

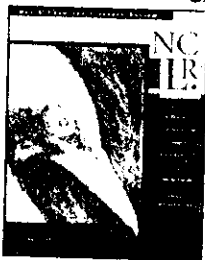
MAGAZINES

BY BILL KATZ

NCLR/North Carolina Literary Review

1992. s-a. \$15. Ed: Alex Albright. English Department, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Illus. adv. Aud: Ga, Ac (Subject: Literary Review. Issue examined: Vol., 1, No. 1, Summer 1992)

The first issue's 200 pages of fascinating criticism, viewpoints, and photographs kick off with an A.R. Ammons poem, followed by a perceptive interview. Not so extraordinary sounding, but this literary review has an apparent interest in libraries. Of particular value is Gene D. Lanier's self-explanatory article, "Banned Anything Good Lately?" the first in his freedom of speech column à la Nat Hentoff, which will regularly focus on book banning. Other library-oriented features include a discussion of *The Brautigan Library* by William Marquess and "People of the Book (the Valdese Public Library)" by Preston Hoffman. There are archives articles by Patricia Gantt and NCLR's editor, Alex Albright. And if the library emphasis is not clear by now, welcome Randall Jarrell's poem, "A Girl in a Library." A "special NCLR report" concerns "The Strange and Mysterious Death of John Lawson, Gentleman, Explorer, and Writer." While highly recommended to academic libraries everywhere, the stress on libraries and North Carolina writers makes this essential throughout the South, including larger public and high school libraries.—BK



SBF/Sportsbook File

1991. bi-m. \$15. Ed: Barry Mandel. 1069 Alexander Dr., Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150. Illus. Adv: Ga (Subject: Books and Book Reviews. Issues examined: various, 1992).

If your library is striking out in coverage of sports, your heavy hitter just stepped up to bat. He is Barry Mandel, and his 12-page newsletter covers up to two dozen books, with detailed, evaluative reviews. The majority of the books are on baseball, and twice last year entire issues were given over

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to titles about our national pastime. Not only does the editor offer comments but completes each 350- to 500-word review with a note "about the author." Occasional "Addenda" are scheduled to offer brief annotations of dozens more books not receiving full reviews. Recommended. Sample.—BK

M/E/A/N/I/N/G: Contemporary Art Issues

1987. s-a. \$20 (individuals \$12). Eds: Susan Bee & Mira Schor. 60 Lispenard St., New York, NY 10013. Aud: Ac, Sa (Subject: Art. Issues examined: No. 10, Nov. 1991; No. 11, May 1992; and No. 12, Nov. 1992)

This attractive, large-format, privately produced critical journal contains controversial and provocative comments and reviews related to the contemporary art scene. The 50 pages of No. 10, for example, include Johanna Drucker on "Visual Pleasure: A Feminist Perspective"; some preliminary statements to a roundtable discussion on the changing nature of criticism, with 12 participants; and other articles, book reviews, and a lengthy letter. The next issue poses a series of questions on motivation and evolution in art that are answered by 24 artists, including Carolee Scheenmann and Rudolf Baranik. The most recent issue presents views on "Motherhood, Art, and Apple Pie" from 31 artists and Nancy Miller's examination of autobiography through Art Spiegelman's *Maus* in "Cartoons of the Self: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Murderer." This eminently readable journal, which seems to display a particular interest in women's issues, gives voice to new views and is an excellent choice for medium and larger academic collections.—Robert Hauptman, St. Cloud State Univ. Minn



Presidents & Prime Ministers

1992. bi-m. \$25. Ed: Newaj K. Agnihotri. 799 Roosevelt Rd., Bldg. 6, Suite 208, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137. Illus. adv. Aud: Hs, Ga, Ac (Subject: Political Science. Issue examined: No. 1, Sept./Oct. 1992)

Each 60-page issue will give the reader

an overview of international political perspectives through equal parts of primary and secondary sources. From the horse's mouth, so to speak, are about one-half-dozen speeches from presidents and prime ministers—carefully chosen to indicate policy and thought rather than simple politics—as well as "Reports." These focus on issues rather than personality, such as the official analysis of the Bush White House on the North American Free Trade Agreement, or excerpted speeches from various participants at the United Nations' Rio Conference on the Environment. The first issue opened with Yitzhak Rabin and George Bush and closed with words by Salim Ahmed Salim, secretary-general of the Organization of African Unity. The pages in between are given over to ten or 12 three-page departments that offer 150- to 300-word summaries of both policy announcements and general news in various areas, from "International Cooperation," to "Environment," to "Science and Technology." Highly recommended for its innovative approach. Sample.—BK



Adaptive Behavior

1992. q. \$110 (individuals, \$50). Ed: Jean-Arcady Meyer. MIT Press Journals, 55 Hayward St., Cambridge, MA 02142. Illus. adv. Aud: Ac, Sa (Subject: Computer Science. Issue examined: No. 1, Summer 1992)

The bright faces of the authors after each of the five or six articles, followed by a description of the writer's claim to research, add a pleasant aspect to this highly technical journal that deals with the possibilities of robots and artificial systems. Though most researchers come from computer science departments and laboratories, two zoologists are present. They might be out of place were it not for the editorial focus on the parallel paths of robots and animals in "the dynamic interaction between a behaving entity and its environment." In the first issue, this parallel is displayed and examined through "various learning or evolutionary mechanisms." The editor reports that future numbers from and for the scientific community will "address the respective merits of top-down and bottom-up architecture." If you appreciate that, this is for you and your library. Sample.—BK