

## Over to You . . .

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

I just wanted to let you and the guest editor know that the Fall 1991 issue of *North Carolina Libraries* is the best I have ever seen. It certainly rivals, if not excels, the quality of many commercial journal ventures in the field. The excellent photographs complement an equally fine manuscript.

—Gary Fenton Barefoot, Librarian  
Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, NC

To the Editor:

Guest Editor Phillip Barton and his group of writers should be highly commended for the Fall issue of *North Carolina Libraries* devoted to library building. This theoretical and practical assortment of articles is a true contribution to the literature.

The information and advice will indeed be an aid to persons involved in building planning or renovation. This issue will become required reading for my students in their library management class. Thank you for this outstanding contribution to the profession.

—Gene D. Lanier, Professor  
East Carolina University, Greenville, NC

To the Editor:

Frances Bryant Bradburn, reviewer of my anthology/text, *Our Words, Our Ways: Reading and Writing in North Carolina*, is evidently a careful reader. She is right on target in recognizing that this book is intended to do more than merely showcase writing and writers — that it was compiled and edited, as she wrote, to "not only encourage an appreciation and love of our North Carolina heritage, but also ... help these teens understand their place in their communities, state, nation, and world." I very much appreciate her describing the text as "an example of careful content integration"; such integration was one of my prime objectives during the three and one-half years I devoted to compiling it and the extra months devoted to the Teacher's Resource Guild.

Two additional comments:

First, on the matter of multicultural selections, Bradburn accurately notes that about ten percent of selections are by and about African-Americans; to be exact, seven black authors are represented and fourteen works deal with black experience. However, the comment that "other ethnic groups are not singled out" ignores the thirteen works — dramas, fiction, poetry, legends, and non-fiction — dealing with native Americans and including their words (speeches, oral histories, transcripts of legends). So far as other cultures go, North Carolina at this point has been shaped mainly by three cultures: native American, African-American, and Euro-American (mainly English, Scotch-Irish, Scottish, and German). With more Hispanic and Asian peoples moving into the state, and with the current remarkably hospitable climate for writers here, it is only a matter of time before we have our own Amy Tan and Li-Young Lee, our Richard Rodriguez and Gabriel Garcia Marquez — but we can't claim them yet.

Secondly, I agree entirely that it is a pity that the textbook wasn't completed in time for 1991-96 state adoption, but I am happy to note that because of recent programs allowing more freedom in choosing texts, spending allocated monies, etc., a number of schools are already using *Our Words, Our Ways* — in spite of sadly diminished budgets. (I find it interesting that some of the less wealthy school systems have been among the first and the most enthusiastic in purchasing it and training both social studies and language arts teachers to use it effectively.) If teacher response is any indication, the book will indeed fulfill its objectives.

—Sally Buckner  
Raleigh, NC

*NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES* invites your comments. Please address and sign with your name and position all correspondence to: Frances B. Bradburn, Editor, *NORTH CAROLINA LIBRARIES*, Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. We reserve the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. Whenever time permits, persons most closely related to the issue under discussion will be given an opportunity to respond to points made in the letter. Deadline dates are the copy deadlines for the journal: February 10, May 10, August 10, and November 10.

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