 2000, 186 (0-399-23142-0). \$16.99.

Moving with her aunt from the excitement of New York City to rural Wisconsin, 16-year-old Hope never expected to find herself involved in the heated arena of small-town politics.

Murphy, Rita. *Night Flying*. Delacorte, 2000, 129p (0-385-32748-X). \$14.95.

Georgia Hansen's rapidly approaching 16th birthday is the date that she will use her own wings to fly solo for the first time, just as all the other women in her family do, but first she must navigate the personalities of her family of women, especially her recently returned Aunt Carmen.

Na, An. *A Step from Heaven*. Front Street, 2000, 156p (1-8886910-58-8). \$15.95.

After her family immigrates from Korea to the United States, Young Ju must cope with not only the usual changes of growing up but also learning about a foreign culture and unfamiliar language as her father's frustration with his situation increases through increased verbal and physical violence against her mother and herself.

Feminist Task Force Amelia Bloomer Project List - 2002 ***Recommended Feminist Books for Young Readers***

Young Adult Books - Fiction

Naidoo, Beverly. *The Other Side of Truth*. HarperCollins, 2001, 252p (0-06-029628-3). \$16.95.

Smuggled out of Nigeria after their mother's murder, Sade and her younger brother are lost in London, terrified to tell anyone their identities for fear that the information will imperil their father.

Tingle, Rebecca. *The Edge on the Sword*. Putnam, 2001, 277p (0-399-23580-9). \$18.99.

In ninth-century Britain, 15-year-old Aethelfaed, daughter of King Alfred of West Saxony, must train for the battles that will come when she is betrothed to King Ethelred of Mercia.

Young Adult Books - Nonfiction

Bang, Molly. *Nobody Particular: One Woman's Fight to Save the Bays*. Henry Holt, 2001, 46p (0-8050-5396-4). \$18.00.

Diane Wilson, leading the fairly ordinary life of a commercial shrimper, takes on huge corporations that are dumping toxic sludge in the Texas bays and waterways in this biography in the form of a graphic novel.

Lannin, Joanne. *A History of Basketball for Girls and Women: From Bloomers to Big Leagues*. Lerner Sports, 2000, 144p (0-8225-9863-9). \$9.95.

From its beginnings in the 1890s to the start of the WNBA in the 1990s, this historical overview highlights the status and role of women in the society of the United States during those years.

Young Adult Books - Nonfiction

McLean, Jacqueline. *Women with Wings*. Oliver Press, 2001, 160p (1-881508-70-6). \$19.95.

Readers fly with the best in this history of women aviators told through six biographies from throughout the twentieth century.

Sills, Leslie. *In Real Life: Six Women Photographers*. Holiday House, 2000, 80p (0-8234-1498-1). \$19.95.

This exploration of the lives and works of these six women shows how they pushed the limits of photography to create inspiring art.

Things I Have to Tell You: Poems and Writing by Teenage Girls. Ed. Betsy Franco; photographs by Nina Nickles. Candlewick Press, 2001, 63p (0-7636-1035-6). \$8.99.

Hope, disillusionment, anger, joy, sadness, and most of all, the strength of young women today—all these are shown in this collection of writings by girls from 14 to 19 years of age.

Turner, Ann. *Learning to Swim*. Scholastic, 2000, 1151p (0-439-15309-3). \$14.95.

Haunting poems juxtapose the beauty and calm of Annie's family vacation at the summerhouse with her horrible secret of sexual abuse by a neighbor. Information on national hotlines for youth is included.

Yentl's Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism. Ed. Danya Ruttenberg. Seal Press, 2001, 230p (1-5005-057-3). \$16.95.

Some of today's brightest Jewish women writers chronicle their search for ways to be feminist in a traditionally patriarchal culture and religion.

Book Talk

Bible Translators Seek Gender Accuracy

Plans for a new Bible translation with gender-accurate wording, an on-going controversy in the continuation of modernizing the Bible. The International Bible society said that the update of the New International Version Bible does not make all men "people," nor does it remove male references to God, as some new translators do.

Instead it drops gender-specific terms when it is obvious that these were not intended in the original text. For example, "sons of God" becomes "children of God," and "brothers" becomes "brothers and sisters."

The conflict continues on this gender question. Supporters say the old language excludes women. Opponents call it "political correctness" or "feminism gone awry."

The new Bible, called Today's New International Version, will not replace the former edition, which will continue to be published without revision.

About 93 percent of the old translation remains unchanged in the new Bible, says International Bible Society spokesman Larry Lincoln. The new translation "features the clarity of modern language without compromising accuracy," Lincoln says. For instance, Mary is no longer "with child"; she is "pregnant."

Lincoln calls the new Bible "gender accurate." The revision's authors, scholars financed by IBS, "don't pander to any agenda or pressure or any group," according to Lincoln.

The New Testament version of the translation will be available in the spring. The complete text is expected in 2005.

(Knight Ridder News Service, 2/9/02)

Kingsolver Nails Wall Street Journal

From *Holt Uncensored*, an online column about books and the book industry written by former *San Francisco Chronicle* book editor and critic Pat Holt, comes this gem.

