

Continuing Diversity:

A Column of Periodical Reviews

by Pamela M. Salela

The Chicago Reporter. ISSN: 0300-6921. Editor and Publisher: Elysia Tate. Executive Director: Rev. Calvin S. Morris. Community Renewal Society, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 500, Chicago, Illinois 60604; phone (312) 427-4830; web site: <http://chicagoreport.com>. Monthly. Subscription: \$23/year, individual; \$30/year, institutions; discount rates for multiple-year subscriptions. Current issue accessible at web site. Indexed in InfoTrac Onefile, General Ref. Ctr. Gold & General Ref. Centre International beginning w/February 2001 issue.

This substantive periodical provides a vast array of information pertaining to racial conditions and concerns in the Chicago urban area. Produced by the Community Renewal Society, a nonprofit organization that states that its mission and purpose is to identify, analyze, and report on the "social, economic and political issues of metropolitan Chicago with a focus on race and poverty," and this they do through impressive investigative journalism. The periodical is advertising free.

Each issue provides a focused look at a particular concern (such as public housing, social welfare programs, home loans, gangs, reparations for slavery, education, youth, Dept. of Children and Family Services). There are several regular columns. "New Voices" provides a biographical interview of one individual whose life circumstances can provide inspiration to others. For example, Ulysses "U. S." Floyd is one of the founding members of Lilydale Outreach Workers, a South Side community group serving youth and seniors. Floyd, a former gang member and ex-con, uses his own life as an example of what can go wrong with a life in the projects. The importance of this cannot be overemphasized when dealing with youth whose daily exposure to violence and gangs in housing projects makes it difficult to stay positively focused. And then there is the individual who enlisted the aid of his Hindu temple to send relief aid to the tsunami victims. Both of these individuals exemplify the power of community and how one person can make a difference in the lives of many others. "Keeping Current" highlights topics of current interest and provides information critical to staying well informed. The "Parting Shot" is a photographic essay that provides an upbeat image of life in Chicago (ice fishing, new citizens taking the oath of allegiance, a Bingo game, commuter voters).

The section entitled "Investigation" features articles that are investigative or analytical in nature. One investigative piece examines the city's attempt to dismantle projects and relocate members to other areas. This initiative inadvertently created new social tensions when rival gang members were placed in the same neighborhoods. Many young people

were murdered as a result. The article includes interviews with numerous individuals and a statistical analysis of crime demographics. Another investigative feature focuses on home ownership; it includes a demographic analysis of the city and patterns of lending discrimination. The article provides a case study on one individual's struggle to successfully achieve the American dream, as well as insights from a nonprofit economic development corporation and a historical examination of laws pertaining to mortgage loans.

Mindful of the needs of its readership, this feature offered an in-depth and unbiased analysis of each of the Democratic candidates prior to the 2004 Senate primary elections.

One might think that a periodical focused specifically on the city of Chicago would not be of interest to anyone outside its boundaries. However, many of the articles revolve around Chicago's effect on and response to state and national issues. The fact that this publication is among the holdings of several research institutions in major urban areas outside the Chicago area, including Yale and the University of California at Berkeley, may be a reflection of its importance. Anyone wanting a better understanding of some of the major urban issues today should read *The Chicago Reporter*. And apparently people do, for the letters to the editor have come from as far away as Alexandria, Virginia.

Cultural Survival Quarterly: World Report on the Rights, Voices and Visions of Indigenous Peoples. Summer 2005/Vol. 29, issue 2. ISSN: 0740-3291. Executive Director: Ellen L. Lutz. Cultural Survival, Inc., 215 Prospect Street, Cambridge, MA 02139; phone (617) 441-5400; web site: www.cs.org. Quarterly. Accessible online via CS web site as well as in print. Subscription/membership info can be found at: <http://209.200.101.189/membership/csform1.cfm>. Indexed in *Ethnic NewsWatch* and elsewhere.

The driving force behind this journal is the international human rights organization by the same name founded in 1972 by David Maybury-Lewis, retired professor of anthropology at Harvard University, and his wife, Pia. This organization has become the "leading organization in the United States dedicated to international indigenous rights." The board of directors consists of scholars of, and from, indigenous cultures, who focus on biodiversity, peace and justice issues, ethnic and gender identity, as well as persons active in numerous international efforts to fight for the rights of indigenous peoples. "Cultural Survival is a nonprofit organization dedicated to defending the human rights of indigenous communities. They should control their own lands and determine their own futures and their goal is to make their voices heard." Integral

to, and reflective of, this stated mission are the voices given expression in each issue that represent indigenous cultures, or individuals with a deep commitment to their concerns and well-being.

