DEMOCRACY, ACTIVISM, AND ACTIVISTS

These books were on display in the Marriott Library as part of the Library's September Project events in 2005. For more information about the September Project see http://www.theseptemberproject.org

…biographical sketches of a group of racially, ethnically, socially, and regionally diverse women from many reform movements.—Choice

In an age of escalating human need, The Activist’s Handbook is an invaluable tool. It’s a user-friendly primer to fighting back, effecting change, and making a difference, written by someone with the right blend of pragmatism and disgruntlement, someone who’s not afraid to stand in the front line with a banner and who yet recognizes that wiler tactics are sometimes needed. —Earth Island Journal

Who better to teach ways to defeat "the system" than the people who taught how to construct it in the first place? Ackoff and Rovin, retired Wharton School professors, provide a humorous account of various ways of either thwarting or circumventing bureaucrats.—CIO Insight

Public work is defined as the work of diverse groups of people who together make things of value and importance for themselves and others. Such work, whether paid or unpaid, meets people's desire for creative, meaningful occupation and, the authors argue, can be used to solve community problems, renew public spirit, and overcome America’s growing racial divide.—Choice

This is the new classic tale of American heroism that not enough people are telling: how ordinary citizens in small towns, reservations, and remote regions take on the military and industrial sites contaminating us with a free hand and how sometimes the little guys win.— Rebecca Solnit, author of Savage Dreams and A Book Of Migrations


Lucy Maddox's Citizen Indians brings to life the active work done by Native American intellectuals on behalf of uplift, progressive reform, of universally conceived Indian rights as well as specific tribal concerns.—Werner Sollors, Harvard University.


More than any other piece of American writing, "Civil Disobedience" inspired and authorized the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War protest movement, and the student unrest of the sixties. —American Scholar.


Crazy for Democracy uses personal and organizational case studies of community-based social movements in the United States and South Africa to demonstrate the ways in which women are key actors in promoting direct democracy and are struggling to improve conditions for their communities. —Political Science Quarterly


Like Adbusters, the magazine that Lasn founded and publishes, Culture Jam both mocks consumer capitalism and reveals how powerfully it influences our lives. —Sierra


John Hart Ely’s classic book has helped to shape the intellectual agenda of constitutional scholars ever since it appeared.—Stanford Law Review


The author, professor of jurisprudence and political science at the Univ. of Chicago, outlines a general understanding of the purposes of a system of free expression. His objective is to reassess the appropriate role of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, our most precious constitutional right, in the contemporary democratic process in the light of modern economic and technological changes.—Choice


"No better study of a nation's institutions and culture than Tocqueville's Democracy in America has ever been written by a foreign observer; none perhaps as good."—The New York Times


Labaton and Martin, the former director and cofounder, respectively, of the Third Wave Foundation, let us know from the beginning that their goal is to bring us all closer to gender equity.—Library Journal

Leahy has produced a commendable survey of First Amendment cases and issues. Covering religion, both free exercise and establishment, speech, assembly and petition, association, and press, the cases in each subject area are summarized, if not analyzed.—Choice

O'Neil's book deals with campus speech codes, speech and technology, off-campus speech, groups (gays, Greeks), free press, artistic expression, academic freedom, religious speech, and freedom of speech at private institutions.—Choice

"Gag Rule" is a lively political pamphlet written in the tradition of Thomas Paine's "Common Sense."
Full of examples of the post-Sept. 11 chill on dissent, it takes aim not only at the politics of fear, but also at institutions and social phenomena that bolster an American tyranny of the easily manipulated majority, from media passivity to craven consumerism to political correctness of the right and left.—New York Times

Loeb seeks to demonstrate that only students who sit-in, act-up, or march-on can realize their full human potential.—Public Interest

…some interesting case studies and creative ideas about strengthening the economy and sense of ownership in local communities from small villages to large cities… Of particular interest is a lengthy topical appendix that identifies organizational resources on every subject from appropriate technology to urban development.—Choice

…Nader, a Harvard-trained lawyer, offers his case that virtually all of America's woes can be traced to the rise and growing power of what he calls multinational corporate predators.—New York Times

This book is a paean to select individuals and groups who have defied great odds and opposition and who, in the author's opinion, have ultimately enriched the mosaic of American life by their courageous examples.—Choice

From alliances working to reunite America's native habitats to people dedicated to deconstructing the dam that flooded Glen Canyon in order to create Lake Powell to Native American elders educating nuclear engineers about the dangers of and alternatives to this threatening technology, Ward paints an encouraging, if cautionary, portrait of the movement toward a more responsible ecological paradigm.—Booklist

Well-documented cases of grassroots entrepreneurial activities to tackle such diverse social problems as child abuse, disability, illiteracy, and environmental degradation give life to [this book ].—Business Week
…this collection of essays focuses on finding the courage to persist in activism in the face of despair [Terry Tempest Williams is one of the contributors].—Sierra

Harer, a member of the American Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, offers an overview of the issues encompassing intellectual freedom—the First Amendment rights that guarantee freedom of religion, speech, and press and the right to assembly. – Library Journal

