

Note to Reader

This year's *Florida Geographer* should be of equal interest to those who teach in middle and secondary school as well as , to those who have a general interest in the field. The article on textbook adoption in Florida originated as a master's thesis. Unfortunately, its value has been somewhat diminished because geography is being dropped from the curriculum of school districts throughout Florida since it is not tested on the Florida Comprehensive Achievement Test. In the case of Leon County this meant that those who taught the subject simply were reassigned to teach another social science course. For most teachers it was not a hardship, since their education was in other fields. For geography and the Florida Geographic Alliance it was a setback. However, in the case of the Alliance, its efforts have been redirected to the dissemination of geographical themes among social science and environment teachers throughout the state.

Besides the article on textbook adoption, whose theme is probably applicable to the adoption of textbooks in other subjects, the two that examine urban issues should prove helpful to high school teachers who want to introduce the issue of the state's rapid population growth to their students. The article identifying that part of the state where the population feels most "southern" and that which identifies the origin of those who bought land in the Everglades at the beginning of the century will attract those with a cultural and historical interest in the state. The editor compiled a list of books about Florida published between mid 2001 and mid 2002 that appear to be of geographical relevance. Apologies are offered in advance to those of you who believe some books were left off that should have been included.

For those among you who believe that the *Florida Geographer* might be becoming a vehicle for the editor's research let me assure you that if I had a larger selection of submissions to choose from, you would not be exposed so frequently to my efforts. Unfortunately, despite constant appeals, few submissions arrive. For some departments of geography within the state, the absence is especially conspicuous.

Once again I would like to thank the Florida Geographic Alliance for its continuing financial and intellectual support, especially Laurie Molina. Acknowledgements are also due to Peter Krafft, Jim Anderson, and Betsy Purdum, whose technical efforts make the publication possible.