Each issue starts out with a full reproduction of the United Nations' "Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"; centers on a particular theme; and delves into a number of case as examples. Past themes have included violent conflict; women; national parks; endangered languages; traditional music; childhood; health and healing; education; land and resources; and individual countries and the indigenous peoples within them. The Summer 2005 issue is global in scope and focuses on the digital divide. It includes a feature article on indigenous peoples and their involvement with the World Summit on the Information Society. Complementing this main feature are articles on experiments in cultural enlightenment through cyberspace technologies; the Internet and social services; and using technology as a tool for activism. Also included are pieces about the educative power of independent film produced by (not just about) Native people, the community radio movement in Central America and its transformative power, dealing with the lack of acknowledgment by national media, and much more. Specific groups covered include Navajo Indians of the U.S. Southwest, the Maasai, and Guatemala's Maya. Refusing to be erased from the global landscape, these peoples worldwide engage in creative endeavors that bring witness to their humanity and vitality and dispel many stereotypes about indigenous approaches to problem solving.

In addition to numerous features, the periodical is divided into departments that include a message from the executive director tied directly to the theme of the issue ("The Many Uses of Technology"), News, CS Projects, Notes from the Field, Reviews, and a final parting blossom entitled "What Makes Culture." The "News" column provides an array of updates on various legal fronts such as land rights action filed by Onondaga of New York and the struggles of the Mursi, who are threatened with displacement by Ethiopia's national park project. "CS Projects" brings to light various Cultural Survival initiatives. "Notes from the Field" provides a deeper focus on a particular region or people. In this issue, Antasia Azure sheds light on Aboriginal environmental activism within Australia and its international connections, such as with the economic disaster that has befallen the indigenous peoples of Chile. "Reviews" focuses on publications about and by indigenous peoples. The column offers a recommended list of publications and invites readers to submit reviews. This issue's "What Makes Culture?" treats the reader to murals mounted on the walls of the Maya School in Palin, Guatemala, depicting their history and current struggles.

There are no subscribers to this award-winning quarterly, but rather members. Membership has its rewards, and receipt of this high-quality periodical is one of them, as well as the knowledge that one is contributing to the cultural survival of indigenous peoples everywhere. As a critical conduit of information pertaining to the rights, challenges, and victories of indigenous peoples around the globe, the publications of Cultural Survival are a must for academic as well as public libraries everywhere. Heavy usage in the 700 libraries that

currently subscribe to the journal has prompted CS to print the cover on durable heavy-stock paper.

CS also produces a newsletter twice annually that expounds further on many of the issues and events covered in the quarterly. The option of weekly e-mail updates rounds out the dissemination of information, making CS an indispensable source for educating oneself on the core concerns of indigenous peoples. Finally, the CS web site is a virtual wealth of information that is constantly being updated.

Learning Through History Magazine. Vol. 5, issue 3, 2005. ISSN: 1547-6073. Chief Editor: Rebecca Thompson; Publisher: Ronald D. Thompson II. Classic Education, Inc., PO Box 110129, Naples, FL 34108; phone (888) 852-1752; web site: www.LearningThroughHistory.com; Bimonthly. Subscription: \$29.00/year.

This unique publication is geared to families with children aged 7—16 and elementary through middle school teachers. Published by Classic Education, Inc., each issue focuses on a particular historic event in Western civilization. Included are a time line juxtaposed to major Western world events; two complete literature study guides; arts and craft projects focusing on music, fashion, and food; an early learners' section; discussion and essay questions; bibliographies of recommended books, videos, CDs; select web sites; and references to History Channel programs. The use of freelance writers from diverse walks of life adds to the dynamic of the magazine. In this particular issue there is a former museum educator, a writer from Botswana, a professor of English, a lawyer, a former schoolteacher, and even a former circus performer!

