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library patron submitted a reconsideration request form, alleging “extremely graphic sexual domination/submission.” Retained.

Source: 2020 Annual Report, State Library of Oregon

Bechdel , Al ison

FUN HOME: A FAMILY TRAGICOMIC

Power2Parent, a self-described parental rights organization, complained about this acclaimed graphic novel, which recounts the author’s coming of age as a lesbian. The group protested the book’s alleged drug use, graphic sexual violence, and anti-religious sentiments and demanded its removal from a Clark County (NV) School District high school. The principal immediately removed the book from the 10th grade honors English class reading list.

Source: KTNV Las Vegas, September 10, 2020

Blake, Ashley Herring

IVY ABERDEEN’S LETTER TO THE WORLD

Cline, Ernest

READY PLAYER ONE

The Hamilton (MI) school board established a book club, featuring some 70,000 books to encourage reading from grade 5 and up. However, a new materials-vetting committee and several district parents expressed concerns about material they believed was not age appropriate. Some books ended up at grade levels younger than the publisher's classification. Superintendent David Tebo said he would be hesitant to "ban" any books from the school, as that would be a "slippery slope" for the district. Ready Player One was called out as a problematic title.

Source:Holland Sentinel|October 17, 2020

Colbert, Brandy

LITTLE & LION

This YA novel, taught in several high schools across the county, features teenagers who think and talk about sex, race, and mental illness. One set of parents announced their intent to formally challenge the book at the Palm Springs (FL) School District because it is "lled with obscenities, sexually explicit scenes and promotes condoms, promiscuity, drinking, bisexuality and lack of respect for the Bible." Residents surveyed by the newspaper on Facebook were sharply opposed to censorship. The newspaper noted that efforts to remove books from Florida classrooms and libraries have gained steam since the Florida legislature passed a law in 2017 allowing any county resident, not just a parent of a school-aged child, to protest classroom materials and petition to have them removed.

Source:South Florida Sun Sentinel|January 27, 2020

Coulter, Ann

HOW TO TALK TO A LIBERAL (IF YOU MUST)

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Folman, Ari

ANNE FRANK

This graphic novel version of the

Jenkins, Steve, Der

Harrington, Claudia

MY TWO DADS

Complete description and source for the Ruston, Louisiana, challenge listed under “Gino, Alex” on page 6.

Harrington, Claudia

MY TWO MOMS

Complete description and source for the Ruston, Louisiana, challenge listed under “Gino, Alex” on page 6.

Heller, Joseph

CATCH-22

Complete description and source for the Palmer, Alaska, challenge listed under “Angelou, Maya” on page 3.

Hoffman, Mary

THE GREAT BIG BOOK OF FAMILIES

Complete description and source for the Ruston, Louisiana, challenge listed under “Gino, Alex” on page 6.

Lukoff, Kyle

WHEN AIDAN BECAME A BROTHER

Complete description and source

Pitman, Gayle E.

THIS DAY IN JUNE

A patron at the Huntington Beach (CA) Public Library asked for, then complained about, this picture book describing a gay pride parade. Her objection was “the idea of imposing the [LGBTQIA+] lifestyle upon little kids,” saying that the pictures and language were not appropriate for ages 3–6. Retained.

Source: Huntington Beach Public Library Board Meeting Minutes, February 19, 2020

Reynolds, Jason, and
Brendan Kiely

ALL AMERICAN BOYS

A parent formally challenged this 2016 Coretta Scott King Author Honor book and winner of the Walter Dean Myers Award for Outstanding Children’s Literature for its alleged “anti-police” bias. The book features two teens, one white and one Black, who deal with the racial repercussions of an act of police violence. The Rangeley Lakes (ME) Regional School District reminded the board that the district had a policy to consider challenges. Retained.

