

## THE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PRESSES

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### ***ONLINE RESOURCE OF UNIVERSITY PRESS TITLES EXPANDS TO REFLECT “NEWS OF THE DAY”***

***“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books  
For Both General and Special Interest Audiences***

**NEW YORK (February 21, 2002)** – “Books For Understanding” – the online resource for teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers that launched in the wake of September 11<sup>th</sup> – has now grown to include university press titles relating to civil liberties and to the Enron affair.

This expansion reflects the goal of the service: A permanent, one-stop, easy-to-use resource for anyone looking for in-depth information, research, and expertise on the news of the day. The service is only available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) website <http://www.aaupnet.org/news/spotlight.html>

“Books For Understanding” launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. The **September 11, 2001** list eventually grew to include more than 650 books from 64 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, reflecting the fact that anti-terrorism legislation (and other post-9/11 issues) as well as the far-reaching Enron scandal are at the forefront of public debate, AAUP chose **Civil Liberties** and **The Enron Affair** as the first two “in the news” themes.

In a new aspect on the site, members of the media have their own section – **“Journalists’ Resources”** – with detailed contact information for authors available to talk with the press. For many of the books listed, the publishers have also indicated whether the titles are primarily directed to a general reader or to a special interest/scholarly audience. Every book listed is in print or soon to be published, available at bookstores, libraries, online booksellers, or directly from the presses.

Coming soon to the site will be a feature titled “Recommended By” in which scholars, writers, booksellers, and librarians will be asked to offer their choice of university press titles on the featured subject.

“We want Books for Understanding to be a constantly expanding, relevant source of the information and resources available in the world of university presses,” said Peter Givler,

AAUP Executive Director. “These authors are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to our understanding new and difficult situations. Many of them are also the leading experts in their fields with books and ideas that can help in understanding of cultures, policies, and historical consequences throughout the world.”

Among the titles on the newly expanded site that have relevance to today’s civil liberties issues or to Enron’s collapse are:

- *Free Speech, “The People’s Darling Privilege,”* by Michael Kent Curtis (Duke University Press, 2000) – general interest title.
- *Immigrants in Courts,* by Joanne I. Moore and Margaret E. Fisher (University of Washington Press, 1999) – special interest title.
- *Corporate Irresponsibility: America’s Newest Export,* by Lawrence E. Mitchell (Yale University Press, January 2002) – general interest title.
- *Energy: Science, Policy, and the Pursuit of Sustainability,* by Robert Bent, Lloyd Orr, and Randall Baker – all of whom are available for media interviews. (Island Press, Spring 2002)

**“Books for Understanding”** was sparked by Sanford Thatcher, Director of Pennsylvania State University Press. Immediately after September 11, he noticed a surge of requests for two backlist titles on terrorism and approached AAUP with a request to compile a field-wide listing for people looking for information and insight. The Association of American University Presses is the world’s largest organization of not-for-profit scholarly publishers. Formally established in 1937, AAUP promotes the work and influence of university presses, provides cooperative marketing opportunities, and helps its 121 members respond to the changing economy and publishing environment. These presses are active across the United States and abroad, and publish in a range of scholarly disciplines including the humanities, arts, science and technology, and social sciences.