The national scene

Newsletter

Copy-deadline dates: October 31, December 31. Send "feedback," short bibliogs. & directories, Task Force and affiliate news, draft resolutions, data on "things to get," reviews, muckraking morsels, and anything else worth sharing with SRRT colleagues to Sandy Berman, Editor, 2412 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405. For this issue, Distinguished SRRT Crosses (with peanut clusters) go to super-columnists Dorothy Broderick and Steve Wolf; reviewers Barb Jaworski & Sharon Phell; Ink Printing's Dick Gauthier; our distribution impresario, Sherrie Friedman; masthead-virtuoso Jerrie Anderson; typing whizzes Patrice Marvin and Mike McConnell; and live-wire reporters Jack Baker, Don Roberts, Lisa Dickinson, et. al. Also, very belated, but nonetheless hearty, thanks to Linda Cambra at Roger Williams College Library, Bristol, R. I., for getting the pages labelled, weighed, & schlepped to the P.O. over the past year. Ditto to Alan, Jeneice, Michael, Jamie, Frank, and Jack for their able assistance. Ladies and gents, your labors are much appreciated.

Key-Title (courtesy of National Serials Data Program): Newsletter - Social Responsibilities

Round Table.

Newsletter contents are regularly cited--and sometimes abstracted--in CALL (Current awareness--library literature). Published bi-monthly by Goldstein Associates, 15 Whittemore Road, Framingham, Mass. 01701. Incidentally, CALL's resident genie entertainingly explains what the mag is & how it began on p. 9 of the Spring 1974 Unabashed Librarian (no. 11). Sam lets it all hang out under the custom-made caption: "Call of the Library Wild."

There's been some covert bitching about type-size (too small), layout (let's have less print, more LMG-type cartoons), and editorial content (not enough criticism of SRRT officers & activities, inadequate anguish over how few members volunteer for anything, etc.). Well, we're wrestling with legibility, trying to reach a happy medium between sight-saving & space-filling. (Terrible confession: we're absolutely compulsive about cramming as many ideas & as much hard info into each issue as we can.) Cartoons can be groovy. They're visual relief. And they may also politicize. Painlessly. (Everybody knows how many words one picture's worth, right?) But they equally pre-empt room that could otherwise be devoted to action-data. And it just might be that a mature readership, utilizing the Newsletter primarily as a resource-tool & resonator, doesn't need nor expect the graphic goodies. Not here, anyway. On the 3d item: We attempt to report what is going down inside SRRT. If any readers or members wish to complain about the extent or substance of activity, great. But the democratic process demands that it be done openly, rather than privately. The present Newsletter editor prefers to lay out the facts & the options instead of bad-mouthing his peers & comrades. If that seems cowardly or irresponsible, please say so. Out front.

Disturbing-but-true: We're practically out of money for the rest of the year. So, rather than make a heart-wrenching pitch for donations, we simply ask every reader to either recruit another SRRT member or get their institution to subscribe @ $10 p.a. With YOUR help, this gambit should both spread-the-word & save-the-budget. To make it easy, here's a clip-out coupon. To join or subscribe, send it--with remittance--to Sherrie Bergman Friedman, SRRT Clearinghouse, P. O. Box 330, Bristol, Rhode Island 02809:

SRRT MEMBERSHIP/Subscription--1974/75

Name ____________________________

[Enclosed ____________ (check one):]

$5 (ALA members)

$3 (Non-ALA)

$10 (Institutions)

Street address ____________________________

City __________________ State __ Zip ____________
Treasurer's report

Having been written as of July 2d, this is not final. I received a Financial Statement from ALA Controller Meldon C. Kirk covering the period Sept. 1, 1973-May 31, 1974. As of 5-31-74, SRRT had been credited with $3,962 in dues. (During 1972/73, dues amounted to $5,300. According to Asst. Controller Henry Cinabro, perhaps $450 more will be forthcoming.) SRRT's cash balance was pegged at $1,656.13. This figure, however, does not reflect several disbursements authorized/requested by me, as well as the only deposit ($150) I've made.

In ALA's nomenclature, these are the expenses indicated on the Financial Statement:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$ 99.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage and telephone</td>
<td>103.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing and binding</td>
<td>2,362.79</td>
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<td>Conference equipment &amp; exhibits</td>
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<td>Speakers</td>
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<td>Data processing</td>
<td>32.00</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>$2,993.31</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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This total exceeds the $2,702.43 I authorized, even allowing for the time-difference. I wrote Mr. Kirk about this, Mr. Cinabro replying in essence that the disparity relates to debits not authorized by the Treasurer: "There were data processing charges of $32.00 in Feb. and $12.50 in April. These...undoubtedly involved requests for mailing lists. There was a $2.70 phone bill in Feb.; there was a $75.00 exhibit charge recorded from the last midwinter at the Palmer House; there was a $22.50 charge for signs at midwinter." (Total $144.70) ALA's accounting system doesn't specify what requests have already been implemented at the time the books were "closed."

"Functional balance" as of July 2, 1974: $1,600.86.

SRRT cash balance, 5-31-74, according to ALA

Unrecorded deposit

Expense checks authorized by Treasurer,
3/27/74-7/2/74


Conference kaleidoscope

On Tuesday, July 9th, SRRT's Task Force on Gay Liberation gave its Third Annual Gay Book Award to a retired librarian, Jeannette Foster, for her 1956 study, Sex Variant Women in Literature. Published at her own expense by Vantage Press, Dr. Foster's opus surveys lesbianism from the earliest records on Sappho & Bith through 20th Century writings in English, German, & French. Although O.P. since publication, the tome will soon be commercially reissued, partly in response to the growing need for such material to underpin college courses on Gays in Literature. Presented by Isabel Miller, the 1971 laureate, this year's award was a 16" x 20" photo-reproduction of Auguste Rodin's "The embrace," a masterful, sensitive drawing of two women.

Dr. Foster, born in Oak Park, Illinois, in 1895, holds baccalaureates in chemistry and English, a master's degree in English & American literature, and both a B.A. & PhD in Library Science. She has variously taught or practiced librarianship at Hamline University and the University of Kansas City, as well as Lindenwood, Hollins, and Antioch colleges. From 1937 to 1948 she was a Professor of Library Science at Drexel & for the ensuing 4 years worked as librarian at the "Kinsey" Institute for Sex Research in Bloomington, Indiana. Her past and current memberships include ALA, the Assn. of American Library Schools, American Assn. of School Librarians, & American Assn. of University Women.

Asked for information about her personal life, Dr. Foster responded: "My favorite recreation is reading; alas for moving, I have over 2,000 books. Up to about 10 years ago I collected gay items, until they became too numerous for my bank account and shelf space. There is little about my personal life I could give you without violating the privacy of persons, some of whom are still living. (You see, our generation grew up concealing our G'aynes as if it were syphilis!) I can say, however, that I have been deeply attached to a number of women, from the time I was four. Six of these affairs had physical expression."

Editor's note: Isabel Miller won the 1st Gay Book Award for her historical novel, Patience and Sarah (1972: McGraw-Hill, $5.95; Fawcett, 95c). Peter Fisher's Gay Mystique (1972: Stein & Day, $7.95) and Lesbian/Woman, by Del Martin & Phyllis Lyon (1972: Glide, $7.95; Bantam, $1.50) jointly garnered the 1972 prize. *Question: Does your library stock these titles? (The award itself should constitute a solid basis for selection.)* Idea: Once it does, why not accent them by making extra catalog entries under the heading GAY BOOK AWARDS?
I arrived at the City Squire Hotel, my briefcase bulging with alternative press publications. (Sandy Berman's routing system is kind of "heavy"). To keep up with the alternatives-in-print task forces of the world is a cross to bear for those who do not speed-read.

SRRT's expansion of the PRINT world in libraryland is legendary. Add to this the counter-culture rhetoric to word balance the ALA old man/old lady syndrome and you've got more and more words! The next thing we'll have (I suppose) is non-print pollution.

The suana, righteous New Mexico green and presence of friends saved the day. Words failed. Non-print at the conference was at a new low point. Gossip has it that the almost total absence of media in the exhibits was due to the reluctance of software and hardware people to commit themselves to a profession and an institution which continue to turn their backs on non-print media. Many companies waited until too late and then were unable to book a booth. Some went the route of doing the suite-thing to entertain the reluctant communicators.

The most total low of the conference was the general session on Sunday night: "Great Expectations: The New Librarian and the New User." This hype-Norman-Vincent-Peale-type-media-medicine show was an insult to anyone who has gone beyond the bounds of ho-hum librarianship, as were the techniques and equipment employed in the show itself.

The outstanding SRRT contributions were the video programs and workshops. Merry Sue Smoller, Emma Cohn, Roberto Esteves, and many many others deserve great thanks for their fantastic work and leadership. This effort is crucial to the future of our work. The program on cable with Ralph Lee Smith was particularly valuable. My understanding is that the pre-conference institute staged by SRRT's Task Force on Women was fully media-integrated. Right on, Sisters--Don Roberts, A/V Librarian, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435.

The third annual Newcott/Caldebergy Feed, the people's answer to Newbery/Caldecott, was held on Wednesday July 10th, at the Holy House of Prayer, St. Johns Place, in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn. Proceeds went to the Ann W. Littlejohn Memorial Scholarship Fund. Jim Mueller (Chicago P.L.) and Linda Crowe (Rosary College library school) were local organizers this time. Originally conceived by Kathy Weibel and friends in Chicago, the awards are presented to the books children most love.

Beverly Cleary's Ramona the Pest won the 1974 Newcott. Accepting the award in Ramona's absence was Henry Huggins (alias Terry Crowley after a fast Clark-Kent transformation). The Caldebery honor went to Curious George. Unfortunately, the zoo wouldn't release him, so Jim Mueller accepted on his behalf.

Nancy Schimmel, using origami, told a story she authored of how the prince who turned into a frog got that way.

Major Owens (Columbia University School of Library Science), who's running for the N.Y. State Senate in Brownsville, made a brief speech. He's opposing the regular political organization that has taken control of the community school board. A group of NYC librarians, organized to support him, have formulated a ten-point platform with a "focus on kinds of evils affecting libraries in poor communities, and school and college libraries in general." He explained that this senatorial district is one of the poorest in the state--not terribly interested in libraries now. He hopes his campaign will awaken district people to the role libraries can play for them in information referral. Said Owens, "For libraries to become more relevant, the librarians themselves must swing and become more relevant."

Ann W. Littlejohn, not a librarian, came to Brownsville youth with a mission to encourage them to continue with their education. Several years ago, Brownsville registered the lowest reading level in the state. Last year, the first luncheon in her memory was held, leading to the award of two college scholarships to Brownsville youth. One recipient was present at the NY/G bash.

During the return trip from Brooklyn, Miriam Braverman & Jean Coleman conducted an impromptu guided tour of Brownsville and Bedford-Stuyvesant, emphasizing community history & organization.