Source: Regional School Unit 78 School Board Meeting Minutes, October 8, 2020

Each summer, students in the Sewanhaka (NY) Central High School District are required to read one book from the district’s summer reading list, which is selected by the English chairs in each of the district’s ve schools. Some parents objected to All American Boys, in which a police officer beats a Black teen. “The schools should be a neutral place where kids get to be kids, and not a place where we train and brain-wash new generations,” said one mom. “I don’t want my son to read a book where, especially now, the

police are trashed and blamed for what’s going on.” Others praised the relevance of the book. Its status, including others on the list dealing with the same general topic, is unknown at this writing.

Source: liherald.com, July 28, 2020

Complete description and source for the Signal Mountain, Tennessee, challenge listed under “Myers, Walter Dean” on page 8.

Despite being taught in Somerset County Public School in Westover, Maryland, since 2016, All American Boys was challenged by a parent at a board meeting for its “foul and vulgar language” and “divisive topics.” The parent also challenged Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynold’s Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You. As of November 2020, the district’s reconsideration process was incomplete.

Source: Somerset County Public School Board Meeting, September 15, 2020

Reynolds, Jason, and Ibram X.
Kendi

the family's Sioux housekeeper. These challenges against the use of racist language prompted the district to seek out and adopt protocols for challenging instructional materials.

Source: Pioneer Press December 22, 2020

Complete description and source for the Burbank, California, challenge listed under "Lee, Harper" on page 7.

Sutherland, Tui T.

WINGS OF FIRE SERIES

Complete description and source for the Ruston, Louisiana, challenge listed under "Gino, Alex" on page 6.

Sutton, Benn, and Dan Pinto

HEDGEHUG: A SHARP LESSON IN LOVE

This picture book tells the story of a hedgehog whose Valentine's Day quest for a friend results in a series of unintentional injuries to others, before finally ending happily. An Oregon public library patron complained about a "narrative [that] encourages assault" containing "incel themes." Retained.

Source: 2020 Annual Report, State Library of Oregon

Taylor, Mildred D.

ROLL OF THUNDER, HEAR MY CRY

Complete description and source for the Burbank, California, challenge listed under "Lee, Harper" on page 7.

Taylor, Theodore

THE CAY

Complete description and source for the Burbank, California, challenge listed under "Lee, Harper" on page 7.

Terciero, Rey

MEG, JO, BETH, AND AMY

Complete description and source for the Ruston, Louisiana, challenge listed under "Gino, Alex" on page 6.

Trump, Donald

CRIPPLED AMERICA: HOW TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

Complete description and source for the Chattanooga, Tennessee, challenge listed under "Coulter, Ann" on page 5.

Twain, Mark

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

Complete description and source for the Burbank, California, challenge listed under "Lee, Harper" on page 7.

Vonnegut, Kurt

SLAUGHTERHOUSE-FIVE

A parent at Cienega High School in Vail, Arizona, complained about this classic science fiction book's language and references to sex, and the district is considering whether to remove it from the approved reading list. It is currently taught in Advanced Placement English classes.

Source: NCAC. (:(D A)-1.1 (M)-8.3 (E)S1 gs0i)9.1 (s))TJ 0 -1.19 Td [(c es-

Beyond Books

the event would “promote gender confusion in innocent children and spread immoral disordered ideas among children and adults.” The library held the event despite the protests, simply making room for the protesters. After the event sold out, the director remarked, “I wish all my library programs had such a good response from the community.”

Source:Lohud

Displays and Artwork



In a District of Columbia exhibit called “Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote,” the National Archives displayed a large image of the January 2017 Women’s March. But the protest signs in the photo referencing then President Donald Trump had been blurred to remove his name, including a poster reading “God Hates Trump” and another reading “Trump and GOP, hands off women.” After a Washington Post article highlighted the changes in the photo, the Archives issued an apology. The Archives had sought “not to engage in current political controversy,” an aim incompatible with the preservation of history.

