Books challenged in area libraries

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Challenged Material
Many books, Butterfly by Paul Lowen, The Stand by Stephen King, Annie on my mind by Nancy Garden, The Kid who only hit homers by Matt Christopher, The Shining by Stephen King

Reading Level
young adult, adult

Participants
Michael R. Smith, Mary Ginanne, Jane Miller, Irene Ertell, Gail VanGorder, Wendy Flint, Marian English, Bruce Clear

Outcome
Materials were either retained, or moved to restricted areas. None were banned.

Abstract
The article starts off with describing numerous books that have been banned over the years. A recent vote from the Washington County Commission rejected the ALA’s “Freedom to Read” and “Library Bill of Rights”. These doctrines are guidelines for libraries to use when they are selecting materials to purchase for their collections. They also provide criteria that can be used when a book is challenged. The authors state that between May 1987 and June 1988 there were 17 challenges to books in Oregon libraries. In September a patron of Tigard public library challenged Paul Lowen’s “Butterfly” due to explicit sex and extreme cruelty. The board voted 5-1 to keep the book on its shelves. The lone oppose, Jane Miller, voted against to make a point about fiscal responsibility. She asked why libraries are wasting money on books like these when they could be spending money on good books. The rest of the article describes the challenges of two other books. Marian English, board member, said that out of 38 books that were banned, only two of them are now restricted. She said it is an ongoing battle.

Keywords
book banning, censorship, occult, sexually explicit, homosexual, lesbian, violence