Once again the Newcott proved to be the only ALA luncheon whose proceeds do go to local community people--instead of to the hotels and ALA's own coffers. Newcott affords visitors to the convention city an opportunity to see poor neighborhoods, and to be reminded that the posh streets surrounding ALA hotels are not representative of how or where that city's people live.

Later in the week it was suggested that SRRT take over the Newcott luncheon as an annual function. This would ensure that local community contacts could be made well in advance of each annual conference.

Wrap-up: Anyone who missed the Newcott, but would like to send a contribution to the Ann W. Littlejohn Fund may mail a check to Linda Crowe, 1356 Scott Ave., Winnetka, Ill. 50093...For an excellent article on Newcott/Caldebery by Founding Mother Kathy Weibel, see the April 1974 Top of the News, p. 294-296...Sherrie Bergman Friedman.
Normally, not much that's newsworthy emerges from ALA's Resources & Technical Services Division. Even though RTSD groups "legislate," in effect, for the whole profession, they're largely composed of pomposity-prone elitists from academic & research institutions who seldom give a crap about how what they do impacts on the rabble who frequent school & public libraries. Often they pass away precious time in debates over commas & semicolons, sometimes in navel-picking talk-orgies about their very raison d'etre: "Why are we here?" Anyway, this time it was a little different. And mostly SRRT made the difference.

On Thursday, July 11th, the RTSD Catalog Code Revision Committee convened two times. During the morning session, SRRT's official representative (who enjoys speaking but not voting rights) suggested to the Blue Ribbon panel that it was surely time to accept as an editorial proposition when revamping AACR that strictly & uniquely masculine terminology--e.g., the pronouns "he" & "him" as referents to "author," "editor," etc.--should be abandoned in favor of non-sexist nomenclature. Chairman (sicut) John Byrum directed that the matter be placed on the Fall meeting agenda. But not before an outburst of jeers & hisses from the audience had greeted the suggestion. At the afternoon convocation, Byrum asked the group to generally endorse the International Standard Bibliographic Description for Serials. The SRRT rep queried whether ISBD per se could still be discussed. The answer: NO. Whereupon the SRRT delegate publicly announced that his Round Table opposes imposition of ISBD as a mandatory, rather than optional, format, observing that ISBD was not only utterly irrelevant to school and public libraries, but also might prove "damaging" by contributing to further "mystification of the catalog."

The RTSD/CCS Subject Analysis Committee met twice, on Monday & Wednesday. Nothing spectacular happened during the 1st two-hour stint, except that a SRRT-spectator successfully goaded the Committee into openly admitting its own unrepresentativeness and urging the entire Division to redress the rampant imbalance between academic/research & public/school membership on boards & committees. On Wednesday, an overflow crowd--including W&L's Art Plotnik & W&L's Laura X--jaamed the meeting room. Following a "progress report" by Ed Blume, Chief of LC's Subject Cataloging Division, the ordinarily dull deliberations began to spark. Chairperson Nancy Williamson summarized a lengthy brief submitted by Erna Jean Tolbert (Case Western Reserve) & Odie H. Tolbert, Jr. (Memphis State). Prepared on behalf of the Black Caucus, the statement assailed the continued employment of "Negro" & "Negroes" in library subject schema, insisting that either "Black" or "Afro" forms should replace the archaic & offensive slave-terms. Much discussion ensued, the typically timid Committee clearly traveling toward a cop-out postponement of the whole matter on the grounds that the BC position-paper hadn't expressed a definite preference for one or the other alternative. At which point a SRRT-observer inquired whether the committee couldn't immediately state its objection to existing "Negro" rubrics & reconsider alternatives at Midwinter '75 after requesting more input from the Black Caucus. Well, the committee could. And did. The net outcome: for the first time in Association history, an official ALA body unequivocally declared that "Negroes" is no longer an "appropriate" subject term and should be replaced. (Indeed, copies of that resolution were to be transmitted to both LC & the H. W. Wilson Co.) So what does it all MEAN, like right now? This, friends: Any library or publisher that still assigns "Negro" & "Negroes" subject headings--or maintains such heads in existing catalogs, indexes, etc., without cross-referencing to new, substitute forms--violates bona fide ALA policy. In other words, they're wrong. Willfully.

Next item: Sexism. As a necessary backdrop to what went down, this is the June 28th missive sent to Ms. Williamson by Joan K. Marshall, Coordinator of the SRRT TFW Committee on Sexist Subject Headings:

"Thank you for allowing us time to discuss the issue of sexism in Library of Congress subject headings with the Subject Analysis Committee.

Three assumptions underlie our concern for the terminology employed in Library of Congress subject headings. The first is that language reflects and reinforces the attitudes of society. If society's attitude toward any class of persons is prejudicial to the rights and obligations of that class, that fact is evident in and reinforced by language. The second of our assumptions is that subject headings, since they employ language, and in and of themselves are influential for good or for ill. If the language of our subject headings reflects society's unreasoning bias toward certain classes of persons, they reinforce that bias. Our third assumption is that librarians, as educated, responsible members of society, must not abet or condone prejudice.

It is our firm belief that Library of Congress subject headings relating to women reflect and, therefore, reinforce a bias which is detrimental to women achieving their rightful status as full and equal members of our society. We intend to document that bias to the Subject Analysis Committee and to the Library of Congress.

The subject heading WOMAN - SOCIAL AND MORAL QUESTIONS, for instance, illustrates both bias and a confusion which further reinforces bias. The only clue provided to the intent of this heading lies in the single cross-reference provided to it:
FEMINISM. Webster's (3d unabridged ed.) defines feminism, in part, as "2.a. the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes. b. any activity on behalf of women's rights and interests; specif. the 19th and 20th century movement seeking to remove restrictions that discriminate against women." If we accept Webster's definition, feminism is not the equivalent of WOMAN - SOCIAL AND MORAL QUESTIONS. The pursuit of equality by any group within society poses social and moral questions only to those that would, and are in a position to deny equality, not to those denied it. Male dominated society is responsible for any social and/or moral questions that arise from feminist activity; works about men's problems in accepting women as equals should be entered, perhaps, under MEN - SOCIAL AND MORAL PROBLEMS. (Please note, I do not suggest the generic man. And note that WOMAN - SOCIAL AND...denotes and connotes universal and absolute social and moral questions.) Works about feminism or the feminist movement should be entered under FEMINISM.

In addition, it is obvious that the selection of WOMAN - SOCIAL AND MORAL QUESTIONS as a subject substitute for FEMINISM has led to some syntactic confusion. If the subject heading and its cross reference are considered equivalent, the references to, for instance, DELIQUENT WOMEN, PROSTITUTES, and WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIFE are questionable since women in these particular classes are not necessarily feminists. If the subject heading and its cross reference are not considered equivalent (which is in itself, of course, an error), it could be argued that women criminals and prostitutes do pose social and moral questions (as, it could be argued, do their male equivalents), but could it be equitably argued that women in public life do?

I will not belabor the point further here. Attached is a statement by Elizabeth Dickinson which presents additional examples and recommendations for change. A brief bibliography is also attached. (I realize that there will be little time to examine the items on the bibliography before we meet with you on July 10th. But I expect that this is only the beginning.) We will give further examples, ad nauseam, if you wish, on July 10th.

Members of the Committee on Sexist Subject Headings are not unaware of the intellectual, social, and practical difficulties of establishing or changing established subject terminology. Subject headings relating to women--or failing to relate to women--pervade the subject heading list and our catalogs in a wide variety of direct and indirect forms. We fully understand the enormity of the task of review, and we do not anticipate wholesale change overnight. But if we do not work for and insist upon change, we, as women, will have failed ourselves, and we, as librarians, will have abrogated our responsibility to our users and to the community at large.

We, therefore, hereby request: [That the RTSD/CCS Subject Analysis Committee, in conjunction with us, request that the Library of Congress, acting independently and on the suggestions and information supplied by the Committee on Sexist Subject Headings and the Subject Analysis Committee, review all of the Library of Congress subject headings relating to women.]
[That the Library of Congress conduct this review without regard to the possibility or impossibility, for whatever reason, of making desired changes in the Library of Congress catalogs.]
[That the Library of Congress submit its recommendations for change to the Subject Analysis Committee and to the Committee on Sexist Subject Headings for discussion.]
[That the Library of Congress submit a statement on the subject of feminisms and the RTSD join the Committee on Sexist Subject Headings and the SRRT Task Force on the Status of Women in urging the Library of Congress to close off its catalogs so that desperately-needed change in all areas of subject heading terminology may be more readily achieved.]

We look forward to meeting with you on July 10th. I am sorry that I was not able to get this out sooner; I realize that I have given you little time to consider the issue.

Fortunately, Liz's detailed analysis and recommendations had been distributed to SAC members two weeks earlier. Joan then made an oral condensation, replete with superb glosses. In the course of subsequent discussion, Mr. Blume indicated that the WOMAN/WOMEN mess was already being straightened out by LC, that FEMINISM would soon appear as a discrete head (though TFWers necessarily demanded that it should cover current, as well as retrospectice, material), and that WOMEN AS...constructions are being slowly dismantled. Despite some quibbling over specific terms & possible reforms, NO ONE actually contested the basic TFW charge that sexism permeated the LC subject scheme. In fact, it really seemed that everybody had long realized it but simply refused to face it, to do any thing about it. The end result that afternoon was two-fold:
[That a Committee motion recommending that LC take further corrective action on the problem of]
Providing that all current office-holders promptly supply their names, positions, mailing address, & phone-numbers, we'll run a complete directory in the next issue. In the meantime, suffice it to report that the SRRT Membership meeting on Monday, July 8th, elected these new Action Councillors: ▶ Nancy Kellum-Rose, Coordinator (247 - 25th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121) ▶ Diane Kadanoff, Conference Program (25 Grotto Ave., Providence, RI 02906; home phone: 401-274-9567) ▶ John H. Carter, Secretary (Wyoming State Library, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002; work phone: 777-7281) ▶ Elizabeth Dickinson, Affiliates Liaison (Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435; work phone: 612-830-4977) ▶ Mike McConnell (same address and phone as Liz) ▶ Lynn Rhoads (4004 Whitman Ave. North, Seattle, Wash. 98103; work: 206-543-5530; home: 206-632-2179) Also, holdover-Councillor Jim Sanders advises that he's now located at 360 Riverside Drive (Apt 9A), NYC 10025. Sam Morrison will succeed Helen Wheeler as Treasurer, while Zoia Horn is to continue in charge of Conference arrangements. New on Clearinghouse: ▶ Patrice Narvin (Southeast Popular Library, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435; 612-850-4909), who recalls the Manhattan-melee like this:

On Friday, July 12th, ALA Council voted to (finally) investigate the University of Minnesota for refusing to hire ALA/SRRTer J. Michael McConnell four years earlier. Shortly after Mike applied for a marriage license to marry another man, the Regents refused to honor his April 27, 1970 employment offer by the University Librarian. McConnell & the TFGL immediately filed a complaint & requested that ALA bring sanctions against the U of M. 1974 marked the 4th consecutive year that the issue was discussed at the annual meeting. Miriam Crawford (Temple University) told the 160-member policy-making body: "It's time we deal with the human rights of librarians and settle this issue once and for all." ALA's Robert Wedgeworth assured the Councillors that he would make available sufficient funds to conduct a "full field investigation." The approved resolution directs him to make "an immediate, formal inquiry into all issues that affect fundamental fairness." Barbara Gittings, TFGL Coordinator, was excited with the large pro-vote. She said it's the first time any professional organization has "gone to bat for one of its Gay members." Two Minnesota Councillors took part in the drama: Dr. Harris C. McClaskey, Assoc. Prof. at the Univ. Library School, voted in favor; Marlys O'Brien, MLA Chapter Representative, voted against.