Source: Washington Post January 18, 2020

A Gay Pride display created by a staff member of the Eckhart Public Library in Auburn, Indiana, was taken down by

the library administration. A different staff member resigned after learning that the library had removed the display and others like it. The staff member then wrote a Facebook post alerting the community about the removal and expressing concern for the state of intellectual freedom in the library. The library claimed that the issue was the specific space in which the exhibit was placed, and that “the books originally on the Pride display have been moved (to) the area originally slated for the display, on a custom piece of furniture on the historic side of the main level of the Main Library.” The former staff member disputed that claim on social media, posting that she had been told that the community’s conservative electorate would be offended by the display, which could affect the library budget. The library subsequently apologized on Facebook “for the pain that this caused,” but asserted, “We take pride in celebrating intellectual freedom and making sure our collection represents experiences beyond our own.”

Source: KPC News, June 10, 2020

During a publicly broadcast meeting, the Sullivan County (PA) School Board discussed a library display about LGBTQIA+ terms, with several board members objecting to the display. One board member advocated for the immediate removal of the display, stating that it was objectionable. “Suppose that I feel we should have KKK Month or I feel we should have White Supremacist Month, and I’m not saying I support those things, I’m just going to extremes here. This is how I feel or somebody did with the rainbow organization or whatever you want to call it.” Parents and members of the community protested in support of the display and the school’s diversity initiatives. One parent commented, “To say promoting inclusivity for students who are LGBTQ is the same as having to allow white supremacists to have their say? That’s complete nonsense.” The school superintendent and board president jointly called for sensitivity and diversity training for the board. The display was retained.

Source: Fox 56, November 11, 2020

Online Services and Resources

New York Times Learning Network

Complete description and source for the Palmer, Alaska, challenge listed under “Angelou, Maya” on page 3.

A political cartoon that compared law enforcement to slave owners and the KKK was removed from the Wylie Independent School District’s (Abilene, Texas) website after the National Fraternal Order of Police criticized it, calling the comparison “abhorrent and disturbing.” The cartoon was part

of an assignment for the 8th grade social studies class.

CBS DFW, August 20, 2020

During a Fairfax County (VA) Library Board of Trustees

meeting, a board member made controversial comments about diverse resources highlighted on the library’s website. The Northern Virginia Equity Coalition sent a letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the board of trustees of Fairfax County’s libraries asking for the board member’s resignation or removal. The Virginia Library Association



Executive Committee sent a letter to the members of the Board of Trustees with the reminder, “A library’s mission is that diverse, inclusive, and equitable materials are available to all.” The online resources were retained.

Source: NBC Washington, August 21, 2020

Social Media

An Advanced English teacher at Roma (TX) High School set up a virtual classroom during the pandemic. Among the graphics

were a Black Lives Matter poster, a rainbow flag, and a phrase written in Spanish that highlights solidarity between Black and brown people. On the digital chalkboard, she asked students to put their names and preferred pronouns. Then, she posted a screenshot of her classroom on her social media. On the Sunday before she was to welcome back her students, school officials told her to take down the graphics, claiming that they had received several complaints from parents. When the teacher

refused, she was placed on paid leave. Eventually, the school told her she could return and retain the posters as long as they did “not come to overly disrupt or detract from the educational process or the learning environment.” The teacher said she won’t return until the district commits to tangible change and supporting “anti-racist policies and tolerance in our classrooms.”

Source: Texas Tribune August 26, 2020

#1 GEORGE

by Alex Gino

Challenged, banned, and restricted for LGBTQIA+ content, conflicting with a religious viewpoint, and not reflecting “the values of our community”

#2 STAMPED: RACISM, ANTIRACISM, AND YOU

by Jason Reynolds and Ibram X. Kendi

Banned and challenged because of author’s public statements, and because of claims that the book contains “selective storytelling incidents” and does not encompass racism against all people

#3 ALL AMERICAN BOYS

by Jason Reynolds and

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