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S t . T h o m a s U n i v e r s i t y L a w L i b r a r y

The Censorship of Books

by: Iris Garcia

Special points of interest:

- September 29 – October 6 is the 26th anniversary of Banned Books.
- You can reach the Multimedia/ Public Services librarian at (305) 474-2428.
- Law school Library Digital Library

The week of September 29 – October 6 marks the 26th anniversary of Banned Books Week: Celebrating the Freedom to Read. During this annual event, the American Library Association and co-sponsors remind students and library patrons of the importance of ensuring accessibility to books that provide alternative or unpopular points of view. The restriction of access to these materials would defy the rights and freedoms afforded to us by the First Amendment.

Many literary classics, such as *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Sun Also Rises*, were once banned from various schools and libraries in the United States. Yet, attempts to ban books are not events of the past. Last year 546 formal challenges were filed requesting the removal of materials from a library or school. Among the most intensely challenged was a children's book, *And Tango Makes Three* by Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell, which is a story about two male penguins that care for an orphaned egg.

Parents are often the initiators of challenges to books from their child's school or local public library. While the intention is to protect children from materials regarded as inappropriate, they attempt to make that item, and the ideas contained within, unavailable to a larger group. Frequent objections are made to books that contain offensive language, are sexually explicit, or are deemed unsuited for a specific age group. However, any theme may ultimately be cause for a challenge.

Here in Miami-Dade County, another children's book has been the subject of much debate. *Vamos a Cuba* ("A Visit to Cuba") is part of a series of 24 books that introduces children aged five to seven to the culture, people and land of various countries. The controversy began when a student's parent objected to the book for its positive portrayal of life in Cuba.

The parent's objection was first reviewed by a committee at the child's school. When the committee declined the request to have the book removed, the parent appealed to the District Materials Review Committee. This committee also voted to keep the book and their decision was affirmed by Superintendent Rudy Crew. Despite these decisions and against the recommendation of their attorney, the Miami-Dade School Board voted on June 14, 2006 to remove *Vamos a Cuba*, along with the entire series from school library collections. They argued that the book was filled with inaccuracies about the present state of Cubans.

As a result of the school board's action, the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the Miami-Dade Student Government Association requested a hearing before the United State District Court. The Florida Library Association also declared its support by filing a friend of the court brief. The judge presiding over the case ultimately ordered the books returned to the shelves by the beginning of the school year. The Miami-Dade School Board responded by filing an appeal with the U.S Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit and their case was heard on June 6, 2007. No decision has been rendered.

Inside this issue:

Audio Visual and Media at the Law	2
2006 Most Frequently Challenged Books	2
Course Reserve	2
Banned Books & Censorship Bibliography	3
STU Law Library Information Online	3
ALA's List of Most Challenged Books of	3
Law Library Spotlight	4

Audio Visual and Media at the Law School

The Law library prides itself on meeting your audiovisual and media needs. To do this successfully we must have all requests for media equipment at least 24 hours in advance. Make an audio visual request by sending an email to John Beatty the Multimedia/Public Services Librarian at jbeatty@stu.edu. Media equipment will not be loaned out

for personal use. If you have any questions or comments about the audio visual equipment or request process please call (305) 474-2428. John Beatty will be out of the office from October 5 - 21. During this time please make request to kgruben@stu.edu and oademodi@stu.edu.

2006 Most Frequently Challenged Books Crossword created with EclipseCrossword

Across 3. _____ Mackler authored, The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things