Jack Baker filed this personal account: It was a high-risk strategy. In retrospect, it paid off, but elicited demands that the TFGL move on to "high profile" activities in San Francisco.

We were quite aware that Council was tired of the McConnell case and, if given a chance, would accept the SCAMH lie (American Libraries, Jan. 1974). The plan was to lay low, move quickly, and attack SCAMH on two main points: It had refused to investigate and had excluded librarians from the concept of Intellectual Freedom—contrary to the express policies of Council. McConnell's "Alex in Wonderland" (Wilson Library Bulletin, June 1974) set the mood. Miriam Crawford, SRRT Councillor, offered to present to council the TFGL-SRRT endorsed McConnell resolution which requested an "immediate formal investigation" by SCAMH.
We held our breath as Barb, TF Coordinator, addressed Council (a victory in itself), methodically, succinctly, eloquently, and decisively. The bandwagon-effect set in as other Councilors came forward to say "It's about time we deal with the human rights of librarians." ALA's Executive Director complained lamely that Council would be substituting its judgement for that of SCAM. * 

The moment of truth--"All those in favor"--was upon us. About half rose and there were fears we lost. But when only twenty percent stood up to oppose, we realized that the large number of abstentions carried the day. McConnell, who had his attorney with him throughout the Convention, said his heart stopped. *

Miriam Crawford's only comment: "I'm still shocked by the vote."

Friday, July 11th. ALA Membership Meeting. Suzanne LeBaron, on behalf of the SRRT Action Council, submitted Document #7 which, after slight amendment, carried:

WHEREAS, Fullest possible participation by Membership in ALA is necessary; and

WHEREAS, The scheduling of Membership Meetings in New York, at the 1974 convention, on Monday evening and Friday afternoon severely restricted Membership participation because of the twenty-four hour notice necessary for resolutions at the Monday meeting and because of the lateness of the hour for the Friday meeting:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Membership Meetings at all future ALA annual conferences, beginning in 1975, be scheduled after Monday evening and before Friday noon.

This one, Document #8, generated by the Women's Preconference & presented by Lynne Rhoads, past Coordinator of the TF, failed miserably:

WHEREAS the top administration in libraries consists predominantly of men, and

WHEREAS equal employment opportunity (endorsed by ALA at its 1974 Midwinter meeting) demands representation of women at all levels of library work in proportion to their numbers in the library field and

WHEREAS women constitute 82% of the library profession, and

WHEREAS under the present permanent placement of library administrators in their positions, and under present discriminatory practices of filling vacancies at the administrative level with men, women in the foreseeable future cannot hope to be represented at this top level of administration in representative numbers,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ALA encourage libraries to employ top administrators for limited terms,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such administrators be evaluated in periodic reviews by the entire staff, with reappointment to be conditional upon approval by the staff.

Moved by AC Coordinator Peter Doiron, Document #9, a "Resolution to censure ALA Council," stimulated much energetic and healthy debate--but ultimately lost:

WHEREAS the American Library Association belongs to its members and,

WHEREAS the Association's primary concern is Intellectual Freedom and,

WHEREAS the majority of Council on two occasions reversed the will of the membership as exemplified by denying three University of Chicago Librarians the right to speak and over-turning a membership majority vote to change its own meeting, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Association Membership hereby censures the American Library Association Council.

The Membership accepted Document #10, previously approved by the Round Table on Library Service to the Blind, by acclamation:

WHEREAS numerous physically handicapped individuals hold positions as librarians, trustees, library school students, or persons interested in libraries and librarianship; and

WHEREAS such individuals, like their non-handicapped peers, can gain immeasurable benefit from attendance at and participation in the conferences of the American Library Association; and

WHEREAS in recent years handicapped individuals in attendance at American Library Association conferences have encountered much difficulty in moving freely throughout the meeting and exhibit areas; and
WHEREAS the library profession has shown great leadership in the area of removing barriers to the handicapped in the design and construction of library buildings; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the American Library Association directs that all local arrangements committees, headquarters staff, exhibitors, and others involved in the planning and execution of conferences of this Association be aware of and sensitive to the unique problems of handicapped conference participants and guests in the selection, planning, and layout of all conference facilities, especially meeting rooms and exhibit areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the officials of the American Library Association are hereby directed to seek to employ the services of an interpreter competent in sign language for the deaf at all conference meetings of general membership and Council.

Document #11, brought by Lynne Rhoads for SRRT's Task Force on Women, underwent minor amendment & then carried with only two visible "NO" votes:

WHEREAS, the prohibition of discrimination is Federal law; and

WHEREAS, Governmental agencies have been provided to correct conditions of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, The existence of discrimination in libraries has been abundantly documented; and

WHEREAS, In observance of ALA's support of the principles of intellectual freedom, people exercise their right to protest discrimination and to attempt to correct it by filing complaints with appropriate governmental agencies; and

WHEREAS, Retaliation, harassment (such as blacklisting and defamation) and other punitive practices against people who have filed such complaints violate Federal regulations designed to protect complainants in their efforts to eradicate discrimination;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ALA endorse the right of library workers to protest discrimination, of whatever nature by utilizing appropriate local grievance procedures through the appropriate governmental agencies provided for this purpose, and through private attorneys, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ALA support the right of these persons to protest discrimination without fear of retaliation.

Friday, July 11th. ALA Council. Document #61, submitted by Miriam Crawford on behalf of the Women's Preconference, was somewhat amended by E. J. Josey before the Council referred it to the Legislation Committee:

WHEREAS discrimination against women and minority librarians in recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion, salaries, and other conditions of employment has been amply documented, and

WHEREAS the rapid implementation of affirmative action is a necessity demanded by the present discriminatory profile of employment within the library field, and

WHEREAS, as a means of redress from discrimination in employment, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended by the Equal Employment Act of 1972, and Executive Orders 11246 and 11478 are designed to be implemented by governmental agencies created for the purpose or otherwise assigned that function, and

WHEREAS inadequate funding of these governmental agencies creates severe limitations and delays in their resolution of complaints filed with them,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington Office of the American Library Association be instructed to work actively for the adequate funding of the agencies which monitor federal affirmative action regulations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the American Library Association adequately fund its Washington Office so that it can undertake this essential effort.

Document #67, another Preconference product, was proposed by Action Councillor Zoia Horn & passed:

WHEREAS the condition of sex discrimination in the United States of America has been abundantly documented, and

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees to women equal rights with men, and

WHEREAS, by reason of its beneficial implications for all persons in the American society, many professional organizations, such as NEA and AAUP, have endorsed adoption of the ERA, and

WHEREAS ALA at its 1974 Midwinter meeting adopted a policy requiring equal employment opportunity in libraries, and
WHEREAS many library organizational structures are hierarchical, and

WHEREAS these hierarchical structures perpetuate traditional sexist divisions between administrative and non-administrative staff, and

WHEREAS the actual skills involved in doing both service and administrative work, although different in nature, are comparable in social importance, complexity, difficulty, degree of responsibility, degree of independent judgment and decision making, and,

WHEREAS a non-discriminatory valuation of service and administrative skills would demonstrate them to be much more nearly equal than is commonly reflected in salaries, advancement, recognition and other forms of reward;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ALA direct the Office of Library Personnel Resources to develop guidelines whereby persons in both administrative and service positions may receive the comparable rewards resulting from an accurate, non-discriminatory valuation of these two major categories of employment within the library field.

Anita Schiller offered Document #69, a Pre-Conference spin-off, which passed:

WHEREAS the 1972 Standards for Accreditation do not mention affirmative action policies in relation to faculty hiring and promotion, and

WHEREAS it has been amply demonstrated that strong role models in education are essential in developing successful career persons, and

WHEREAS all library schools will be visited by a team from the American Library Association Committee on Accreditation, now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the membership of the American Library Association directs the Committee on Accreditation to evaluate the positive implementation of affirmative action law as one of the criterion for accreditation or re-accreditation of the library schools.

Document #71, germinated by the Preconference and put before Council by E.J. Josey, lost by a depressingly great margin:

WHEREAS, care of children is a responsibility which must be assumed by the entire society into which children are born; and

WHEREAS, when American women who have young children are employed at salaried jobs outside of the home, child care arrangements must be customarily provided for these children; and

WHEREAS, women, in this society, by reason of discriminatory low salaries, non-promotion, under-utilization, and manifold other violations of the principles of equal opportunity in affirmative action, are least able to provide adequate child care arrangements; and

WHEREAS, women constitute 82% of employed librarians and even higher proportions of employed non-professionals in the library field; and

WHEREAS, many of these women have young children,.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the American Library Association, as a step towards correction of the disproportionate burden of child care provisions borne by women, direct its Washington office to work towards the governmental funding and establishment of child care centers,

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the American Library Association supports the implementation of affirmative action mandates, by recommending that individual libraries provide child care services to parents in their employ.

Afterwards, the Chair gratuitously opined that it had been rejected because of its "financial implications."*

In what was probably the morning's most dramatic--and also disheartening--episode, Pat Schuman moved this final Preconference resolution, Document #72:
WHEREAS many ALA publications and official documents use nouns and pronouns denoting masculine gender to describe the membership at large and specific positions and titles, and

WHEREAS the consistent or exclusive use of the masculine gender perpetuates the traditional language of society which discriminates against women,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that future publications and official documents of AIA be revised to avoid sexist terminology.

Speaking against the motion, Kathleen Holtz, who heads the Intellectual Freedom Committee, emphatically stated, "I like being the Chairman. I am not," she continued, "ashamed of being Miss Kathleen Holtz." And then, describing the resolution as "an embarrassment to the Association," announced: "I would like to see it dropped." Tellers made a head-count, reporting a tie-vote to President Lowrie. Laughingly, "John" declared the motion lost. That act prompted Joan Marshall to write Pres. Lowrie as follows on July 21st:

"Dear Jean Lowrie:

I had almost lost hope that the American Library Association would ever take the first stand on any issue, but for once, we are not playing follow-the-leader. The AAUP, MLA, and numerous other professional organizations have resolved to avoid sexist terminology in their official publications. ALA, on the other hand, as a result of your tie-breaking vote, is on record, at least by implication, of favoring sexist terminology.

