

Letters About Literature Winning Essays Announced

The Colorado Center for the Book (CCFTB), in conjunction with Weekly Reader and the Library of Congress, sponsored the annual Letters About Literature Contest. Students in grades four through twelve selected books they read that they have strong feelings about. Then students wrote letters to the authors explaining what the book taught them about themselves.

The essays of the Colorado first place winners in each of two age categories are reprinted here.

Letter to Deborah Savage To Race a Dream

Rachel Winter, Grade 7, Zion Lutheran School,
Brighton, CO

Dear Ms. Deborah Savage,

I am thirteen years old and have many dreams of my own. My parents have always supported me in all I do and in all I hope to be. They have also taught me that if I want to reach my goals and fulfill my dreams, I must work hard to reach them and not give up.

To Race a Dream, an intriguing book about a girl who fulfills an almost impossible dream, has reflected my own life. Ever since I was born, I have had an undying love or maybe even an obsession with horses. Like all little girls I always wanted a horse, but unlike most girls, I never outgrew it. Even at thirteen I still want to live and breathe horses. Like Theo, as I grow older I realize I must do something to fulfill my dream of someday owning, working with, and teaching others about horses.

I felt even more like Theo when I read that she has a sister in whose shadow she lives. I have a wonderful older sister and brother, but I live in their shadows. Everywhere I go I

am known as "so and so's" little sister. As much as I love my older siblings, I would also like my own identity. I believe that, like Theo, I dream big. I have also wanted a horse to call my own, but because in reality horses cost a lot of money, it makes my dream seem even farther away.

Unlike Theo, I have a very supportive family. Almost every week, for about four years now, my parents have faithfully driven me to and from a town twenty miles away for horseback riding lessons so that I can chase the dream of someday owning and riding my horse. My parents have also taught me to earn my own money, save it, and invest it wisely. This well-written book made me ask myself, "If I didn't have anyone supporting me and my dreams, would I still try to reach them?" I now realize how lucky I am that I have so many friends and relatives that support me and my dreams.

To Race a Dream not only opened my eyes to how important dreams are, but also to how much easier it makes reaching goals now that men and women have almost the same opportunities in life. I can ride and work with horses without having to worry about people knowing that I'm a girl. Although the times have changed, I still must work hard and do my best to reach my goals. People may think I'm crazy for loving horses like I do, but I can't let that get in the way of following my dreams. I believe that even if we have little to no support, we should not let that discourage us. Nothing is impossible, if we do our best in life and don't get discouraged no matter what others think or say.

Sincerely,

Rachel Winter
Zion Lutheran School
Brighton, CO

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State Board of Education Chair Clair Orr (left) and Board Member Randy DeHoff (right) congratulate Colorado's National Library Week Poster Contest winners Dorothy Cowgill, Library Media Specialist from Lamar High School Library, and Lamar High School student Leslie Trujillo.

Trujillo created the grand prize winning poster and was awarded gift certificates for books for the school library and for herself. The awards ceremony was held during National Library Week at the Governor's Executive Residence.

It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

So how do I get a book from Durango to Ovid? An ode to a statewide courier program.

by Nancy M. Bolt, <nbolt@csn.net>

For the last three years, Colorado's Regional Library Service Systems and the Resource Sharing Board have been wrestling with the idea of a statewide courier system.

Well. . . to be honest we haven't been wrestling with the idea as much as wrestling with how to bring it about. At one point it seemed so difficult we resorted to calling it "the 'C' word." Two years in a row the State Library and the LSTA Stewardship Committee provided funds to subsidize new libraries joining a courier program. But what eluded us was a stable, self-sustaining, statewide courier contract.

Currently there are about eight different courier contracts in place. It doesn't begin to cover the whole state. There are overlapping contracts, different rules about what can and cannot be transported, and different pricing mechanisms. We hoped that a statewide courier program would solve these problems.

But. . . how to bring it about?