4. Stephen _____ authored the book, The Perks of Being a Wallflower

8. Phyllis Reynolds Naylor authored, The _____ series

9. A new TV show based on this series of books can be viewed on the CW, _____ Girls

10. A high school fundraiser is the backdrop for this Robert Cormier work, The _____ War

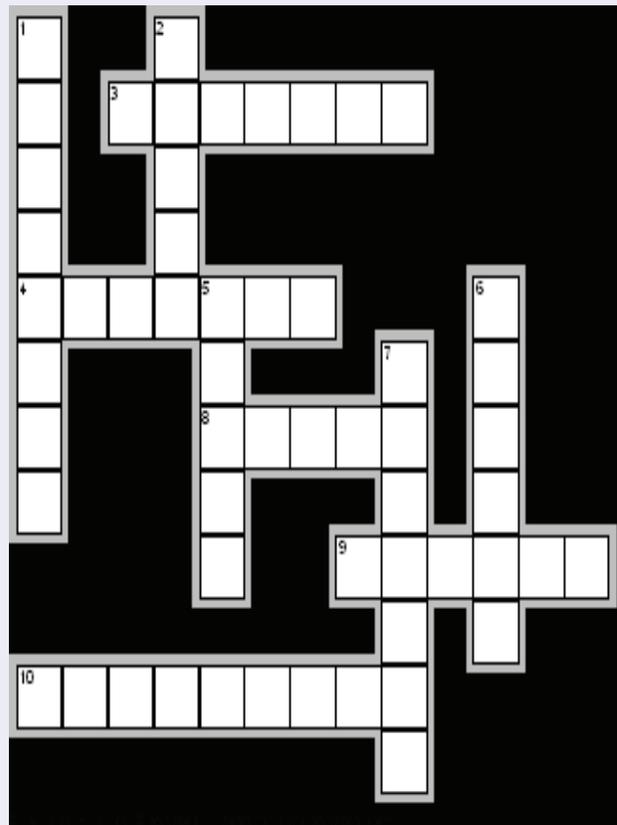
Down 1. Chris _____ authored the book athletic shorts

2. The most frequently challenged book in 2006, And _____ Makes Three

5. A series of frightening tales by Alvin Schwartz are appropriately titled, _____ Stories

6. The second work by Toni Morrison to make the list is, The _____ Eye

7. Oprah starred in the film version of the Toni Morrison work, _____

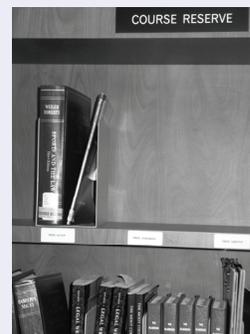


Course Reserve

Course Reserve includes resources placed on reserve upon request of a faculty member who is teaching a course during the semester. The materials on reserve may include books, journal articles, and photocopied materials. A/V materials held on course reserve are not openly accessible to the students and a request for these items must be made at the circulation desk. Items on course reserve are the type of materials that the faculty believes are necessary and at times even required for the course yet they do not wish to require the students to purchase the item. Due to the high

demand of these types of materials Course Reserve materials do not circulate outside of the library and have a limited check out period of four hours. All course reserve items must be checked out prior to use.

Course Reserve materials can be located in the St. Thomas University Law electronic catalog TomCat under the course reserve search screen.



Banned Books & Censorship Bibliography

By: Iris Garcia

Paul S. Boyer, [Purity in Print: Book Censorship in America from the Gilded Age to the Computer Age](#) (University of Wisconsin Press). [KF4775 .B6 2002](#)

June Edwards, [Opposing Censorship in the Public Schools: Religion, Morality, and Literature](#) (Erlbaum Associates). Electronic Resource: link available through library catalog

Herbert N. Foerstel, [Banned in the Media: A Reference Guide to Censorship in the Press, Motion Pictures, Broadcasting, and the Internet](#) (Greenwood Press). Electronic Resource: link available through library catalog

Herbert N. Foerstel, [Banned in the U.S.A.: A Reference Guide to Book Censorship in Schools and Public Libraries](#) (Greenwood Press). Electronic Resource: link available through library catalog

Herbert N. Foerstel, [Free Expression and Censorship in America: An Encyclopedia](#) (Greenwood Press). [Z 658.U5 F644 1997](#)

Patrick M. Garry, [Rediscovering a Lost Freedom : the First Amendment Right to Censor Unwanted Speech](#) (Transaction Publishers). [KF4775 .G37 2006](#)