I sincerely regret that you (and R. Kathleen Holtz) have so little regard for, or pride in, your sex that you choose to call yourself Chairman. But that is your privilege. I would like to point out, however, that the resolution on sexist language, as presented by the SRRT Program Committee on Women and as finally voted upon, would not have denied you (in my opinion, dubious) privilege.

I have three questions. First, would you have treated the content of the resolution, and your having been placed in the position of casting the decisive vote, as a matter for humor if the resolution suggested that ALA avoid using sexist terminology in official publications? Have you considered how Mr. Holley would have reacted in the same situation?

Second, are you aware of the inherent contradiction between your action on the sexist language resolution and the previous Council action affirming the necessity of increasing the number of positive women role models in library education?

Third, enclosed is a copy of the recent ACLS "Standards for faculty status for college and university librarians." Do you really not see that the equation made between "the academic librarian" and "he" reinforces an unjustifiable male privilege? Had the plural been used throughout the ACLS statement, the appropriate pronoun would have been non-sexist. That was all we were asking for; our request was neither revolutionary nor humorous.

At Monday night's membership meeting, Exec. Director Wedgeworth exclaimed--to thunderous applause--that ALA should not allow IAS or any other outside agency to define its interests. The remark came in the context of Wedgeworth's report on IRS-challenges to the Association's tax-exempt status. It was an eminently proper stance. And no less eminently ironic. For, as hearsay & then hard evidence would suggest over the next few days, Mr. Wedgeworth himself appears to have allowed "outside" interests to dictate ALA action. In essence, reconstructing the many bits & pieces, this is what seems to have transpired: American Libraries maintains a "stringer" in Washington. That reporter queried a senator with respect to the legal status and statutory obligations of the National Commission on Library & Information Science, apparently trying to determine if NCLIS is subject to the Freedom of Information Act. In plain language, he asked a reference question. But someone--perhaps several people, including ALA's Washington office--apparently didn't dig the question-asking. So a complaint went to Mr. Wedgeworth. Who on June 24th instructed editor Burke to fire the wayward stringer. Burke obeyed, but tendered his own resignation in protest. So did two assistant editors. The matter initially arose in public that Monday night, Wedgeworth making a defensive, cryptic reply to Nancy Kellum-Rose's "Point of information." Bill Eshelman candidly branded the Exec. Director's response "unsatisfactory."

The issue resurfaced at the Friday membership meeting, Eshelman commenting that the conference deserved to know why the AL staffers had quit & maintaining that Burke had resigned for reasons of high principles & dedication to freedom of the press. Burke himself read a short statement, to which Mr. Wedgeworth replied, in part, that he had personally approved the appointment of the now-dismissed Washington correspondent. Moreover, he alleged that there had not been even one attempt in two years to effect a meeting or liaison between Burke and the Director of ALA's Washington office. Beyond that, Wedgeworth schoolmasterly "reminded" the membership that "this is not an independent magazine." (Obviously.) What he neglected to "remind" the membership (among other things) was that Mr. Burke had only been AL editor for one year & so could hardly be criticized for a two-year delinquency. Even so, the problem centered exclusively on Wedgeworth's behavior, not Burke's. And there are a lot of unasked questions that need answers. Like: Precisely what did the stringer do to merit dismissal? Was he afforded due process to appeal Wedgeworth's decision? Did Wedgeworth act independently--or under pressure? If under
pressure, whose? Since when does the pursuit of news render a reporter unfit to remain on the job? If AL is a "house organ," aren't the members--instead of the Huron St. bureaucracy--the "house"? And don't we, the "house," prefer a gutsy, unshackled magazine to one that operates under the thumb of "outside agencies" or an "Off-with-their-heads" Executive Director?

Alice Ihrig jollily & enthusiastically announced on Monday evening that ALA intends to cooperate closely with the Peoples Bicentennial Commission in the preparation of library-related bicentennial festivities & materials. Ms. Ihrig: Mazei ToVl....... SRRT's People's Librarian TF got two new requests for help: from Liberation News Service in NYC, which needs a PL to index back files, etc., & Rock of Ages, a group concerned with problems of older women. Four representatives of federal, state, and city agencies plus a feminist attorney addressed a large audience of librarians Tuesday on the subject of filing sex-discrimination complaints. Sponsored by the SRRT Task Force on Women, the program focused on existing legislation, illegal sex discrimination and retaliatory acts practiced by employers, the rights of the complainant, methods of conciliation and the compensation awarded in cases of proven discrimination. The panel then answered questions from the audience about the discriminatory aspects of child care, how a superior can prepare to handle sex discrimination complaints and specific violations of federal laws and executive orders. After a Wednesday luncheon, which attracted an overflow crowd of feminist librarians, Thursday's meeting of the SRRT Task Force on Women recognized the tremendous growth of the TFW during the past year by dividing the responsibilities of the Coordinator. Lynne Rhoads, TFW Coordinator, was replaced by Liz Futas (Queens College Library), Kay Cassell (Westchester Library System, White Plains, NY), and Helen Josephine and Betty Jurock, Program Coordinators for San Francisco. The TFW will also have State and Regional Chapters and an information network of reporters who relay news to the Newsletter Editor and disseminate TFW information in their areas. Next Year's Pre-Conference was discussed together with plans for the ALA Conference Program Meeting, plans to maintain a women's suite throughout the Conference with Feminist literature and informed consulting services offered, and plans to move toward the formation of a Feminist Caucus.

Task forces

TFW roster becomes TFW BULLETIN BOARD

The Task Force on Women's roster and resume screening service has been discontinued in favor of a new format. As of July 3, the TFW BULLETIN BOARD, a listing of library administrative, management and specialist positions, became available by subscription to individual women only for 6 months (12 issues). The changed format is designed to get details on higher-level positions directly to interested women.

Employers are encouraged to submit position openings for listing at no charge. As affirmative action postings, they should include the following information: Institution name & address; job title/classification; date of vacancy; qualifications required/desired; job responsibilities; salary range (as specific as possible); filing deadline; contact person's name, address & phone.

For further data, subscriptions, and listings, contact the current roster coordinator: Liz Dickinson, Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Avenue South, Edina, MN 55435. Checks should be made payable to "Task Force on Women Job Roster."

Service to Prisoners: newsletter, position paper, national survey on docket

The TF on Service to Prisoners plans to issue a quarterly subscription newsletter on prison and jail library service, as well as a position paper on the responsibility of public libraries to budget for service to prisons and other institutions within their jurisdictions. Also, a national survey of jail library service will be conducted this Fall in cooperation with state library consultants.

At ALA '74, the TFS's two meetings produced much good discussion & experience-sharing. In particular, a joint undertaking by the Combined Book Exhibit & Federal Detention Center in NYC was described in detail & an offer made by CBE to help with displays of books suitable for prison library collections. New TF Coordinators are Joan Stout (Alameda County Library, 224 W. Winton, Hayward, CA 94544) and Gilda Perelman (San Francisco Public Library, Civic Center, San Francisco, CA 94102). Persons interested in helping with any of the above projects, or others--like Federal prison libraries, securing materials from publishers & jobbers, answering prisoner letters, etc.--should immediately contact Joan or Gilda. Joan Goddard, past-Coordinator, 1171 W. Latimer, Campbell, CA 95008.

Gay Liberation bonanza: psycho-drama, Foster award, McConnell talk, anti-"homosexual" campaign

SRRT's Task Force on Gay Liberation has come a long way since ALA-Detroit. The rattling of cages in Dallas, Chicago, Las Vegas, New York and parts in between has begun to show.

It's the same old story for movement people. In the beginning, the founders talk to themselves. Gradually, a few sympathetic Gaights (Gays posing as Straights) come to "observe." Eventually,
ThaEts rhe eaY it. July 9th, desPite an or8anizaEion is 'rin'r'te felt. The TF aEEracEed over 200 Eo ifs Ewo hour Program on Tuesday aflernoont heavy conpeEiCion from other equally-dynamic grouPs. Kudos to Barbara GiEtings who- twice Ieafleted everyone at the conference.

The event started on a sad noEel lsrael Flshmen and JaneE CooPert the TFrs cofounderst are unemployed and persona non grata Eo Ehe library profession. IE_L,as the usual tale of a confron-Eagion begween Ehose wno srand up for Ehe Task Force and its goals and those who hold the power. How well we know that when you stand alone, you have no power.

The audience was then invited to share two psycho-dranas with the Oscar Wilde Memorial Players. Both plays dealt with the personal problems Gays face in a heterosexisB society. Each was comical, but heavy. Reactions ranged from non-commital ("The acting was good ") to paranoid ("You had to be Gay to understand the subtleties--I'm not sure it was appropriate for this audience") to enthusiastic ("Very good ").

The Third Annual Gay Book Award went to JeaneEe FosEerr 70, who was still recovering from surgery in Missouri. Isabei Miller, recipienE of rhe FirsE Aard in Dallas (attendance: 9 people) ad-libbed well without her glasses and bestowed upon SEX VARIANT WOMEN IN LITERATURE the TF's highest compliment. Foster's written response: "I can only repeat my delight and overwhelmed grati-ude at being chosen for the award, and my happy surprise that my long respected ALA is willing to admit the existence--and even honor it--of Gality!"

Mike McConnell, whose experience and opinion of ALA differed a bit from Dr. Foster's, admonished the Association not to "Homosexualize the Library Stacks." Ironically, of course. He argued that so long as "Gays continue to be defined uni-dimensionally, i.e., as people who commit same-gender sex acts," people and librarians will continue to see Gayness in terms of "perversion," "abnormal psychology," or other equally silly frameworks. McConnell pointed out that Gay activ-ists in Minneapolis were able to secure passage of fair employment legislation for Gays on the first try simply by emphasizing the affectional aspect of Gayness (unlawful to discriminate on the basis of one's "affective or sexual preference"). He scolded Gay "leaders" for ignoring the power of positive thinking (No are not going to get Gay materials into libraries if Gay is labelled "homosexual" and associated with "dirty sex acts") and urged Gay librarians to look upon subject headings and cross references as tools of education (Every time one of your patrons is referred from that obnoxious term "homosexual" to the more human terms Gay or Lesbian, or Gay men or Gay women, you have educated a person about inaccurate and dated thinking that needs immediate revision).

McConnell was surprised to learn that an old closeted friend had come to hear him. He mused that times must be changing if a Gay library administrator in Michigan could feel unthreatened enough to attend a public program sponsored by the TFGL. The times are indeed changing.

In other action, Barbara Gittings was unanimously elected to serve a third term as Coordinator. Also, the TF approved a strong position statement that the terms "homosexuals" and "homosexuality" do not fairly nor accurately denote Gay people and same-gender lifestyles and thus are inapprop-riate as library subject headings.