The last LSTA grant called for a mediator to work with the State Library, the seven Systems, and a representative of the Resource Sharing Board to, basically, lock ourselves in a room until we came up with an equitable way of funding such a program. So, between September 1998 and February 1999, the seven Regional Library Service System Directors (Gordon Barhydt, John Campbell, Beth Hager, Donna Morris, Jeanne Owen, Sandra Scott, and Jane Ulrich) the State Librarian (Nancy Bolt), and a representative of the Resource Sharing Board (Sue Coldren) met four times to design a statewide courier system.

We concluded that a statewide courier program is ultimately a bargain. It speeds interlibrary loan books on their way, increases communication among libraries, decreases isolation (particularly for small libraries) and, above all, improves service to the public. A statewide courier would provide uniformity of service



across the state and create a true seamless web of library service, adding more libraries than currently participate.

A statewide courier system would also allow for better overall management of the courier contract: one bid, one contract, one problem resolution point, one system of accountability, no duplication, and the ability to hold one vendor accountable. A fairly funded statewide courier system would equalize the funding formula for courier around the state, expand coverage, and be self-sustaining.

A statewide courier would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of interlibrary loan by reducing postal service mailings to almost nothing, reducing the cost of supplies and postage, and improving the service to the public.

The group also discussed principles that must be taken into consideration for any statewide courier project to be successful:

- the ability for each system director to do some troubleshooting to maintain quality service for system members;
- must accommodate local system needs; be based on a fair and equitable pricing formula;
- provide universal good service; provide timeliness of service, such as en route sorting; legal, written contract, centrally bid and managed by one system on behalf of all;
- include as many expansion libraries as possible; and allow systems to subsidize local libraries in their regions if they desire.

The group agreed on a proposal to send to all libraries that would fund a statewide courier if implemented. Reactions to this proposal are still coming in. In order for the statewide courier to work, libraries have to see the value of the courier and be willing to pay more than they are now if that's what a formula determines.

The State Library will see an increase in our bill of

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It's happening ...

FROM THE STATE LIBRARY AND ADULT EDUCATION OFFICE

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almost \$2,000, but we will pay it gladly. The State Library does very little ILL. Our book collection is very small. But, boy, do we send out the mailings! It boggles my mind to consider what it would cost, not just in postage, but in staff time if we had to mail everything we send out.

The System Directors and I asked for people to send us courier stories. Just how valuable is a statewide courier? Are people willing to pay the increased costs? Here are some of the responses:

Ronda from Pueblo writes: *"Yes, a patron needed a test booklet fast. He got it in time to study for the Civil Service test. This simple statement means not only that the patron in Pueblo got the book fast, but the library it was borrowed from could send it off to Pueblo quickly. Courier is a two-way street. The more libraries that are on courier, the easier it is for everybody. Large libraries benefit because they don't have to mail to small libraries that aren't on the courier. Academic libraries in general can better serve distant students who borrow books from the local public library."*

Here are some more quotes from smaller libraries:

Susan from Lamar sums up several points. *"Courier service is critical to overall library service in the remote ends of SE Colorado. ILL is faster, more efficient, and cheaper, with our inclusion (finally) in the courier system. ILL services in the major resource libraries are obviously set up with the courier as the essential transportation factor. Prior to our inclusion in courier service, ILL took, on average, a week longer for us to receive materials. Our operating expenses are dramatically reduced, with less postage, minimal packaging and handling of materials, and less staff time involved in the ILL process. Also, we have developed a satellite system in SE Colorado. With courier service to Lamar Public as the hub, we distribute to all the schools in the county, and to McClave, Eads, and Vilas. The courier and its subsystem have brought us all closer together, with daily service to all the schools. Teachers, librarians, and administrators are all happy. I cannot see how one can justify increasing funding for resource sharing if the courier is not funded as well. It is the major means of making resource sharing successful and efficient. For rural, remote areas, it is the great equalizer."*

Here's a comment from a commuting graduate school student: *"Since Alamosa is in the San Luis Valley where all the counties are closely tied, having the courier system in place makes it possible for me to check out materials from Alamosa during my work days and return them from my home library if I want to. I also like to check out books from Denver or the Springs and return them here. It's so nice to see the libraries in Colorado cooperating like this!"*

