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***UNIVERSITY PRESS TITLES OFFER RESOURCES —
AND PERSPECTIVE — ON U.S. RACE RELATIONS***

***“Books For Understanding” Lists Available Experts and Books
For Journalists, Researchers, and General Public***

NEW YORK (December 18, 2002) – As the nation hears Senator Trent Lott explain his views on segregation and the Supreme Court considers cross burning as free speech, “Books For Understanding” – the online resource of information, research, and expertise on the news of the day – now includes lists of university press books on **race relations in America**.

The free service is only available on the Association of American University Presses (AAUP) website www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html

“Books For Understanding” launched the month following the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington to help teachers, scholars, journalists, librarians, and booksellers find necessary information. 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, AAUP continues that public service in the wake of headlines coming out of Washington.

“**Journalists’ Resources**”—a section for members of the media—contains 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.

“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 new lists are:

- *Civil Rights Chronicle: Letters from the South*, Clarice T. Campbell, University Press of Mississippi.
- *The Lynching of Emmett Till: A Documentary Narrative*, edited by Christopher Metress, University of Virginia Press. (Christopher Metress is also available for interviews.)
- *A Promise and a Way of Life: White Antiracist Activism*, Becky Thompson, University of Minnesota Press.
- *Black Dixie: Afro-Texan History and Culture in Houston*, Texas A&M University Press.

“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 its 121 university press members.