Mike will chair a committee charged with making subject-head recommendations to ALA next year. He'd welcome input. So direct your ideas & suggestions to him at Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435---Jack Baker, Suite 412, Loring Park Office Building, 430 Oak Grove, Minneapolis, MN 55403.

Here, in full, is the resolution on Gay Subject Headings submitted by J. Michael McConnell and passed without objection at the TFGL Business Meeting, July 11, 1974:

WHEREAS the word "homosexuality" is defined in most dictionaries as a "sexual attraction for persons of one's own gender," and
WHEREAS the totality of humaruress encompasses more than the singular sexual dimension, and
WHEREAS Gay people are increasingly repudiating the terms "homosexual" and "homosexuality" for the more relevant and human term Gay,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that it is the position of the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Gay Liberation that "homosexual" and "homosexuality" are inappropriate library subject heading terms for Gay people and same-gender lifestyles, and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force Coordinator is directed to appoint a committee to study subject heading lists and other pertinent library tools for terms applying to Gay people and make recommendations to ALA at the 1975 Conference in San Francisco.

Committee members: David White, 23-71 27th St., Astoria, NY 11105 Richard Parent, 4734 N.
Alternatives in Print: Book Fair-uppers, Establishment-downers, 74/75 AIP blast-off, Cook County kudos

If you haven't bought AIP 73-74 yet, do it now! Send $6.95 plus $.30 handling to: Glide Publications, 330 Ellis Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

The NEW YORK BOOK FAIR was successful beyond our wildest expectations! Over 300 small publishers and movement groups participated. Many thanks from SRRT are due Sara Mittelman, Marilyn Lewis, Zuki Landau, Guy Westmoreland, Bernice Selden, Joan Neumann, Jim Wright, and all the librarians who helped by staffing collective exhibits. The Book Fair has given energy to everybody in alternative publishing to do more of the same next year in San Francisco. If you live in the Bay Area and want to help, contact Ruth Gottstein at Glide Publications (address above).

Over 2,000 librarians attended the Book Fair, plus more than 8,000 of the general public, including 70 press representatives. All were impressed with the vitality, spirit, and quality of the publications there—where content is more important than commerce. If you were not among the lucky ones to attend, but would like a copy of the handsome, illustrated catalog of 232 publishers, send a stamped (25¢ worth), self-addressed 6 x 9 envelope to: Warm Neck, 23 Bay Street, Cambridge, MA 02139. As a result of the Fair, nearly 30 cartons of books, magazines and BF catalogs are being distributed to New York City prisons, thanks to Lut Rahim Nero, Prison Library Specialist, NYC Dept. of Rehabilitation, who worked very hard with the collective exhibits.

At the ALA conference itself, AIP had a very productive meeting. Four new people joined us: Betty Peterson, Harriet Strauss, Francie Gilman, and Victoria Brush. We’ll be working on the 74-75 edition now, with publication slated for December or early January. We even set a date (September 21 & 22) for a marathon weekend indexing party. If you know of some publication or group we should include this time around, please send the information to one of the TF Coordinators.

In the New York area, another BF is being planned to take place during the American Booksellers Association meeting next June. Interested in helping? Contact Jackie.

After our productive, satisfying AIP-week, it was a real downer to deal with the ALA Establishment. They seem out-of-touch with the public, and not eager to connect (see the whole ALA segment). One member reports that at an ALA Exhibits Round Table meeting, the Director of Library Services (?) at Scibner’s queried, “Is there any way we can stop the Book Fair?” “No,” replied the ALA Executive Director. And he knew. Then followed the reading of minutes for last year’s ERT sessions, when AIP’s Jackie Eubanks had asked ERT to recommend that small presses be included in ALA exhibits. An embarrassing moment was had by all, we hope. By Friday, however, the Executive Director had recovered his aplomb. “Next year we will put the Book Fair out of business,” he said. “It’s easy to get publicity in New York City.” Thank “Write down a report on the Book Fair: layout, how much charged, publicity, etc. and send it to me. If we give a few small publishers the chance to write a thousand or twelve hundred dollars in orders, they won’t turn it down, and won’t care if it’s open to the public.” How about that for concern with ALA priorities (intellectual freedom?) and care for the future of Third World, feminist, and alternative presses! Since SRRT is short of funds and ALA thinks only in business terms, perhaps we should play their game and consider selling them the information they want...

It would be embarrassing and difficult to explain to the people who attended the Book Fair, to the feminist presses there, and to our French feminist sisters (Librairie des femmes) who flew over to NYC just for the occasion, that at the ALA membership meeting something truly obscene occurred, both the Chair of the Intellectual Freedom Committee (R.K. Nolz) and the ALA President (J. Lowie) publicly spayed themselves before the entire membership. Both of these self-hating sisters would do themselves a favor by reading more of the alternative press, including especially THE MONTHLY EXTRACT: AN IRREGULAR PERIODICAL that focusses on “Gynecological self-help” ($3.50/6 issues from New Moon Communications, Box 3488 Ridgeway Station, Stamford, Connecticut 06903).

Sigh... Thank the people, from whom the energy comes to continue the long march through the institutions of ALA and the literary-industrial complex of big publishing. Next year—San Francisco!


Editor’s note: Jackie says that she’s received “some nice thank-you’s,” but this one—from Rhea Joyce Rubin, Director, Cook County Corrections Library Project (115 South Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60624)—she tabs “the greatest!”
Just a short note to thank you for organizing the fabulous Alternative Press Book Fair held at the New York Cultural Center during the week of A.L.A. The Fair put the standard book publishers' Exhibits to shame! I found a wealth of materials, including many more prison publications—my special interest—than at the Exhibits. But more importantly, I was impressed by the vitality of the authors and publishers (rather than salesmen) there. I met many people from C.O.S.M.E.P. and other groups with whom I hope to keep in touch. Thanks again!

cc: Mr. Robert Wedgeworth
Mr. Chris Hoy

Affiliates

Rhode Island: four TFs going strong

SRRT is alive and well in Rhode Island, its energies at present being channeled into four task forces. The first, a job hotline, has compiled a list of all open positions in the state. To receive a copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Joblist, c/o Mary Ellen Hardiman, 51 Washington Road, West Barrington, RI 02840. But no resumes, please. We're not a clearinghouse.

A task force newly established to press the R.I. Film Cooperative to stock more socially responsible movies has already suggested several women's films—which the Cooperative promised to buy.

Another task force, intent on closer cooperation with the university of Rhode Island library school, is examining the possibility of creating an intern program with URI students.

The fourth TF, on women, submitted a proposal to the RI Committee on the Humanities for a grant to hold a one-day workshop on "Women and the Library." Since the grant was denied, SRRT will run the workshop on its own, probably in early December, modeling it along the lines of the Women's Pre-conference.—Diane Kadanoff, Coordinator, 23 Grotto Avenue, Providence, R.I. 02906 (8-10).

Feedback

1. Enclosed find $5 for renewal of my membership in SRRT. I did not re-join when I became a member of ALA because of my frustrating experience during the past year: The newsletter seemed to me such a mishmash of non-reporting that I had no idea whatever of what SRRT was doing or even about, and letters of enquiry were never answered. Now, however, I've so enjoyed the last 2 newsletters—orderly and chock-full of useful information—that I rejoin with pleasure. My congrats to the new officers. Sincerely.—Barbara Hills, 30 Evergreen Circle, Princeton, NJ 08540 (4-8).

2. Since you commented on my last epistle to the SRRT newsletter [130], p. 7, 107, here's my reaction. First, I'd like it understood that the objected-to parts, in fact all parts of the message, are my own and involve no one else in the [Jobs] Task Force. Second, I also wish to state that I really did not mean to stigmatize everyone in the SRRT workforce as a "radical" (if that offends), nor did I wish to insult those in SRRT who both cherish and nurture their radical image and ways. I really wanted to state that I feel SRRT has done an admirable job for ALA. However, it seems (to me) that we really only tell each other this fact. Some of the media deliberately paint a disparaging picture of SRRT and give our accomplishments the back-page treatment. If you don't care about SRRT's image, I go, and in this day of the shrinking ALA dollar we damn well better care. We have a list of exploits (like the number of job hotlines started recently) that can impress even the "establishment" if we get the story told! I merely want to help record and recite it.

If you are affronted by what I said in the last newsletter, do as my friend Bob Gutchke did. Send me a rundown of your accomplishments in the jobline or hotline area. That will show me what SRRT can do.

Now I would like to close by saying that all the former...English majors who read my letter may exclaim "That ain't what you said before." Well, if any of you have worked with me before, you know that I've labored hard for SRRT and have invested both my own time and money in it. I'm proud of our achievements and really just want others in the library world to know what we've done! Don't confuse my semantics with my feelings, please. Enough said.—Terry L. McLaughlin, past-Coordinator, SRRT Task Force on Jobs, c/o Portsmouth Public Library, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662 (4-12).

Editor's note: Terry's feelings & hard work were never in question. And never will be. He's an energetic, dedicated, hugely productive SRRTer. And a genuinely nice guy. So there's no ad hominem, much less intent in criticizing his remarks. Nor is there any desire to make a fetish out of "semantic" pettifogging. Instead, since Brother Terry's statements represent certain attitudes & opinions probably shared by others within SRRT, to debate them may be a useful means of "getting our
sh*t together," of refining goals, motives, and purposes. On that basis: | SRRT may, indeed, have "done an admirable job for ALA." But that shouldn't warrant much self-satisfaction, for SRRT's primary obligation, its paramount loyalty, is not to the American Library Association. It's to social responsibility in libraries. Which isn't quite the same thing. If SRRT happens to do something (like the New York Book Fair) that makes ALA smell good, okay. Still, that's not our job. We're not in the perfume business. || Our "image," Terry thinks we should agonize over it, fondle it, project it. If clever & diligent enough, we might manage to "impress even the Establishment."

Oh, rapture! Or, put in a few more, unmistakably plain words: To hell with our "image"--and the Establishment! An infantile eruption! A suicidal shriek? Are "radical" posturing? Oh-uh. It springs from the sober recognition that we're committed to substance, not form, to service, not self-looking. There are things that we're convinced need to be done. Some of them ALA can be coaxed or pressured into doing. Others we're compelled to do ourselves. There are ideals and principles that demand restatement, attention, respect. Some the Establishment finds uncomfortable, if not downright annoying. And there's an essentially liberated, open, comradely, non-pompous, nitty-gritty SRRT "style" that contrasts markedly (yea, refreshingly) with the super-formality & phony politeness typical of most ALA units. Yes, Brother Terry, we definitely ought to broadcast what we've done & where we're at. Proudly. And proudly. Yet not to "impress" the Establishment, but rather to shame it, to move it, and often (regrettably) to thwart it.