It seems that a *Wall Street Journal* column not only erroneously quoted something Barbara Kingsolver wrote (not said) but then called for a national boycott of her books by "patriotic" booksellers.

The subject of the controversy was an op-ed piece called "And Our Flag Was Still There," pub-

lished in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in November. Kingsolver's article describes her young daughter's announcement one morning that the school wanted everyone to wear red, white, and blue the next day to honor "all the people that died when the airplanes hit the building."

"Why not wear black, then?" Kingsolver asks. Admitting to feeling patriotic in her own way, the author has concerns. Having seen the flag "waved over the sound of saber-rattling too many times for my comfort," and feeling increasingly concerned about the "war mongers," "loudmouths," and "bullies in the pulpit" (Jerry Falwell et al) talk about patriotism after 9/11, she also confesses to a certain "dread that my sweet child was being dragged to the newly patriotic cause of wreaking death in the wake of death."

"Why not wear black, then?"

Barbara Kingsolver

Is it possible, she asks, that "the flag these hoodlum-Americans are waving stands for intimidation, censorship, violence, bigotry, sexism, homophobia, and shoving the Constitution through a paper shredder? Whom shall we call terrorists here? Outsiders can destroy airplanes and buildings, but it is only we, the people, who have the power to demolish our own ideals."

Reading these words, Gregg Easterbrook, the writer of the *Wall Street Journal* piece said that Kingsolver believed that "the American flag 'stands for intimidation, censorship, violence, bigotry, etc.'"

In her "Open Letter to Independent Booksellers of America," Kingsolver writes, "I DO NOT believe my flag stands for these things." Her essay "closes by citing the values I believe our flag should and does stand for: freedom, courage, generosity and human kindness."

The *WSJ* article also, she writes, "called for a national boycott on my books, specifically suggesting that patriotic booksellers should remove my books from your shelves.

"If I lose the ability to reach people with my words, other writers will surely suffer the same fate, at a time when we especially need the greatest diversity of published voices."

Holt agrees when she says, "You too, *Wall Street Journal*, and say! Ain't it your JOB to 'maintain the dignity and freedom of public debate'?"

Book Talk

Whither Mickey (and Minnie) Mouse?

The Supreme Court agreed in mid-February to determine whether the 1998 law extending existing copyrights by 20 years is constitutional. The issue is whether the Constitution's grant of authority to Congress to issue copyrights and patents "for limited times" to "promote the progress of science and useful arts" contains any real limitation on how that power is to be exercised.

At the legal heart of the matter is the original intent of the Copyright Clause, in which the framers sought to grant a limited monopoly that would encourage and reward the creation of works while ensuring eventual public access. In addition to arguing on this issue, the plaintiffs stated that the extension restricted free speech in violation of the First Amendment.

They lost in a 2-to-1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit one

The Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension. . . would block "an extraordinary range of creative invention" from entering the public domain. . . ."

year ago. The Bush administration urged the Supreme Court to reject the case, *Eldred vs. Ashcroft*, No. 01-618.

The real heart of the matter, however, is whether the copyright on Mickey Mouse will expire. The famous cartoon character, first copyrighted in 1928, would have been the first Disney character to go under the old law, which gave a 75-year copyright to works created for hire and owned by corporations.

Mickey (and Disney) were saved in 1998 by the Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act, which gave a 20-year extension to the 75-year copyright. It was the result of intense lobbying by a group of powerful corporate copyright holders, most visibly Disney.

The plaintiffs' Supreme Court appeal, filed by professor Lawrence Lessig of Stanford Law School, gather support from concerned groups such as ALA and other libraries. The brief accused Congress of "transforming a limited monopoly into a virtually limitless one."

In his appeal, Lessig noted recent decisions

curbing Congress' exercise of another of its powers under Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution, the power to regulate interstate commerce. He also argued that the 20-year extension would block "an extraordinary range of creative invention" from entering the public domain "just at the time that the Internet is enabling a much broader range of individuals to draw up and develop this creative work." The Supreme Court will hear the case in the fall.

(New York Times News Service, 2/20/02)

Daly Speaks at Oregon Conference

Mary Daly, who made headlines last years for a lawsuit against Boston College by refusing to admit a male student into her feminist ethics course, spoke at "Spirit Transcending Difference" in Portland, OR on March 16. Her topic was "The Burning Times Revisited: Rekindling the Fire of Radical Ecological Feminism." The "burning times" reference is to the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries when women accused of being witches often were burned at the stake.

Some feminist scholars say that as many as nine million women were killed "just for being alive and strong," Daly says. "Women who were midwives, called wise women, anyone who posed a threat."

The title is also a play on words, says Daly, calling the current American administration "a hideously repressive government." High on a feminist agenda must be environmental concerns, she adds. "We need a radical elemental, ecological feminism. The two causes are deeply connected. . . The silencing of women and silencing of nature are intertwined."

