It's not out-of-season to think about gardens



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tover weeds, sharing my thoughts tone last time with the sleepy-eyed toad.

As I do this, I always roflect on

I winterized my garden this week. For me, this annual

chore has con

one last time with the steepy-eyed toad.

As I do this, I always reflect on gardens past, and I see myself in the future, working on what artist-writer SARK calls "impossible gardens." These gardens don't exist anywher except inside my heart and head, of course.

But, for the gardener, there's nothing like the future.

If you've put your own garden to rest recently, and feel in need of an antidate for its absence, here are some literary pick-me-ups that will get you looking forward to next year's miracles today.

"Gardening With Friends," by

Compromiseachievedon obscenity standards

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER

The state Senate recently backed down and agreed to "state standard" instead of "community standards" in obscenity prosecu-

"A number of small businesses saw this (community standards) as a problem," said Senate major-ity leader Dick Posthumus, R-Alto.

After months of argument, both

ny teader Dick Posthumus, RAtto.

After months of argument, both chambers agreed in one day on a compromise version of House Bill 5148. It makes manufacture and sale of obscene materials a misdemeanor punishable by up to a a year in prison and a fine of \$100,000.

The bill covers books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, pictures, movies, photos, videotapes, audio tapes and computer tapes.

It does not apply to television and cable TV, which are federally regulated, or to colleges, libraries and public art museums. Clerks in stores selling obscene material would also be excluded.

The House passed the bill 94 to 1. All area lawmakers voted yes except John Bennett, D. Redford, Gordon Sparks, R.Troy, and Wilfred Wobb, D-Haec Park, who missed the vote.

A louder and longer battle occured in the Senate, which passed the measure 34 to 3 with all area senators voling yes.

"After two years of working on this, I felt the amendment (state standards) effectively gutted the bill," protested Sen. Jack Welborn, R.-Kalamazoo.

State standards are too easy for defense autorneys to rip holes in, said Welborn, He cited a father

State standards are too easy to defense atterneys to rip holes in, said Welborn. He cited a father who committed incest with his daughter after forcing her to read porn books entitled "Just Daddy and Me" and "Make Room for Daddy," convincing the 10-year-old that father-daughter sex was the norm.

old that father-daughter sex was the norm.
Joining Welborn in voting no were Sens. Doug Carl, RcUtica, and Gil DiNello, D-Clinton Township, and Rep. Lyn Jondahl, D-Okemos.
But Sen. Debbie Stabenow, R-Lansing, said community standards can give inconsistent results, citing the Florida prosectuions of 2 Live Crew.
"The band was found not guilty in one area of singing an obscene song but the record store owner was found guilty of selling an obscene record," Stebenows said.
Bookstore owners and enter-

was tount guilty of selling an obseene record. Stabenow said.

Bookstore owners and enternimmen businesses did heavy
lobbying against the community
standards phrase.

"These censorship bills would
create separate communities in
each of Michigan's 57 circuit
courts and allow each to define its
own obscenity standards rather
than one standard for the entire
state which is the current law.
"What results is a patchwork
quilt of inconsistent standards
that makes it virtually impossible
to distribute any movie, book
record, magazie or newspaper on a
statewide basis."
They also arqued that "main-

statewide basis."
They also argued that "main-stream businesses" don't deal in child pornography or obscenity.

George Schenk (218 pp., Houghton Mifflin, \$19.95). This is a gardening book with a difference, a gardener who marches to a difference.

gardener who marches to a different drum.
George Schenk, a former Seattle nursery owner, has no property of his own now but each year travels the world tending other popple's gardens in exchange for companionship, meals and a roof over his head. These are his memoirs as he journeys from the American and Canadian Pacific Northwest to the Philippines to exotic New Zealand. Most of his clients are personal friends, themselves nongardeners.

Schenk is nothing if not candid. From the start, he frankly admits, "How intermingled are people and plants in the life of a gardener, or so I find it. I could not, if I tried, place one or the other first in my world."

Though that may sound rather strange, I found this to be one of

in a long time is the Garden: A Literary and Photographic Celebration," edited by Perris Cook (239 pp. Stewart Tabori and Chang, \$45). For the holidays, give this book to a gardener you love. Or a book lover you love. Or, by all means, put it on your own Wish Like. I it is all the price but Christmas comes but once a year and this is an anholutely splendid creation, worth treasuring for always.

creation, worth treasuring for ai-ways.

It's not just a large collection of pretty pictures of pretty flowers and plants. Every colorful photo has been shot by specialists in garden photography, and each garden image is accompanied and enhanced on the page opposite by a related literary work.

If you've never read

If you've never read Hawthorne's comments on

squash in "The Old Manse," you simply haven't yet appreciated squash properly, And the same goes for onlons if you don't know Pablo Nertuda's "Ode to an Onlon," other stand-outs here include H.G. Wells' short story, "The Flowering of the Stronge Orchid," Coletto's "The Ways of Wistaria" and Allee's spirited exchange with the flowers in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass."

Photos were shot in gardens throughout the world.

"C.Z. Guest's 5 Seasons of Gardening," by C.Z. Guest with photos by Elvin McDonald (176 pp. Bulfinch Press, \$29.95).

"I've always felt having a garden of like having a good and loyal friend," writes award-winning gardener Guest. "All the love and tender care you put into it will be returned."

Okay, so you don't own a great estate like Guest's Templeton in

Okay, so you don't own a great estate like Guest's Templeton in

Old Westbury, Long Island. So you're a little shorter on acreage than she is. So you can't pay any professional pardeners to help you you for the dirt. This delectable book is still bursting with great ideas you can adapt to your own lifestyle. Guest's contagious enthusiasm for "getting the job done" is delightfully metivating. The fifth season of gardening, by the way, is the holiday season, a time of year when Guest fills her home with flowers from her own garden and greenhouses. The secret to it all, she contends, is in organization. "Ceezie" runs a tight ship.

Dazzling photos of Templeton und the gardens are all in color. B "One Man's Garden," by Henry Mitchell (262 pp., Houghton Milfilm, \$21.95). On the other side of the fence in regard to this highly organized, well-assisted gardening thing is Washington Post columnist. Henry Mitchell. "Be-

cause we have no hired help, and because I am sloppy..., the garden usually looks terrible ..., he writes.

Maybe, Maybe not. (The book contains no photos.) But Mitchell's love for his "noutine town better, he has great fun with it, and great fun telling us about it on these pages.

"Like youth, horse manure goes all too quickly," he says, reflecting on a treasured gift some generous friend once gave hier christmas. Hefore can be started good; it. The same could be said for gardens.

Victoria Diaz of Livonia tracks the books and literary industry. You can leave a message by dial-ing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1854.



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