If we've successfully performed our maverick, humanizing, "alternative" role, if we've been faithful & responsive to peers & patrons alike, we'll not only project (naturally, but also the sense) of being worthy of the dollars we need to keep going. || It almost appears from Terry's comments that sparking a new jobline or hotline is the exclusive route to SRRT salvation, the sole kind of "accomplishment" that counts. Well, without in the least minimizing the JTF's labors & triumphs, there are, in fact, many rooms in the SRRT mansion, all equally spacious. For instance, the Ethnic Materials TF surely can't claim to have established any joblines lately, but at the past two ALA-conclaves it conducted truly necessary & effective consciousness-raising programs. The Alternatives in Print TF has birthed three AIP editions, as well as engineering a wildly-acclaimed, well-attended book fair that permitted little and counter-culture presses an exposure--at convention-time--that they could never have enjoyed otherwise (due to exorbitant ALA exhibit rates). The Gay Liberation TF continues to produce a free, immensely valuable bibliography, annually honors outstanding Gay literature, and steadily generates good vibes on behalf of Gayness & Gay colleagues. Likewise, the Women's TF has scored heavily on many fronts, from publishing a fine Feminist newsletter & staging a catalytic Preconference to promoting women's access to managerial/administrative positions & victoriously attacking sexism in LC subject headings. The litany could be much extended. But it should convincingly suggest to Terry (and others) "what SRRT can do." In addition to spawning joblines.

3.

Thank you very much for the latest SRRT newsletter. It is, as always, jampacked with info, including goodies to order. I also xerox the appropriate pages for a colleague who chairs the Women's Committee in the UC Davis Library... |

Please insert in your newsletter the fact that I intend to revise my article, "The Living Z.," for book publication by Margins. I need input: bibliographies, lists of sources. Actually, what I need are bibliographies of bibliographies, guides to the literature, directories...not just another ethnic bibliography from the local state college library, but a list of all of them. Ask your readers to take a look at what I was trying to do in Margins [No. 10 (Feb./Mar. 1974), p. 22-23] before they send their stuff in. My deadline is Oct 1.

I am not sure that I don't agree with Peggy Smith about voting to support impeachment of the President. [p. 5.] I think we need some real constructive internal debate about what SRRT can and cannot do...about what are our real priorities and where we can exert real influence.

I think you touched a nerve with the phrase "collective soul and conscience." The Christians affirm the existence of a soul, the Buddhists deny it; but neither of them ever asserted that an organization like ALA has a "soul." Professional bureaucracies like ALA are generally considered to be "soulless." I don't think we should speak of a "collective soul and conscience," I think this is no trivial theological quibble, either. Let me put it to you that there are good reasons for joining SRRT and that there are bad reasons. The bad reasons that we expect to "save our souls," that we will be counted with the just when the revolution comes. It's a bad reason because it is founded on that ol' devil, liberal guilt, and it leads to knee-jerk liberalism--which can, as the career of Governor Reagan of California illustrates, lead to its opposite.

The good reason is that we see a mess in our back yard and we intend to clean it up--whether or not we earn any points from anybody. Affirmative action, services to farm-workers, changing subject headings--these are things that we can exert some influence on. The most important issue facing ALA right now, in my opinion, is finding jobs for our own library school graduates. Year after year, small knots of young people appear in conference corridors, pleading with anyone who approaches for some kind of professional job--and sometimes they get one. But there certainly is no economic choice for them in this land of "free enterprise." I don't know what the solution is, but I do know that it's the library profession's own mess, that we made it by encouraging the students to enter the profession, and that it's our business to clean it up. Maybe we need an enormous extension of the "People's Librarian" program. It certainly seems more to the point than issuing statements supporting impeachment of the President of the United States, or even liberation of Portuguese-
occupied Africa. What is the use of making statements supporting foreign liberation movements when we can't support our own young people? And if "we and our public have been sorely abused," as you say, we have abused the trust of others by encouraging them to enter a profession when there aren't enough jobs. (Of course, ALA has stopped recruitment, but there's still little choice or mobility in the profession...)--Noel Peattie, Editor and publisher, *Sipapu*, twice yearly newsletter for librarians and others interested in Third World studies, the counter-culture and the freepress,* & Sipapu Books, "a house publishing small books on similar themes," Route 1, Box 216, Winter, CA 95694 (6-23). 

Editor's note: Amen to Noel's compact summary of SRRT's raison d'être--i.e., to clean up the "mess in our back yard...whether or not we earn any points from anybody." As argued above, that's certainly our top priority. However, Mr. P.'s observations about soul, conscience, the Revolution, implanation, & liberation movements merit some response. First, "soul" may be a lousy noun to apply to ALA. Nevertheless, the original phrase--"collective soul and conscience"--was meant to refer not to a "professional bureaucracy," but rather to the profession itself, to ALA members: their spirit, animus, values. Much as Tom Paine intended when he wrote, "These are the times that try men's souls." The thrust was ethical & moral, not theological or mystic. In short: no heavenly rewards nor revolutionary sainthood expected.

Second, there's an element of righteous myopia, of ostrich-like parochialism, in Noel's declaration against "issuing statements supporting impeachment of the President...or even liberation of Portuguese-occupied Africa." Granted, our own "back yard" comes first. But that yard doesn't exist in a perfect vacuum. As the SRRT-sponsored impeachment resolution painfully detailed, many of the President's objectionable actions are clearly related to libraries & their publics. It would be disastrously introverted and suicidally "pure" to willfully ignore such "external" factors & influences upon librarianship as fund-impoundment, government secrecy & deceit, erosion of Constitutional liberties, and the worsening condition of the disadvantaged. "No man is an island." Neither is SRRT. Of ALA. Which leads nicely to this final observation: As members of a humane profession, dedicated less to profit than to people, it's our duty--regardless of how dangerous or quixotic--to take a stand on vital matters of right & wrong, especially when they concern or affect the very context of our life and work. The process itself can prove instructive by graphically linking "outside" and "inside," by illustrating how Presidential restrictions on information-flow--for example--ramify straight into our own, not-so-hermetic cubicles. And even farther afield, a triflingly small outlay of time & energy can sometimes engender wondrous results: like helping to "spring" our persecuted colleague, Raisa Palacek, from an Odessa jail. Or contributing to the momentum--begun by our Afro-American brethren--for U.S. recognition of Guinea-Bissau's independence, a process (again) that's inherently worthwhile (for a variety of reasons: e.g., as a way to express solidarity with sister-groups, support and publicize a just cause that orthodox media either underplay or altogether neglect, & encourage/facilitate library resource-development on the topic). To encapsulate: Sure, let's do whatever we can to enhance job opportunities & mobility within the profession, to "keep the faith" with those we so blithely urged to join us. But that worthy activity need not automatically zap action in other areas. Indeed, those "other" concerns or pursuits simply don't fit into snug, airtight compartments. They interconnect. They're organic: Fund-impoundment reduces library services which in turn constricts professional employment. Official secrecy & media repression affect the quality, accuracy, and usefulness of the materials we handle. Apart from being requested, helpful & easy, spotlighting the liberation movements in Guinea-Bissau & other still-colonized lands should reveal important lacunae & untapped riches in our collections (as selection/identification guides, cf. SRRT newsletter #30, p. 7, 10-11; S. Ansari's "Liberation struggle in Southern Africa, a 1972 bibliography of source material" issued by the Indian Documentation Service; Francis A. Kornegay, Jr.'s "Bibliographic memorial to Amilcar Cabral," Selected survey of resources on the struggle in Guinea-Bissau," [Columbus, Winter 1973], p. 152-59; and the annotated, April 1972 HSU Lib. checklist on African liberation movements, available--with later addenda--from the Newsletter editor), increase awareness of America's significant role in bulwarking apartheid & imperialism, and even prompt changes in cataloging practice (for example, cf. S. Berman's 1971 tome, *Prejudices and antipathies*, p. 114-20, & HCL Cataloging bulletin #6/7, p. 52). These matters, then, are not mutually exclusive. Nor are some impossibly "exotic." As long as we regard our profession as both humane and Catholic, nothing can be really "foreign" to us. Employment, si. Liberation, si. No contradiction.

4 Thanks for the very nice review (#30, p. 11/1). I'm interested in your suggestions for a task force to index some of the unindexed lib. lit. publications (#30, p. 12, #31, p. 37). We have enough people here who could easily contribute indexing--especially of TV itself.--Dave Taylor, Editor, Title varies, P.O. Box 197, Okemos, MI 48864 (6-23). 

Editor's note: At its '74 Midwinter meeting, SRRT Action Council called upon ALA "to undertake the publication of valuable, necessary materials more responsive to the priority indicated by membership," specifically naming the HERSTORY and UPS indexes as possible candidates. For the full text, cf. #29, p. 41. That resolution triggered a most welcome request for further HERSTORY/UPS data from Herbert Bloom of ALA Publishing Services. The Newsletter editor on July 15th furnished clippings, announcements, & the following contact information to Mr. Bloom:
If Dave & his high-voltage MSU-contingent wish, they can--presto--constitute themselves as a Task Force To Index Alternative Library Literature & start negotiating with ALA re mechanics. Mr. Bloom's address: ALA Publishing Services, 50 East Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

5.

The SRRT newsletter...is great. Congratulations!--Michelle Rudy, past-Coodinator, SRRT Task Force on the Status of Women in Librarianship, 603 Waldron, West Lafayette, Indiana 47966 (6-24).

6.

Thanks for SRRT newsletter-mention 1/93, p. 21. Realize problem of time-lag between publication and happenings. As of June 17, am on full-time duty as paid librarian for Indian Center of San Jose, Inc.--Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Funds coming through Office of Native American Program (ONAP), HEW. Library budget also. Very gratifying after hanging in for twenty months. Native Americans and I take pride in being only urban Indian center in Bay Area providing full library service for and about Indians. People's Library Project was great. So happy that support money will go the other way. In friendship.--Ruth Blank, Library, Indian Center of San Jose, Inc., 90 South Second Street, San Jose, CA 95113 (6-26).

7.


8.

SRRT's a valuable source of information. Keep up the good work. Peace.--Larry Landwehr, compiler, Student's guide to Leftist periodicals: an international bibliography, 533 Hawkeye Drive, Iowa City, Iowa 52240 (7-2).

9.

When our mail comes from important people, e.g., librarians, we not only read it, we let others know about it. See page 20 of the enclosed AF press clips, v. 9, no. 27, July 2, 1974.

With every good wish for a bit of success now and then in your task of encouraging social responsibility as you go about "Putting Knowledge to Work"... Sincerely.--Richard Pelletier, Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520 (7-3).

Editor's note: Fully reproduced on the cited page was the May 1974 SRRT newsletter item captioned "Minnesotans support Guinea-Bissau."

10.

Regrettably, I can't bring myself to part with $3 for a subscription to the SRRT newsletter. Even though I'm committed to a socially aware librarianship, I still have misgivings about the need for a round table for "social responsibility." Much of what SRRT appears to be concerned with seems to be the appropriate concern of other organizations.

