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# CHALLENGING THE NEW CENSORSHIP

**MAY 13, 2006 1-5.30 P.M.**

Buffalo and Erie County Public Library  
1 Lafayette Square

UB Humanities Institute

A Humanities Institute "Celebration of the Book" Event

# Program

## CENSORSHIP PANEL

### Moderator:

**PATRICK MARTIN**, Senior Partner in the law firm of Kennedy, Stoeckl, and Martin; general legal counsel, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library; literary agent of the Mark Twain Foundation of NY City and the Mark Twain Papers of the University of Cal, Berkeley; Director and producer of films on Nelson Mandela and James Joyce; President, riverrun, inc; President Cinegael Buffalo.

### Panelists:

**CHRIS FINAN** is President, American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the bookseller's voice in the fight against censorship. Founded by the American Booksellers Association in 1990, ABFFE's mission is to promote and protect the free exchange of ideas, particularly those contained in books, by opposing restrictions on the freedom of speech; issuing statements on significant free expression controversies; participating in legal cases involving First Amendment rights; collaborating with other groups with an interest in free speech; and providing education about the importance of free expression to booksellers, other members of the book industry, politicians, the press and the public. He is author of Alfred E. Smith: The Happy Warrior.

**JOHN CURR** is the Executive Director of the WNY Office of the New York State Civil Liberties Union. He hosts the talk-show "Radio Civil Liberties" on Newstalk 1270 AM.

**RICH KELLMAN** has worked at Channel 2 News since 1974, first as a primary anchor/reporter until 1999, and now as Senior Correspondent. He has won numerous professional awards for reporting, including two Emmys, the Edward R. Murrow Award of the Radio and Television News Directors Association, and the Dupont-Columbia School of Journalism Award. He was inducted into the Buffalo Broadcasters Hall of Fame in September 2005.

**BRUCE JACKSON** is Samuel P. Capen Professor of American Culture and SUNY Distinguished Professor at the University at Buffalo. In 2002 he was made

Chevalier, L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, France (2002). Bruce is an award-winning documentary film-maker, journalist, scholar, activist, and Buffalo citizen. He is the editor and publisher of the Buffalo Report. With Diane Christian, he developed and conducts the Buffalo Film Seminars at the Market Arcade Theatre, and has been a leading voice on the Binational Peace Bridge Task Force. His most recent books are *Late Friends* (Center Working Papers, 2005) and *The Peace Bridge Chronicles* (Center Working Papers, 2003)

### Buffalo Authors' Coffee House Authors:

**CHRIS FRITTON** is the current editor of Ferrum Wheel, curator of 107 Neville Gallery, and member of Buffluxus performance group. He resides in Maine where he is the head of The Institute for the Advancement of Higher Histrionics, an affiliate of the Performance Thanatology Research Society.

**JULIAN MONTAGUE** is a graphic artist whose recent solo shows include *Taxonomies*, Black & White Gallery, Brooklyn, New York; *Cleveland & Environs*, Spaces Gallery, Cleveland, Ohio, both in 2005; and *The Stray Shopping Cart: An Illustrated System of Identification*, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo, New York. His book, *The Stray Shopping Carts Of Eastern North America: A Guide to Field Identification*, based on the Shopping Cart project was published this year.

**TED PELTON** is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Medaille College. He completed a Master's in Creative Writing at University of Colorado at Boulder, a PhD in English at University of Buffalo, and received a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship in Fiction. Nonetheless, he had found little success in getting his work – innovative fiction with a liberal (or radical) dose of politics – into print through mainstream channels. So in 2000, he founded Starcherone Books (pronounced "start yer own"), which publishes innovative fiction and sponsors an annual contest. Starcherone published Pelton's debut collection, *Endorsed by Jack Chapeau*. His novella, *Bhang*, has since been published by Blazevox Books (2004). Starcherone has four books out and four more under contract.

**KARI WINTER** is an Associate Professor of American Studies at UB. Her research focuses on the history and literature of transatlantic slavery. She teaches a wide array of courses in African American studies, contemporary American Indian literature, and feminist literature and theory. She is the author of *Subjects of Slavery, Agents of Change: Women and Power in Gothic Novels and Slave Narratives, 1790-1865* and editor of Jeffrey Brace's 1810 memoir of slavery, *The Blind African Slave*.

**HERSHINI BHANA YOUNG** is an Associate Professor of English at the University at Buffalo and the author of *Haunting Capital: Memory, Text and the Black Diasporic Body*. She specializes in black women's writing; African diaspora; gender and sexuality through the lenses of literary study, African American studies, performance studies, and art history.

### Moderators:

**MICHAEL KELLEHER** is the author of *To Be Sung* (Blazevox 2005), as well as the chapbooks *Cuba* (Phylum, 2002), *Bacchanalia* (Quinella: Three Poems Series, 1999) and *The Necessary Elephant* (Ota Molloy, 1998). His poems and essays have appeared in *Slope*, *The Transcendental Friend*, and others. He works as Artistic Director for Just Buffalo and as literary editor of *Artvoice*.

**JONATHON WELCH** left his native mid-west to attend graduate school at the University of Buffalo a long time ago. He never got the degree, but he's been here ever since, having helped found and run Buffalo's oldest independent bookstore, *Talking Leaves*. Like the author of *Fahrenheit 451*, he remains steadfast in his belief that books and the literacy they depend on are the first and last line of defense against both ignorance and any corrupting authority.

### 1:00 P.M.

**Bruce Jackson introduces a broadcast of the 1954 Edward R. Murrow program "See It Now"**

### 1:30 P.M.

**A panel examines the New Censorship  
Bruce Jackson, Rich Kellman, Christopher Finan, John Curr  
Moderated by Patrick Martin**

### 3:30 P.M.

**BUFFALO AUTHORS' COFFEEHOUSE  
Moderated by Jonathan Welch  
Julian Montague, Ted Pelton, Chris Fritton, Kari Winter,  
Hershini Bhana Young**

**"Big Read" Essay Contest Winners  
Moderated by Mike Kelleher**

Watch [www.buffalolib.org](http://www.buffalolib.org) for information on other events in the series:  
"On the Front Lines: Journalists Assess the New Censorship" Fall 2006  
"Censorship and the Future of Information Technology" Spring 2007

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