Here's a LaJunta Elementary school media specialist who's uses the courier for a unique form of resource sharing: *"As a public elementary school with a minimal library budget, we are most grateful for courier service. We have been able to acquire materials far beyond our budget from other library professionals who were discarding them and were kind enough to make them available to anyone who could use them. Shipping a full set of Books in Print could be costly, but the courier has made it something that could be done. We have benefited many times this year from this easily accessed service."*

Dorothy at the Lamar High School comments on courier in relation to using the US mail: *"The courier service is great as we can get materials from DPL much faster and any materials we request through NEAR seem to arrive within two days. It is so nice not to have the hassle of packaging everything up and making a trip to the post office, we just have our school courier deliver it to the public library which is our drop off place. The convenience is wonderful and I don't know about the savings on expenses but surely it is cheaper than postal mail."*

Judy from Wetmore says: *"I think the courier service is the best thing that has happened to libraries in a long time. Coming from a small rural library, with donated books and not much of a budget, the courier service is our lifeline to the outside world. We can get books from various places in record time, and I think people in this high tech society expect and appreciate timeliness. . . Patrons are surprised and very pleased that the courier exists."*

Large libraries may not realize how the courier helps their own users when they travel. Peggy from West Custer County Library writes: *"As you know, the West Custer County Library serves a small rural community which is undergoing rapid growth. A major segment of our growing population have vacation homes here, but have*

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Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Fields

Digitization Project Aids in Teacher Institute

Thirty Colorado teachers will travel to Trinidad, Colorado, to participate in a week long seminar *Work and Culture in the Southern Colorado Coal Fields, 1860-1960*, sponsored by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities (CEH). The participants will begin their seminar experience before they arrive in Trinidad.

Through a collaborative effort of the CEH, the Colorado Digitization Project (CDP) and seminar designer Dean Saitta, Ph.D., University of Denver, Department of Anthropology, the pre-seminar materials will be available via the Internet. The program materials, including photographs from the period of the Ludlow Coal Field Wars, digital images of papers and the current field work from the coal field camps, and abstracts from conference presenters will be available on the Colorado Digitization Project Web site <<http://coloradodigital.coalition.org/>>.

Attendees will have access to the site both before and during the seminar. Through the summer, additional materials will be added to the site, including lesson plans. Attendees and other Colorado teachers can use these resources during the next school year. "This project allows the original resources on the period to be used by teachers in their classrooms. It extends the seminar into the school year and beyond," said Maggie Kovel, Executive Director, Colorado Endowment for the Humanities. "Combining the knowledge of the University of Denver faculty, the collections of the Denver

Public Library Western History Collection, the expertise of librarians and computer scientists, and the power of technology, we can introduce students to resources that they wouldn't be able to otherwise access."

This project serves as the pilot project for the Colorado Digitization Project. The CDP, a collaborative initiative involving Colorado's libraries, museums, archives, and historical societies has the goal of increased availability of unique resources and special collections held by these institutions. "Through digitization and distribution via the Internet, these resources can be made available to the people of Colorado. One of the key uses of these materials is in the K-12 classroom. Through this initiative with CEH and Dr. Saitta, we can demonstrate the use of Colorado's special collections in our classrooms," stated Nancy Bolt, Colorado State Librarian.

The Colorado Coal Fields project, directed by Dean Saitta, Ph.D., is funded in part by the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities. The Colorado Digitization Project, a project of the Colorado State Library, is funded in part through Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) money.

For more information on the CEH project, contact Ashley Kasprzak at CEH, 303/573-7733. For more information on the Colorado Digitization Project, connect to the Web site at <<http://coloradodigital.coalition.org/>>, or email the CDP project director at <bishoffl@concentric.net>.

What's New on the Resource Bank Web Site?

The Resource Bank staff converted and republished 39 curriculum units and 34 classroom assessments on the Web site during March and April. The curriculum units are from the El Alma de la Raza Series, a Hispanic culture and history curriculum developed by the El Alma de La Raza Curriculum and Teacher Training Project. The classroom assessments are from Centennial BOCES' Staff Development Programs

The Alma Project was made possible with funding from a Goals 2000 - Partnerships for Educating Colorado Students grant awarded to the Denver Public Schools in July 1996. The instructional units were developed by teachers (K-12) from the Denver Public Schools beginning in March 1997. All instructional units are aligned with the Denver Public Schools Academic Content Standards for reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, and geography. The art and music instructional units are aligned with the Colorado Model Content Standards.