I do recognize that the "clearinghouse" activities of SRRT are of considerable value to any library which takes its information-handling responsibilities seriously and I'd have no problem in justifying an institutional subscription for the SRRT newsletter--if I were employed by an institution. Perhaps there's the rub--although Canadian unemployment insurance is probably more generous than its American counterpart in its benefits, one doesn't get rich on it and that $3 will still buy 15 beer here. You know how nice one of those tastes on a muggy summer day. Fraternally yours.--Steven Horn, 31 University Ave., East, Guelph, Ontario, Canada (7-10).

Editor's note: To our thirsty, unemployed comrade goes a complimentary sub.

11.

Thanks for SRRT newsletter #31 and the Black Rose citation on p. 11. We've published a fair number of books since the 'Humus' collection, the most recent being THE GENOCIDE MACHINE IN CANADA, by Robert Davis & Mark Zannis, Ill., Wilson's DEMOCRACY & THE WORK PLACE, and Sam Dolgooff's ANARCHIST COLLECTIVES, an illustrated anthology issued in conjuction with Free Life Editions (New York). We also distribute many titles from British and American houses. And work in close conjunction with Our Generation, a radical libertarian quarterly. If you'd like any more information, please drop us a line. Sincerely.--Diana G. Collier, Black Rose Books, 3936 Rue St. Urbain, Montreal 131, Quebec, Canada (7-12).
Editor's note: Founded in 1961, the quarterly OUR GENERATION "has evolved a radical analysis relevant to our industrial/technological society. Beginning with the relations between nation-states in the age of the super-bomb, to the dimensions and nature of social revolution, the journal attempts, from a libertarian socialist perspective, to be of service to people who want to pursue an inter-related range of social questions. The Montreal and Toronto Editorial collectives...seek to encourage critical social theory, research on the development of social and national liberation movements in Quebec and Canada, and radical analysis of industrial societies in general." Rates: $2 p.a.; single copies $1.50 each.

12.
I noticed in SRRT Newsletter #31, p. 11, a reference to Pluto Press, and thought you might like to know & perhaps mention that this bookstore is a North American distributor for Pluto. I enclose several copies of the Pluto catalog. Also a folder on Spartacus, probably one of the largest (non-sectarian) socialist bookstores, stocking more titles than most.

I presume you have by this time People's Bookseller, #1, June 1974: "A newsletter for progressive booksellers" from Co-op Books and Records, P.O. Box 2436, Tallahassee, Fla. 32304.

Wish I could have gotten to N.Y. for the Book Fair. I'm hoping to have a small fair -- just a booth, I imagine -- at the Pacific N.W. Library Assn. meeting here in August. Will be advertising Spartacus and a few other political bookstores.

I am only a very part-time worker in Spartacus, but am a retired librarian from Massachusetts who is glad to see SRRT becoming more visible and, if I may say so, politically more mature and relevant. -- Thurston Taylor, 2180 Nelson Ave., West Vancouver, B.C. Canada "D" 2P7 (7-2).

Editor's note: Located on the 3d floor at 130 W. Hastings in Vancouver (phone 686-6138) and open daily from 11:30 to 8:30, Spartacus Books is a living example of WSU, being owned & controlled by the 40 people who work there. Operated on a non-profit basis, the shop's single purpose is "to make a large amount of socialist literature available as cheaply as possible." The store carries books, pamphlets, magazines, records & posters "dealing with all aspects of the worldwide struggle against capitalism and imperialism." In order to "promote a socialist understanding and critical analysis," it stocks "material representing many different schools of thought and tendencies."

Especially notable are a "nearly exhaustive collection on the anti-imperialist struggle in the Third World, folk and revolutionary music on records, and all recent publications on Canadian labour history." Spartacus' mailing address is: P.O. Box 2881, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 3X4, Canada.

In addition to the labor-connected items cited in #31, Pluto's Spring '74 catalog includes a $60 pamphlet by Don Milligan, The politics of homosexuality, that "relates homosexual discrimination to the subordinate position of women and the oppressive function of the family within capitalism."

Clearly something for both Gays & radicals.

Although Thurston didn't note it, he has lately coordinated The Committee for Radical Reading, a group sponsoring public discussions "on vital issues"--like workers' control, Marxist economics, housing "developers," & poverty -- at the Vancouver Public Library. What's more, the Committee has produced excellent back-up reading lists for these "Radicals look at books" programs. On request, the Newsletter editor will gladly furnish samples.

13.
Dear Gentlepeople,

As of next month, Vocations for Social Change will have a new office. The decision to move from Telegraph Ave. into a house on Canning St. (only ten blocks away) was prompted by a number of reasons. First off, the people who were living in the Canning St. house, which we own, decided to split. Plus the lease on the storefront was due to be renewed in June. So we decided that by moving into the house we would be getting out from under high rent payments and escaping the role of landlord we would be faced with if we were to continue renting out the house. Some other advantages of our new office include more space, better lighting and ventilation, and overall a brighter, livelier work environment. The expanded space at our new location will give us room to put together "The East Bay Liberation Library" and will also give us some quiet space for our counseling programs.

What all this is leading to is a plea for donations. The costs of moving will be high. The house needs some major electrical and plumbing repairs, and hauling all our office equipment over there will be expensive. Plus we'd like to purchase more materials for our library and a new production typewriter (which costs in the neighborhood of $600). Our income from subscriptions has been drastically dropping over the last three months. We now send over half our mailing list free to prisoners, GI's, and individuals and organizations who cannot afford to contribute. So, between the costs of printing and mailing Workforce, we actually lose money.

Last year VSC found it necessary to skip production of the July/August issue in order to concentrate on fundraising. Hopefully, your response to this letter will bail us out of our financial bind, and we can keep our energies on our present projects and avoid putting together a more strenuous fundraising campaign. If each of you responded with a $1 donation, our financial burden would be greatly reduced. You can also help by sending us lists of bookstores and libraries in
your area that might handle WorkForce, and letting us have feedback or criticism. And don’t forget our new address: VSC, 5951 Canning St., Oakland, CA 94609.

10.

How about printing the revised and updated ground rules of SRRT in the next newsletter? The original appeared in June 1, 1970 newsletter, but has been revised slightly (I recall the Las Vegas debate on sex balance of Action Council). Anyway, it’s difficult to locate a copy these days. I know I lost my original. How about a revised reprint? Peace—Phyllis Baker, Coordinator, TP on Jobs, Wyoming State Library, Supreme Court & State Library Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001 (8-9).

Editor’s note: Rather than consume valuable Newsletter space with material that’s not relevant to institutional & non-voting subscribers, & in order to furnish the “ground rules” to future members when they join, the complete, up-to-date by-laws should be separately published. Once produced, they can easily be distributed to all 55-SRRTers and an extra stock kept to service newcomers. This seems an appropriate clearinghouse project, perhaps best undertaken by one of our previously less-active colleagues.

Alternatives/action

Jewish women join forces: JFO born

Late in April, women from all over the country gathered for the 2d year in a row to talk about their role in the Jewish Community, how to effect necessary changes, and whether to form an autonomous Jewish feminist organization. This firsthand account—edited from Chutzpah—capsulizes what happened at that momentous weekend get-together:

For many of us this was the second year we had participated in a conference of Jewish women, and it was a time for meeting with each other again to find out what progress we had made over the past year; it was a time for deepening the bonds between us. It was also a time for talking over plans for our own organization. For two years Network (North American Jewish Students Network) has sponsored first the Jewish Women’s Conference and then the conference in April on changing sex roles, for both women and men. Not only did Network feel that this was not its role—to be the focus for a Jewish women’s movement—but most of us agree. It was also felt that we need further efforts at keeping in touch with what various Jewish women’s groups throughout the continent are doing, and some way to coordinate them. Up until now communication has been through Lilith’s Rib, the Jewish Women’s Movement Newsletter. But a newsletter is not the best mechanism for coordinating efforts in various cities, nor does it serve as a pressure group on women’s issues. These are all things that the new organization would undertake. It was therefore agreed by those present to set up a North American Jewish Feminist Organization which would serve as an umbrella-information-disseminating organization, a resource collector, a pressure group, and would also do feminist organizing where needed and when called upon, within the community. Following is the platform of the newly formed organization:

1. We, Jewish feminists, have joined together here in strength and joy to struggle for the liberation of the Jewish woman. Jewish women of all ages, political, cultural and religious outlooks and sexual preferences, are all sisters. We are committed to the development of our full human potential and to the survival and enhancement of Jewish life. We seek nothing else than the full, direct and equal participation of women at all levels of Jewish life—communal, religious, educational, and political. We shall be a force for such creative change in the Jewish community.

2. Drawing inspiration from the strength of our sisters throughout history, we call on Jewish women everywhere to join in this struggle. To work toward these goals, we have founded, on this 28th day of the month of April in the year 1974 (6 Iyar 5734) the Jewish Feminist Organization.

These are some of JFO’s purposes:

1. To encourage the formation and expansion of local groups and regional divisions, and to develop, maintain and facilitate communication between and among local groups and regions.

2. To act as the North American Resource Center, publishing and disseminating available literature and as a Referral Center for people involved in Jewish feminist activities.

3. To establish, maintain and staff a Jewish Feminist Speakers Bureau, not only for speakers on Jewish Feminist subjects, but for women who can speak on diverse topics of interest in the Jewish community.

4. To encourage and aid wherever possible those groups and individuals who are a) engaged in Jewish Women’s Studies; b) developing creative alternative and/or solutions to questions raised in secular and religious areas of Jewish life; c) pressing for positive change in the status of women in the Jewish community.
To represent the Jewish feminist movement in the organized national and umbrella Jewish communal structures.

To be the "watchdog" of the media; protest negative and insulting portrayals of the Jewish woman and work to change them.

The organization is to consist of a governing board of four women, one each from the west, midwest, east and Canada. Each region has a board of five members. To contact the JFO in your region, write to West: Diane Geler--JFO, 55531/2 Costello Ave., Van Nuys, CA; East: Cheryl Magh--JFO, c/o Network, 36 W. 37th St., New York, NY 10018; Midwest: Maralee Gordon--JFO, P.O. Box 60142, Chicago, IL 60660; Canada: Brenna Brown, 4 Old Park Rd., Toronto, Ontario.

Things to get

Write the newsletter editor for photocopies of prime documents concerning the recent HARPER & ROW WALKOUT: a June 17th "Appeal to our sisters in the Coalition of Labor Union Women," 4-p. statement on "Why we have voted to strike," etc. Fact is that the militant, largely female bookworkers at HR still need Strike Fund money. If you couldn't join the picket line, at least send a little something to The Association of Harper & Row Employees, 10 E. 53d St., NYC 10022. (Bear in mind that their bosses are raking it in with GULAG, a $12.50 bestseller).