Mary Hull, [Censorship in America: A Reference Handbook](#) (ABC-CLIO). Electronic Resource: link available through library catalog

Nicholas J. Karolides, [Banned Books: Literature Suppressed on Political Grounds](#) (Facts on File). [Z658.U5 K37 1998](#)

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Nan Levinson, [Outspoken: Free Speech Stories](#) (University of California Press). [KF4772 .L48 2003](#)

John McCormick & Mairi MacInnes (Eds.), [Versions of Censorship](#) (Aldine Transaction). [Z657 .V47 2006](#)

Robert Post (Ed.), [Censorship and Silencing: Practices of Cultural Regulation](#) (Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities). [KF4775 .C46 1998](#)

Diane Ravitch, [The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn](#) (Vintage Books). [LB3045.7 .R38 2003](#)

Gail Blasser Riley, [Censorship](#) (Facts on File). [Z 658.U5 R55 1998](#)

Pat Scales, [Teaching Banned Books: 12 guides for young readers](#) (American Library Association). Electronic Resource: link available through library catalog

Byron L. Stay (Ed.), [Censorship: Opposing Viewpoints](#) (Greenhaven Press). [Z 658.U5 C4 1997](#)

STU Law Library Information on the web

We are currently reworking our website (<http://www.stu.edu/lawlib>) here at the STU Law Library. Our newest section contains information about the library.

Browse to <http://www.stu.edu/library-information-section-847.html> or select "Library Information" from the front page to view.

Among such exciting information as the Law Library hours (<http://www.stu.edu/hours-location-and-contact-information-article-3098.html>), you will also find helpful directories to the Law Library unclassified collection (<http://www.stu.edu/guide-to-the-unclassified-collection-article-3093.html>), which when used with the Library maps ([\[article-3099.html\]\(http://www.stu.edu/article-3099.html\)\) will enable you to find any of the volumes in the unclassified collection, including case reporters, statutes, codes, AmJur, C.J.S., digests and more.](http://www.stu.edu/library-maps-</p>
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Have you tried searching the Law Library catalog and been confused by the names of the collections? Where's Reserve? Is that near Course Reserve? What about Periodicals? Where are they? What's a microform? See the Law Library Collections Guide (<http://www.stu.edu/law-library-collections-guide-article-3097.html>) for answers.



ALA's List of Most Challenged Books of 21st Century (2000 - 2005)

1. **Harry Potter** series by J.K. Rowling
2. **The Chocolate War** by Robert Cormier
3. **Alice** series by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
4. **Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck
5. **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou
6. **Fallen Angels** by Walter Dean Myers
7. **It's Perfectly Normal** by Robie Harris
8. **Scary Stories** series by Alvin Schwartz
9. **Captain Underpants** series by Dave Pilkey
10. **Forever** by Judy Blume



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L a w L i b r a r y S p o t l i g h t

Karl Gruben

Law Library Director and Associate Professor of Law

After completing his Bachelor's and Master's of Library Science degrees at the University of Texas at Austin, Professor Gruben began work as a professional law librarian at the State Law Library in Austin, Texas. In 1977 Professor Gruben began a long tenure as Librarian, then Director, then Firm wide Director of Libraries with the law firm of Vinson & Elkins, L.L.P., remaining with V&E for 25 years. Early on, Professor Gruben completed his J.D. degree at the South Texas College of Law in 1982. In 2001 he became the Practice Information Support Director for the law firm of Squire, Sanders, and Dempsey, L.L.P., before moving to St. Thomas University Law School's Library in 2004. Active in library associations, Professor Gruben has served on the Executive Board of the Texas Library Association and the Executive Board of the American Association of Law Libraries. He has written and made presentations in the law and law library literature, including Parker's Texas Business Statutes (ed. and comp.), Parker's Texas Uniform Commercial Code (ed. and comp.), A Reference Guide to Texas Law & Legal History (co-ed.); a chapter in Law Librarianship: A Handbook for the Electronic Age; and others. At St. Thomas, Professor Gruben teaches Computer Assisted Legal Research.



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