These instructional units are available on the Resource Bank Web site to teachers who wish to integrate into their curriculum the Latino cultural and historical contributions in literature, history, art, science, and music. Teachers who

implement the units should complete the questionnaire found on the last page of each unit, as feedback will be extremely valuable to the Alma Project Office.

For more information on the Alma Project, contact:

Alma Project
Loyola A. Martinez, Project Director
1330 Fox Street
Denver, CO 80204
Phone: 303/405-8186
Fax: 303/405-8170

E-mail: loyola_martinez@dps.cudenver.edu

For more information about the Resource Bank, please contact:

Standards and Assessment Resource Bank
Colorado Department of Education
201 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203
Phone: 303/866-6915
Fax: 303/830-0793
E-mail: <resource_bank@cde.state.co.us>
<<http://www.cde.state.co.us/stand.htm>>

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Letter to A.A. Milne House at Pooh Corner

Christine Ridge, Grade 11,
Arapahoe High School, Littleton

Dear Mr. Milne:

An unprecedented event took place in my life six months ago. No pain ever affected me like this, no heartache ever hurt me more. The experience impacted every aspect of life. You see, six months ago, my best friend, Erin, left for school.

Erin first attracted me with her smile, her wit, and her incredible way of finding the humor in every situation. Her astounding capabilities in personal and social relationships made it easy for me to feel comfortable around her right away. We spent every day together. Hours and hours went into sunset-chasing, cookie-baking, tale-telling, and adventure-seeking. Like Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin in your book, Erin and I found pleasure in just doing Nothing together. I never felt the instant bond of true friendship before I met Erin. Once I did feel it, I thought nothing in our friendship could ever change.

The fateful day the thick envelope from Southern Utah University arrived, I refused to watch Erin open it. If the college refused to take her, I knew disaster lurked around the corner. But I didn't want Erin to see my dejection and heartbreak if it accepted her. After a couple of long hours spent moping in my bedroom, my phone rang. My heart dropped to the very bottom of my tattered old slippers and time came to a screeching halt right in my own bedroom. And then, I knew. Who knows how? Maybe it was the best friends connection, maybe it was sisterly intuition, but I

knew Erin was leaving, and I knew I couldn't stop it. I felt my best friend slipping away before we even spoke a word. I was right about the letter. Fat letters from colleges always mean good news to the receiver. Southern Utah University felt honored to accept Erin to their campus six hundred miles away. After thirty minutes on the phone, my brave front collapsed and I sank into tears on my bed. Struggling through the next few months without her seemed impossible. I could think of no place and no one to turn to. I gave myself up to misery and tossed and turned on my bed for ten of the longest minutes of my life. Then, seeking the haven that had been my favorite since I learned to read, I snatched up the first book I laid eyes on. It happened to be your House at Pooh Corner. I spent the next two hours riveted to the words that flowed off the page into my heart. I felt his wonder at anyone wanting to leave the perfection of childhood. The last few pages that describe Christopher Robin and Pooh's last time together sent tears down my cheeks.

Your book put words to my sorrow. It lent wings to my thoughts, my fears, my feelings. It also helped me see why Erin needed to go away and how much she still needed me. I can't thank you enough for your book and your comforting reassurance that "in that enchanted place at the top of the Forest, a little boy and his Bear will always be playing." You taught me that when things change, life goes on. People come and go in life, seasons change, treasures fade, but neither time nor man can take from me my memories of Erin.

I thank you for your wisdom and your kindness in sharing it at the moment I most needed it.

Your grateful reader,
Chrissy Ridge

Scholarship Available for MLS Student

by Ray Peterson
Library Literacy and Diversity Consultant,
<peterson_r@cde.state.co.us>

The Colorado Council for Library Development (CCLD) announces that the Colorado Library Services to Minorities Scholarship is once again available to a qualified graduate student. The scholarship for \$5000 is to provide financial assistance to encourage and enable an individual in Colorado to pursue a career in library and information science or educational media.

