

membership emerged as a response to social and economic conditions in the US during the depression. Fisher, himself a Jewish social worker from New York, went on to become the first editor of their journal, *Social Work Today*.

Finally three books are reviewed by Assistant Professors or Professors of well known US University Schools of Social Work. The books again reflect the Journal's typical subject preferences and include: *Social workers and Labour Unions* (1988), H Karger; *The National Welfare Rights Movement (The Social Protest of Poor Women)* (1981), G West; and *The Future of Work* (1987) G and E Gil (eds).

While the Journal is well presented and discusses some issues of real concern, personally I found a lot of it to be rather "old hat" and almost more of historical interest, despite its relentless claim to be "progressive".

Reviewed by Norma Hall, CONNECT - Zimbabwe Institute of Systemic Therapy (formerly Family Counselling Unit), Harare, Zimbabwe.

In Defence of Socialism. Four Speeches on the 30th Annivesary of the Cuban Revolution, 1989, Fidel Castro, (edited by Mary-Alice Waters), Pathfinder Press, London, 142pp, Price £4,95 pbk.

This is a collection of four rousing, polemical speeches by Fidel Castro to mark the 30th Anniversary of the Cuban Revolution. There is an introduction by Mary-Alice Waters. The English translations were originally published in *Granma Weekly Review*. The speeches were delivered to different audiences in Cuba between December 5th 1988 and January 1989.

The titles of the speeches indicate their orientation: "As long as the empire exists we will never lower our guard". "The Cuban people will always remain loyal to the principles of socialism"; "Thirty years of the Cuban Revolution;" and "The young generation must improve and defend socialism".

Castro describes both the revolutionary nationalist war to overthrow the Batista regime, and the subsequent economic revolution to transform the capitalist economy. He fully acknowledges the difficulties faced en route, in the face of imperialist aggression and antagonism, and, in particular, the continuing US blockade. He exhibits the fervor, charisma and moral principle that have characterised his leadership.

It must be acknowledged, however, that the speeches do not give any detailed analysis of the problems facing Cuba, including bureaucracy, corruption, technoc

racy, nepotism and disillusionment. Castro exhorts his audiences to support the rectification process, to learn from the mistakes of the past, and to build and improve the socialism that has already been developed.

Celebratory speeches on thirty years of the revolution, despite the US embargo, may not be the appropriate forum for a detailed critique. However, this reviewer, in the hope of possibly gaining insights into the Cuban revolution, would have valued a more critical analysis based on the daily realities of people's lives and the very concrete problems inherent in transforming both an economy, and a people's political consciousness.

Considering the subsequent break up of the Soviet Union, plunging Cuba further into crisis, the rhetoric, and the lack of critical analysis, become all the more stark and anachronistic. At the same time, in the light of the global crisis of socialism, it is in some ways revitalising to be reminded of the intensity of conviction of one of the world's greatest revolutionary leaders.

Reviewed by Helen Jackson, Director of Research, School of Social Work, Harare, Zimbabwe.

AIDS and Alcohol/Drug Abuse - Psychosocial Research, D G Fisher (ed) The Haworth Press, 1991, London.

A monograph published simultaneously as *Drugs and Society*, Vol 5 Nos 1 and 2.

This short book (97 pages) contains seven articles addressing the issue of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse in the USA. Two articles focus on ethnic issues, two on intravenous drug use in Alaska, one on gay men, one on procedures in "shooting galleries", and one on the role of health psychologists in AIDS education amongst drug injectors (IVDUs). They present material that will be of use primarily to professionals in the field in the USA.

Several articles are reviews of existing literature, and give an overview of the current situation. Others provide some original research findings.

Fisher et al stress that drug injecting in Alaska is a major problem that needs much wider study. The mean age of first cocaine use in females was reported to be 12.5 years, indicating the urgent need for intervention with adolescents.

Leoutsakas reports that the scale of drug injecting in Alaska is not well documented, and more research is needed into who injects, what is injected, and how behaviours can be modified. Rowell reports that American Indian/Alaskan