

*Explorations in Signs and Sounds*

**Gina Marchetti. *Romance and the Yellow Peril: Race, Sex, and Discursive Strategies in Hollywood Fiction*. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993) 258 pp., \$30.00 cloth, \$14.00 paper.**

Marchetti poignantly mirrors Orientalism as conceived in the eyes of typical Hollywood filmmakers of their Eurocentric discourse, flavored with their own notions of romance, race and sexuality, and the “Yellow Peril,” the way they want to entertain the American viewers. The book introduces fifteen major classical films which span over a seventy-year period (1915-1985) with sharp literary as well as cinematographic criticism on Protestant ethics, gender supremacy, and conjugal family structure.

The introduction and conclusions are a bit lengthy, but nevertheless effective in discoursing the emergence and perpetuation of American reality. Each film portrayed in the book is further accentuated by photographs of actual film clips of the movie being discussed.

Marchetti’s book may be called Masterpiece theater of the post modern spectacle of race and romance in the year of Dragon. Her book is no doubt an asset to people of color in general, and women, writers, filmmakers, and ethnographers in particular.

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**Rebecca R. Martin. *Libraries and the Changing Face of Academia: Responses To Growing Multicultural Populations*. (Metuchen, NJ: Scarecrow Press, 1994) x, 263 pp.**

With great anticipation I sat down to read Rebecca R. Martin’s work about academic libraries services to multicultural populations in the United States. I had hoped to read about reasoned and responsible approaches to this current hot topic. What I found instead was an anthology of the politically correct chatter pulled from the last ten years of library literature. Martin’s book raises no new issues for the academic library administrator. *Libraries And The Changing Face of Academia* is a tame discussion of a serious issue that has kept academic librarians wringing their hands over the past decade. Rebecca Martin does do a good job of compiling this library literature into one volume. That is the problem with this work. She strings together all of the discussion and does not make any new statements.

Martin explains that “this study focuses on emerging pro-

grams in academic libraries which address the needs of multicultural students." (10) Her work is broken down into three basic parts. Part one "examines related research and program developments in the political and institutional context of cultural diversity in higher education..." Part two presents three case studies of public university libraries (the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of New Mexico, and the University at Albany, State University of New York) and how each has/not responded to an increasing minority population. Part three involves an analysis of the three case studies and models for change culminated with Martin's simplistic "library agenda for change." This work is one big survey.

Martin lays out the issues, one of which is training library staff in effective communication skills and cultural sensitivity. The literature is replete with this discussion ad nauseam. A bold approach to this issue would be to have library directors hold mid-level managers responsible for their staff's conduct and behavior. It should inherently be a part of any library position that respect is a given when dealing with any patron. This would mean that basic courtesy to diverse groups is mandatory and need not be taught in special sensitivity training workshops.

With regard to minority librarians, Martin does not hold academic libraries directly accountable for the recruitment and retention of minority librarians. The excuse of the small number of minority students in graduate library and information science programs is discussed. An example of a thorough discussion of post-graduate minority internships at the academic library level could have highlighted the Minority Librarian Intern program at the Ohio State University Libraries (OSUL). Even when faced with budget cuts, OSUL has remained firmly committed to its program in the past five years. Similar programs at other institutions, such as the University of California at San Diego and Santa Barbara, have fallen victim to budget cuts and have been suspended. How can this profession increase the number of minority librarians at the academic level? Martin does not give us any aggressive ideas or offer a complete picture of what has been done and what has not worked. Unfortunately this work is just more of the same; rather than "walking the walk" Martin just "talks the talk."

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