This scholarship will be given to a student who is entering or has recently entered an ALA-accredited graduate school to study for a master's of library science or educational media. Eligible applicants must be residents of Colorado and either a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. The scholarship is open to anyone regardless of age, gender or creed.

Library experience or current work in a public or private library or school media center is desirable, but not required.

Demonstration of service to a minority community is also advantageous. The scholarship recipient must commit to working two years in a Colorado public library after graduating. Application deadline is July 1, 1999.

For further information and application, contact the Dr. Ray E. Peterson
Colorado State Library
201 E. Colfax
Denver, CO 80203
phone 303/866-6651
email <peterson_r@cde.state.co.us>.

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their main residence in another part of Colorado; primarily along the Front Range. As we talk with new folks, we explain that because of the courier service, they may check out materials in Westcliffe and their home library will return the materials to us; and if they bring materials from their home library on their vacation, we are able to return the materials. Most people don't know about this service and are truly delighted to hear about it. It is actually one of our 'knock their socks off' services."

Jeff from Salida comments on the increased cost: "It's outrageous, but I'll pay. That must have been a fun project (Statewide Courier Service). Do you think everyone will go for it? We're in, anyway. Can't go back; Becky would scream; and this is about what I figured we'd have to pay (I couldn't imagine it would be much less than postal service, if at all)."

Lenore from Pagosa Springs writes: "The courier service has made a big difference for us. The savings in staff time, and actual money is considerable. We are continually amazed at the quick turn-around time, and the reliability of the system. We would be quite disappointed to return to the old days. We've been very pleased with the service we've received from the various people hired by the courier, and they have helped us out on some other items as well. We love our courier, and thank all those who helped make it possible."

Hank from Longmont wrote: "I just received the information on the new statewide courier fees, and even though I didn't budget for the increase, I will nevertheless come up with the additional funding. The increase certainly won't kill us, and I honestly believe that a statewide courier system benefits everyone. . . particularly the patrons of small-

er libraries. Glad to do our part."

Let me end with another quote from Jeff from Salida: "Once upon a time, a little library in Central Colorado had to send and receive all its interlibrary loans through the United States Postal Service. As the years passed, and the number of such loans went into the many hundreds and then over a thousand and even more, the little library's interlibrary loan librarian had lots and lots of packaging to do. But worse, the bigger libraries that sent the little library books had to do the same packaging in order to send them. They didn't really like this, and so sometimes those requests didn't get processed as fast as the ones going "The Other Way." "The Other Way" used a courier to deliver books and things, and the courier system made packaging quicker and easier, and often things were delivered sooner, and the little library's interlibrary loan librarian longed to have such service, but she knew that people only like to drive through Central Colorado for vacation, and so she tried not to dream.

But then some farsighted librarians, who were farsighted — but, not from being old — saw that a statewide courier system would greatly benefit all of the citizens of Colorado and began to investigate the matter. The little library received a trial membership in "The Other Way," and the interlibrary loan librarian so loved the service that she declared she would kill rather than give it up, which scared the library director such that he budgeted for full courier service. This was easy, of course, because it didn't cost anymore than postage would have.

The End."

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Colorado State Publications

by Maureen Crocker
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Directories:

Lists of specific resources and contacts are published by various state agencies. The following are selected directories available on loan from the State Publications Library.

Active permitted mine operations in Colorado, 1996-97: directory. NR12/20.10/45. Denver, Colo.: Colorado Geological Survey, Dept. of Natural Resources, 1998. 58p.

Child identification directory. ED12/1.10/1998-99. [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Dept. of Education, Special Education Services Unit: Prevention Initiatives Unit.

Colorado directory of American Indian resources/Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs. GOV5/10.10/1998-99. Denver, CO.

Colorado education and library directory. ED2.25/1998-99. Denver, Colo.: Colorado Dept. of Education.

Colorado managed care guide: directory of Colorado Medicaid managed care health plans and providers. HCP6/10.2/P69/1998/2 codocs. [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Dept. of Health Care Policy & Financing, Enrollment and Eligibility [sic] Section. 1v. (looseleaf).