This is a book of passion, of intellectual integrity, of right ethics--the fascinating story of a woman living a life that has made an indelible difference to all of us who read.—Mark Spragg, Author of An Unfinished Life

For former and current activists, this is a thoughtful and philosophical look at the personal delight and social efficacy of activism—Booklist

What is needed is a way to effectively disseminate [the information in this book] to those, outside librarianship, who do not understand the vital and essential contributions that libraries and librarians have made to the past, present, and future of this institution we call democracy.—College and Research Libraries

This book will force scientific readers to consider their motives for remaining in science and challenge them to contribute to society in a direct way. It will give nonscientific readers a better perspective on the motivations and goals of the practitioners of science. —Choice

Gutiérrez describes the rise and fall of the Chicano Youth Movement in Texas and assimilation of this movement into the contemporary Chicano Movement [La Raza Unida].—Choice

Edmunds (history, Univ. of Texas at Dallas) has filled a gap in Indian Studies by assembling a dozen scholarly biographies of 20th-century American Indian leaders…Indians and non-Indians alike will benefit from learning about modern heroes.—Choice

It is an eminently readable and accessible survey of some of the most salient characteristics of early global capitalism as it has developed in the last two decades, as well as of the dawning resistance to the terms of corporate rule.—Canadian Dimension

An inspiration to many in the environmental movement following her two-year stint atop a thousand-year-old redwood to protest old-growth logging, activist Hill's motivational message and methods
come down to ground level as she eloquently advocates the power of an individual approach in the preservation and conservation of the earth's resources.—Booklist

**The Open space of democracy by Terry Tempest Williams.** Orion Society, 2004. JK1726 .W55 2004; Level 2 and Browsing, Level 3.
The most political book she has written, this impressionistic work consciously connects the importance of place with the necessity of cultivating democracy. Whether or not you agree with her, Williams is dependably eloquent with her word.—Deseret News

**The quickening of America : rebuilding our nation and remaking our lives / Frances Moore Lappé, Paul Martin Du Bois.** Jossey-Bass Publishers, c1994. JK1764 .L36 1994; Level 2, Democracy, Lappé and Du Bois argue, can solve real-life problems and "bring new meaning and effectiveness into our lives [if it] becomes not simply what we have, but what we do."—Booklist.

In this beautifully written and persuasively argued book, one of the most noted of U.S. historians restores the radicalism to what he terms "one of the greatest revolutions the world has ever known"…It was a revolution of the mind, in which the concept of equality, democracy, and private interest grasped by hundreds of thousands of Americans transformed a country nearly overnight.—Library Journal

Combining intensive research with original interviews with surviving participants, Richard Kluger provides the fullest possible view of the human and legal drama in the years before 1954, the cumulative assaults on the White power structure that defended segregation, and the step-by-step establishment of a team of inspired Black lawyers that could successfully challenge the law. [Updated with a new last chapter]—Black Issues in Higher Education

Johnson (history, Northern Iowa) has produced a highly readable and accessible case study on the now-famous black armband case, *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* …the book examines the individuals and issues that shaped the course of events leading to a major constitutional decision by the US Supreme Court.—Choice

*Taking Back the Academy* brings together a dynamic cast of scholars and activists representing a broad range of generational, institutional, and disciplinary backgrounds. They invite us to consider the multiple ways in which colleges and universities can stimulate social change.—Jacquelyn Hall, Spruill Professor of History, UCNC/Chapel Hill

**Taking time off: inspiring stories of students who enjoyed successful breaks from college and how you can plan your own by Colin Hall and Ron Lieber.** Noonday Press, 1996. LC32 .H35 199; Level 2.
Thirty-three students, some graduates, some still in school, tell of how they used time off from college, either before or during, to help build housing for the poor, teach disabled people how to ski, model for the jet set, fight in the Gulf War, and promote Arab-Jewish conflict resolution.—Library Journal

*Time Longer Than Rope* is a significant effort to "acknowledge the depth of African Americans'
activist initiative."—The Journal of American History


**William Sloane Coffin Jr.: a holy impatience by Warren Goldstein.** Yale University Press, c2004. BX9225.C6243 G65 2004; Level 1. In a period when sociopolitical conservatism dominates the image of Christianity in the US, it is important to be reminded of the liberal/progressive tradition represented in the Social Gospel movement, and by figures such as Bushnell, Beecher, King, and William Sloane Coffin…As chaplain at Yale from 1958 to 1975, Coffin emerged as one of the most charismatic and controversial figures in US religion through his pivotal roles as civil rights champion, “freedom rider,” anti-Vietnam War activist, and opponent of the draft.—Choice

**You can't say that!: the growing threat to civil liberties from antidiscrimination laws by Bernstein, David E.** Cato Institute, 2003. KF4749 .B47 2003; Level 2. The question of what should count as expressive harm is central to *You Can't Say That!* written by Professor David Bernstein of the George Mason University School of Law and published by the Cato Institute. As the book's title implies, Professor Bernstein argues that antidiscrimination laws may restrict speech.— Constitutional Commentary

Linda Keiter, Marriott Library