The magazine is divided into two reading groups, ages 9—up and ages 11—up. Historical fiction is one technique used to engage the young reader, as in "A Day in the Life During . . ." In this issue, the story follows the day of two youths, both aged 15, one the son of a blacksmith and schooled, and the other, from the peasant class, who works as an errand boy. During the process of one tutoring the other to read, the student of history learns about the different class and tax systems in eighteenth-century Europe. Teaching the young man to read is one of the primary objectives, and the story ends with the young peasant boy reading perfectly a broadsheet entitled "The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen" (which is later reproduced in full in the magazine). In all, there are 19 essays in this issue, each focusing on some key aspects of the French Revolution or the culture of the era. Though geared toward young readers, every attempt is made to address the real issues of history. For example, a fictionalized interview with Toussaint L'Ouverture is conducted while he is imprisoned in France shortly before he dies; in it, he reveals to the interviewer the conditions of slavery in Haiti and the Haitians' mistaken belief that the revolution in France extended to them as well.

Each essay is accompanied by a sidebar that contains questions and suggestions for further research. In the case of Haiti, questions posed to the student include "Why did George Washington give aid to the Haitian slave owners?" and "Why did Thomas Jefferson refuse to recognize Haiti's independence?" Other discussion questions urge students to imagine

themselves as different individuals within the social-historical context—as a woman, a slave, a landowner, and so on.

The magazine is entirely ad-free and consistently 64 pages long. Historical themes have included European Exploration, Mesoamerica, the Great War (WWI), Colonial America, Ancient Greece, and Ancient China.

It is difficult for the nonsubscriber to peruse this periodical to make his/her own judgment, as no examination copies are available, and few libraries seem to own a copy. The magazine appears in no major indexes. Nonetheless, this publication is recommended for teacher education programs, public libraries, and school collections.

ForeWord: Reviews of Good Books Independently Published. ISSN: 1099-2642. Managing Editor: Alex Moore. ForeWord Magazine, Inc., 129Ω E. Front St., Traverse City, MI 49684. Phone (231) 933-3699; fax (231) 933-3899; web site: www.forewordmagazine.com. Bimonthly; Subscription: \$40/year includes *eWord: A ForeWord Magazine Supplement on the Digital Delivery of Books*. Free subscriptions to librarians and booksellers. Available online via WorldCat.

Devoted exclusively to independent publishing, this beau-

tifully packaged publication is generous in its lush, colorful displays. The stunning cover images always vary, frequently including depictions of people from different ethnicities, races, and cultures. The kaleidoscopic display continues throughout the publication via photographic displays of book jackets of every title listed, providing a delightful symbolic metaphor of the diversity of perspectives and peoples represented within.


Each issue of *ForeWord* is organized into three main sections, including features (“ForeFront” and “ForeSight”), departments (Contributors, Feature Reviews, and book reviews), and regular columns (“Editor’s Words,” “Almost Missed,” and “AfterWord”). “ForeFront,” the highlighted feature article, brings focus to a particular topic such as biographies or religion. Two more feature articles in “ForeSight” provide additional thematic focus (poetry, food, politics, and more), analyzing the creations of numerous authors. Most of the freelance writers are themselves acclaimed authors, as detailed on the contributors’ page.

“In the Spotlight” includes two to three extensive reviews that focus on specific titles and launch off one of the “ForeSight” features. In the May/June 2005 issue, one of the topics is food (“Imagination in Fire & Spice: Gauging Creativity in Cookbooks”), and the two spotlight features include titles with a focus on cuisine and a novel with a focus on recipes. Throughout these journeys, one is ever aware of the diversity of representation, no matter what the topic.

The in-depth book reviews provide a nice panorama of dozens more titles, providing column-length (in a three-column format) reviews organized by topic. “Almost Missed” is dedicated to revisiting titles that were previously missed for review for a variety of reasons, and “AfterWord” provides a delightful postscript that focuses on the topic area of one of the “ForeSight” features.

The publishers of *ForeWord* have created a remarkable work that gives quality focus to independent publishing in a way that is itself a most enjoyable read. But the creative genius of *ForeWord* doesn’t stop there. There is now *eWord: A ForeWord Magazine Special Section on the Digital Delivery of Books*. In a world rapidly being transformed by digital innovation, this source provides critical information on finding out who wants eBooks, who’s producing eBooks, bestselling eBooks, how to develop such collections effectively, what users want, and what the future holds.

Recommended for all libraries, academic and public, the contents of this publication are essential to establishing or maintaining a collection that is representative of a multiplicity of peoples and perspectives that cannot be obtained from the larger presses.

Pamela M. Salela is assistant professor in the Library Instructional Services Program at the University of Illinois at Springfield, selector for African American Studies and Education, and Coordinator of the Central Illinois Nonprofit Resource Center. 

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