Colorado production guide. LOC3/125.10/1998. Morrison, Colo.: Colorado Production Guide. The official resource guide of the Colorado Film Commission.

A directory of approved programs for the preparation of professional education personnel in Colorado. ED9.11/1998. Denver, Colo.: Office of Program Development, Teacher Education and Certification Unit, Colorado Dept. of Education.

Directory of cultural resource management agencies, consultants, and personnel for Colorado. HED6/50.2/C76/1998 codocs. Denver, Colo.: Colorado Historical Society, Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation. 48 leaves.

Environmental health hazards resource directory for health professionals/prepared by Sallie Thoreson. HE18/30.2/R31/1998 codocs. [Denver, Colo.?]: Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment. (Various pagings).

Monthly affirmative action listing of certified DBE contractors and consultants/Colorado Dept. of Transportation, Staff. TRA4/1.10/current. [Denver, Colo.]

The 1998 foundation and funder guide. HU4/6.2/F96/1998 codocs. Denver, Colo.: Colorado Dept. of Human Services, Office of Self Sufficiency Programs, Supportive Housing and Homeless Programs. 78p. The source of funding information for agencies that want to fund housing and services for special needs populations.

Non-public school information packet. ED8/7.10/Feb. 1999. [Denver, Colo.]: Colorado Dept. of Education.

Private fishing opportunities in Colorado: 1998 directory. AG6.2/P93/1998 codocs. Lakewood, CO: Colorado Dept. of Agriculture, Markets Division. 1 folded sheet.

Topical resource directory/Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Office of Customer Service, Information Center. HE1/71.2/T62/1997. Denver, CO. 49p.

Volunteer directory/the Children's Volunteer Project. GO39/2.2/V88/1998 codocs. Denver, Colo.: Metro Volunteers: First Impressions. 64p.

Minority Mentoring Program Flourishes

by Ray Peterson, Library Literacy and Diversity Consultant
<peterson_r@cde.state.co.us>

Several Colorado librarians have graciously agreed to commit a portion of their time to the goal of increasing minorities within our Colorado library workforce. In fact, far more are willing to commit to this effort than can be accommodated. These librarians have agreed to spend as much time as they can, over at least the next two years, working with highly motivated minority individuals who want to have careers as librarians.

Mentors act as sort of a big sister/big brother. Mentors and protégés get together by phone, sometimes email, over coffee or lunch, or however and whenever it makes sense to the two of them. Mentors encourage; counsel as they can; support their protégé where appropriate; invite their protégé to professional meetings, conferences and workshops, when possible; and, in general, be there to help smooth over the rough spots in the protégé's pursuit of the dream of becoming a librarian.

Accepting the role of mentor this term is Candice Brown, Extension Services Manager for the Arapahoe Library District. She will mentor Glenn Paul Joyner, a library technician at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Glenn also volunteers as a librarian at his church and is a student in the University of Denver Library and Information Science program.

Past and current participants agree that both the mentors and the protégés get a lot out of this activity. It certainly appears that some protégés have met their short-term career goals and have even found employment because of their mentoring relationships.

Notes to Note

The Colorado Endowment for the Humanities is offering two teacher institutes this summer for K-12 educators. *Lewis and Clark: The Journey and Its Legacy* will be held June 14-18 at Western State College, Gunnison. *Work, Culture, and the Southern Colorado Coal Field (1860-1960)* will take place June 22-26 at Trinidad State Junior College, Trinidad. Graduate and continuing education credits are available. Each institute is \$150, which does not include lodging. Contact Ashley Kasprzak for registration at 303/573-7733, or email <akasprzak@ceh.org>.

Speed of Light, a work of middle grade fiction by Sybil Rosen, will be published by Atheneum, a children's publishing arm of

Simon & Schuster, in June. The novel weaves together the European holocaust in World War II and the American civil rights movement in the subsequent decade, and has been described as the publisher as "an unusual exploration of the connections between anti-Semitism and racism." The author is interested in visiting Colorado elementary and middle schools to talk about the book. For information on the book or an author presentation, contact Sybil Rosen, 616/756-6180; email <bubblerap@juno.com>.

Centennial

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