Banned Books Week 2002 is the twenty-first annual celebration of the freedom to read. This freedom, not only to choose what we read but also to select from a full array of possibilities, is firmly rooted in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of press. Even as we revel in the increasing quantity and availability of information and reading material, we must maintain vigilance to assure that access to this material is preserved. Threats against the freedom to read still exist and come from all quarters and all political persuasions. Quite simply, censors are those who try to limit the freedom of others to choose what they read, see, or hear, even if the motivation for the restriction is well-intentioned.

Sex, profanity, and racism remain the primary categories of objections, and most incidents occur in schools and school libraries. Frequently, challenges are motivated by the desire to protect children. While the cause is noble and commendable, this method of protection contains hazards far greater than exposure to the "evil" against which the protection is leveled. Supreme Court Justice William Brennan, in *Texas v. Johnson*, said, "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the Government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable." Individuals may restrict what they themselves or their children read, but they must not call on governmental or public agencies to prevent others from reading or seeing that material.

The challenges documented in this list are not just by someone expressing a point of view regarding these materials; rather, the challengers have asked that these materials be removed from the school curriculum or library, thus restricting access to them by others. Even when the eventual outcome allows the book to stay on the library shelves, for example, even when the person is a lone protester, the censorship attempt is real. Someone has tried to restrict another person's ability to choose. Challenges are as important to document as actual bannings, in which a book is removed from the shelves of a library or bookstore or from the curriculum at a school. Attempts to censor lead to voluntary curtailment of expression by those who seek to avoid controversy, a situation as critical as an actual banning, since in these cases the material may not be published or may not be purchased by a bookstore, library, or school district.

We have reason to be especially celebratory this year. Due to the commitment of parents, students, librarians, teachers, and other concerned citizens, more and more challenges are unsuccessful, and the reading material remains available.

It should be noted that this bibliography is incomplete because many prohibitions against free speech and expression remain undocumented. Surveys indicate approximately 85 percent of the challenges to library materials receive no media attention and remain unreported. Moreover, this list is limited to books and does not include challenges to magazines, newspapers, films, broadcasts, plays, performances, electronic publications, or exhibits.
This bibliography represents books challenged, restricted, removed, or banned in 2001-2002 as reported in the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom from May 2001 through March 2002.

ATWOOD, MARGARET. *The Handmaid’s Tale.* Fawcett; Houghton; Simon; Hall. Challenged, but retained in the Dripping Springs, Tex. senior Advanced Placement English courses (2001) as an optional reading assignment. Some parents were offended by the book’s descriptions of sexual encounters. Source: July 2001, p. 174.


ESCOFFIER, JEFFREY. *John Maynard Keynes.* Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in *Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District* alleging that the removal is “a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship.” The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district’s policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.


Let Free

KEEFER, EDWARD C., ed. Foreign Relations of the United States 1964-68, Volume XXVI, Indonesia, Malaysia-Singapore, Philippines. U.S. State Department. The U.S. government recalled all copies of this U.S. State Department history book from hundreds of libraries in the U.S. and abroad (2001) because it details the U.S. role in Indonesia's deadly purge of communists in the 1960s. The prestigious series, which began in 1861, is often embattled. For example, the history dealing with Greece, Cyprus, and Turkey was printed in February 2000, but is locked up at the Government Printing Office under the label: "Embargo: This publication cannot be released." Officials declined to say why. Source: Nov. 2001, pp. 245-46.

KENAN, RANDALL. James Baldwin. Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district's policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.

KING, STEPHEN. Different Seasons. Doubleday. Accessible to West Hernando Middle School library students in Brooksville, Fla. (2001) only if they have a signed and verified permission slip from their parents. A student was offended by references to oral sex and prison rape scenes in the short story 'Rita Hayworth and Shawshank Redemption,' the basis for the 1994 movie The Shawshank Redemption. Source: Jan. 2002, p. 15.


MARTIN, W. K. Marlene Dietrich. Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for
middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in *Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District* alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district's policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.


**MUNGO, RAYMOND.** *Liberace.* Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in *Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District* alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district's policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.


**NUNOKAWA, JEFF.** *Oscar Wilde.* Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in *Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District* alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district's policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.
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O’BRIEN, SHARON. Willa Cather. Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District alleging that the removal is “a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship.” The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district’s policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject-matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.


SHARPE, JON. Tales from the Crypt. NAL; Penguin. Challenged, but retained at the Springdale, Ark. Public Library (2001) along


WOLFE, DANIEL. T.E. Lawrence. Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district’s policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.

ZWERMANN, GILDA. Martina Navratilova. Chelsea House Pubs. Removed from the Anaheim, Calif. school district (2000) because school officials said the book is too difficult for middle school students and that it could cause harassment against students seen with it. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California filed suit in Doe v. Anaheim Union High School District alleging that the removal is "a pretext for viewpoint-based censorship." The ACLU claims no other books have been removed from the junior high library for similar reasons, even though several, such as works by Shakespeare and Dickens, are more difficult reading. The ACLU contends that the school officials engaged in unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by removing the book because it contains gay and lesbian material. In March 2001, the school board approved a settlement that restored the book to the high school shelves and amended the district’s policy to prohibit the removal of books for subject matter involving sexual orientation, but the book will not be returned to the middle school. Source: Mar. 2001, p. 53; May 2001, p. 95; July 2001, p. 173.
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