Daly's books include the landmark *Beyond God the Father: Toward a Philosophy of Women's Liberation* and her most recent, *Quintessence: Realizing the Archaic Future: A Radical Elemental Feminist Manifesto* (both from Beacon Press).

(*The Oregonian*, 3/9/02)

Fighter for Free Expression Dies

On January 28, 2002, Ayse Nur Zarakolu, who waged a tireless campaign with her husband against the suppression of free speech in Turkey, died. Publishing books on human rights abuses against the Kurds and studies of the early twentieth century's genocide against the Armenians, she lived under con-

Book Talk

Noted Author in India Jailed

Arundhati Roy, winner of the prestigious Booker Prize in 1997 for her novel *The God of Small Things*, was convicted by the Supreme Court in India on March 6, 2002, of criminal contempt for suggesting it was trying to "silence criticism" of its approval of a hydroelectric project.

Roy has written articles criticizing India's nuclear program and is a prominent campaigner against the Narmada Dam, the nation's biggest hydroelectric project. When the court began considering a contempt charge, she filed an affidavit, saying the charge "creates a disturbing impression that there is an inclination on the part of the court to silence criticism and muzzle dissent."

The original charges were dismissed, but the Supreme Court accused her of contempt for the statements in the affidavit. She faced six months in prison, but the court lowered it to three months, saying it was "showing magnanimity of law by keeping in mind that the respondent is a woman."

Opponents of the project say it will harm small farmers and displace tens of thousands of villagers. Roy donated her Booker Prize winnings, about \$30,000, to the campaign against the dam.

(The Associated Press, 3/7/02)

Stereotypes a Topic of Feminist List

A spirited discussion on the FTF electronic discussion list was inspired by a Honda Accord advertisement that refers to the car as "The automotive equivalent of a really hot librarian." It continues: "Good-looking, yet intelligent. Fun, yet sophisticated. All in a very eye-catching 200-power. . . ."

From Sara Pete comes this comment: "If I wanted to have anything to do with selling cars, I'd be a car salesperson or work for one. . . . For another thing, I don't really like to see references to the profession of librarianship (a civic position that exists in large part at least, for the good of the public sector) used to sell private sector goods for huge multinational corporations, especially when the campaign exists to sell more cars that the world just doesn't need. . . . This ad is trying to point out how fabulous and rare the product is, as fabulous and rare in fact, as an attractive woman who is intelligent. But Honda's aren't rare and

neither are smart and attractive women (especially when the narrow lens of what's attractive to mainstream media is rejected). And then there's the age old equation that it's okay for males to be just smart, but a smart woman better be 'hot' too. . . ." Suzanne Stauffer adds, "Why is it "good-looking, yet intelligent" as if the two were normally mutually exclusive?"

Other lists described further stereotypes. Ethel R. Magal also mentions a recent Bacardi ad in *Rolling Stone* (1/31/02) which "shows a woman in a luscious bare-backed dress" and reads "Librarian by day, Bacardi by night."

From Sony Barai in his rant (according to him a satire) against the library science program at UCLA: "As far as I can remember, every librarian with whom I have ever come in contact has been a socially inept housewife who needs a little extra income to help out around the homestead." (<http://www.dailybruin.ucla.edu/db/articles.asp?ID=18860>)

MS. Finds Publishing Umbrella

This 30-year-old publication has decided to join Feminist Majority Foundation to "share research and resources, expand investigative journalism, and also bring you the person experience that has always been the source of the women's health movement." The publication will retain its editorial independence. For the remainder of 2002, *MS.* will be published quarterly.

For a trip down memory lane in women's struggles toward rights, the Spring 2002 issue has condensed articles from *Ms.* inception to the present day with updated data.

Nervy Girl! Supplies Food for the Mind

According to an article in *The Oregonian* (1/17/02) this bi-monthly, independent publication shows "a passionate belief that women deserve, and demand, more from their reading material than celebrity gossip and makeup tips."

A review in *Feminist Collections* (Fall 2001) says, "The focus of the articles, news briefs, columns, and reviews is not geographically limited."

Subscriptions: \$20/yr. PO Box 16601, Portland, OR 97292; ksgc@spiritone.com; www.nervygirlzine.com

Bloomer Project Announces First Annual List- Page 1

U.S. Citizens' Civil Rights in Jeopardy - Pages 2, 4

Notes (*Feminist Bookstore News, Bisexual Resource Guide, Annotated Bibliography, The Lesbian Review of Books*) - Page 2

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Book Talk (New Bible, Kingsolver, Copyright Law, Mary Daly, Ayse Nur Zarakolu, Arundhati Roy, Stereotypes, *MS, Nervy Girl!*) - Pages 8-11

Mailing of ALA ballots will begin March 4 to be completed by March 29. If you have not received a ballot by April 15, 2002, please contact ALA Customer Service Center, 1-800-545-2433, X5. Certification of election results will be by May 2 with candidates notified and results distributed on that day.

FTF Endorses Diedre Conkling and Veronda Pitchford for Council.



Women in Libraries
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