In mid-July, we advised the Chutzpah Collective in Chicago that it would be nice to run an annotated checklist of Jewish radical/liberation periodicals, complete with address, price, frequency, editors' names, etc. Could the Collective, we asked, "prepare such a directory--maybe within 2 weeks?" They could. And did. "Here's a list," announced Leo:

JEWISH CURRENTS. Monthly (combined Jul./Aug. issue). 58 p. a. or $11/2 yrs.; single copies 55c. 22 E. 17th St. (Room 601), NYC 10003. Editor: Morris U. Schappes. Established magazine of the secular Jewish left. Usually contains history, political analyses, original poetry, book reviews, film critiques, news, etc. Occasional short stories. Special Youth Issue in January. 48 pages. 5x8".

CHUTZPAH. 2-4 nos. yearly. 4-issue subs: $1.25 (individuals), $3 (libraries & other institutions). P.O. Box 60142, 1723 W. Devon, Chicago, IL 60660. Collective performs all editorial and production work. Radical Jewish tabloid. Seven numbers produced in 2 years. Includes material on culture, current events, history, politics, women's movement, and gay liberation. Also prints film & book reviews, personal articles, original poetry, & translated Yiddish verse. 20-24 pages plus 4-8 page supplement for NY area. 11x17".

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE. Monthly. By air: $12 p.a. or 75c per copy; surface: 50c each. B.P. 130-10, 75663, Paris Cedex 10, France. Editor: Maxim Galina. Perspective: non-Zionist, non-Israel-hating, wants lasting peace in Mid-East. An incredibly good source of information because of fine global contacts. Contributors and contributions tend to be Jewish/Israeli rather than Arab or Palestinian, but both appear. Analyses, news-shorts, opinions, interviews, etc.

ISRAELI NEWS SERVICE. Bi-weekly. $15/6 months or 98/3 months. SIACH (Israeli New Left), P.O. Box 9013, Jerusalem, Israel. News service consisting mainly of items from the Israeli press, together with some original material and book/speech excerpts. Covers thinking of all left-opposition & peace groups in Israel. Good source for Israeli news that's not readily available elsewhere. 10-20 pages. 5x10".

CHUTZPAH: CHATZPAH COLLECTIVE, 1733 W. Argyle, Chicago, IL 60660. Collective performs all editorial & production work. Radical Jewish tabloid. Seven issues produced in 2 years. Includes material on culture, current events, history, politics, women's movement, and gay liberation. Also prints film & book reviews, personal articles, original poetry, & translated Yiddish verse. 20-24 pages plus 4-8 page supplement for NY area. 11x17".

ACTIV (A CRITICAL INSIGHT INTO ISRAEL'S DILEMMA). Irreg. & infrequent. $1 per issue (est.). Washington University, P.O. Box 1068, St. Louis, Missouri 63130. A collection of original & reprinted articles on Israel. Beautiful layout and excellent selection. 40 pages. 11x17". "Hope this is what you wanted," Leo wrote. And then added this quotable coda: "Also, I do abstracting and searching in bio-medicine and may go to library school one year. I am concerned with information being available to & utilized by plain folk, not just professionals. I do what I can to share my bibliographic skills in bio-med journal lit.

I'm writing a guide for getting information from the bio-medical mags. A first draft is done, and hopefully there will be 2 final versions, one for people like medical students which I'll try selling to medical libraries here & one for regular people which will be available from me--at Box 60142, Chicago, IL 60660--for a donation of as much as anyone can afford, but at least 50c unless someone's hard pressed for that. I've already worked with some women at a free clinic on using the library & it went well. They now have excellent search skills & are using them. Also, the 2 women I worked with can now teach others. Keep up the good work." You, too, Leo. And many thanks.

Free: LIBRARY SERVICES WITH DEAF PEOPLE--OR, BOOKS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING, a brochure-guide to "concepts, activities, resources." The data & ideas emanated from a Feb. 1974 workshop at Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C. Commencing with "a few things to think about" that could importantly refocus and improve attitudes & services to the deaf, it's available from Reed Coats, Institutional Library Consultant, Library Development Branch, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Lectures by Eddison Zvobgo and Albie Sachs are available on 60 minute cassette tapes to schools, colleges, and individuals. Zvobgo, Deputy National Organizing Secretary of the Zimbabwe African National Union, spoke in Madison, Wisconsin, Saturday, April 27, on "The Growing Struggle for Liberation in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia." His talk is an excellent summary of Rhodesian history, politics, and the war of liberation being fought in the northern sector of the country. Zvobgo has long been a prominent African politician and was imprisoned for seven years in Salisbury for his politi-
Ordinarily, publication of another novel by a big, established house would warrant no fanfare here. But Ann Allen Shockley's just-issued LOVING HER does. On at least two counts: 1. The author: An associate librarian at Fisk University, Ms. Shockley has worked as a staff writer for the Louisville Defender and currently edits the ALA/Black Caucus newsletter. While she's hit many mags with articles & short stories, this is her first venture into book-length fiction. 2. The contents: "Trapped into an unhappy shotgun marriage to...a handsome but philandering brute, Renay, a musician, finds solace in a relationship with Terry, a wealthy white woman whom she met casually in a supper club. Renay leaves her husband and goes to Terry. Torn with shock and revulsion in her first lesbian encounter, Renay nevertheless responds to Terry's warmth and kindness. She begins an emotional quest for fulfillment as she crosses both sexual and color barriers. Together, Renay and Terry find 'physical and emotional rewards, although the racial and sexual prejudice of the outside world works its mischief.' That's the publisher's summary. Kirkus got to the nitty-gritty in fewer words: 'Takes on both lesbian and interracial relationships in its double-barreled attack against two of society's leading taboos.' And here are two verbatim segments, picked at random, that probably convey what it's all about even better than a dozen reviews & PR-handouts could:

"Got you're screwing around with bulldiggers," he spat out contemptuously, lips moving in a sneer. "I saw you two through the blinds, kissing!" he snorted, shaking his head incredulously. "That's real funny. You turning into a queer! Maybe that's what was wrong with you all along. And you getting a divorce from me. Wait until I tell the court about your he-she friends. You won't get Denise or a goddam motherfucking thing. You hear me?"

"I'm black. Been black all my life, and will be for the rest of it. That's how I know. Good old darky instinct. Anyway, I came upon Miss Wiley talking with the manager in the hallway the other day. They glared at me as if I were a walking communicable disease. Some mornings when I leave to take Denise to school, a few of the others have stared hard too."

"Damn them!" Terry cried out in exasperation. "I'm sorry. God, if only I could exchange my skin for yours to make it less painful for you."

"No, I like my skin the way it is," Renay murmured in the hollow of Terry's ear. "Besides, I wouldn't want to feel as hurt and helpless as you are now inside yours. We have each other. We can learn to bear what each suffers, and even help in that suffering."

Terry closed her eyes, breathing in the warm fragrance of Renay's hair. "I know what it is to be objectionable to people who surmise what I am and hate me for it. But you, now you have triple strikes against you of being black, a woman and living with me the way you are."

Renay chuckled softly, kissing Terry's eyelids to make them open. "Terry, darling, it's perfectly obvious the two of us can't change the world. But it's nice to know that in all the world's confused state, we can think like this about one another. If we can, then there must be others like us who can feel and love and live together despite everything, and even in this smallness, make the world a better place."

Not exactly run-of-the-mill stuff, right? Price for the 187-page tome, issued on July 31st by Bobbs-Merrill's Trade Division (4 West 58th St., NYC 10019): $6.95. Since an LC card-number appears on the t.p. verso, but no CIP data (which wouldn't amount to much anyway), here— to both save processing shucks & enhance catalog-access—is SRRT's suggested treatment:

Shockley, Ann Allen.

Loving her; a novel. Indianapolis; N.Y., Bobbs-Merrill, c1974.

187 p.


73-13226
National Feminist Network

To eradicate sex discrimination in libraries, SHARE (Sisters Have Resources Everywhere) was formed by delegates at the Preconference on Women in a Women's Profession: Strategies sponsored by the ALA/SHARE Task Force on Women. *

SHARE will coordinate regional and national resources to correct sexism through affirmative action programs, career development projects, and participation in and organization of unions. SHARE will begin by coordinating a talent bank of women's skills, interests and personal expertise and will immediately publish them in a directory. Women who wish to participate in the network are asked to list their name, complete home and work addresses, and their talents on a 3x5 card and mail to Renee Feinberg, 55 W, 11th Street, New York, NY 10011. Women who return a card will receive a copy of the directory.

Flashpoints...

"Let me get this, uh--(coughing) this is, uh, this is, uh--The real point, the real point is this: what we put--say that the, uh, the raising the thing to 85 doesn't bother me a bit... Why, this is very important, that's why--What?--uh, this is, uh, this means, uh, uh, a new back to the uh...did not have before." Thus spake ex-President Nixon during his March 25, 1971, talk with that Dear Departed Dick, at minimum, had clearly committed wanton linguistic and overt Jabberwock.

If those aren't "high crimes and misdemeanors," they sure-as-hell oughta be... (The morbidly-fascinated will doubtless enjoy Russell Baker's "Nixon's American Language," a N.Y. column that surfaced in the Minneapolis Tribune on Monday, Aug. 12th, p. 9A)...*

For firsthand reports & comments on the newly-formed Coalition of Labor Union Women (p. 31, cf. "Media union women are officials of CULW," media report to women, v. 2, no. 6 (June 1, 1974), p. 11. "CULW: union sisters rise for new woman power," off our backs, April 1974, p. 1...)


As glosses to the business/labor stick on p. 11 of the last issue: R. R. Bowker trumpeted on p. 1862 of the July 1974 LJ: "It takes a big book to handle a big subject." That 1,000-page "big book" costs no less than $29.95 "plus shipping and handling." What's it called? Unsurprisingly: Business books in print, 1974. And when will Bowker produce a Labor books in print? Well, why not ask the "lads"? They do business at 1180 Avenue of the Americas, N.Y. 10036... Recommended projects for the AFL/CIO/ALA Library Service to Labor Groups Joint Committee: (a) Arranging for a university press, ALA Publishing Services, or the AFL-CIO itself to produce a regular Labor periodicals index, perhaps using the familiar and popular Wilson-format. (b) Generating selection-guides to labor publications, organizing manuals, and material on contemporary issues like workers' control and Black unionism. (c) Inducing ALA to explicitly recognize--possibly in the form of a standard or conference-resolution--the library's responsibility to service working people on a parity with investors, managers, and stockbrokers...*

The whole of Bookleger magazine's jumbo double-issue, no. 3/4 (Mar./Apr.-May/June 1974), deals with Worker Power & "Democratizing Library Management." For acquisition & reference purposes, note especially Joan Dillon's "union woman" citations (p. 24), Valerie Sheep's suggested readings on "Office workers" (p. 29-30), Martha Bergmann's "Job sharing" list (p. 66), and "W.S.I.: a bibliography on worker self-management," compiled by Kenneth Nash (p. 58-63). While an excellent beginning, Nash's compilation may be enriched and expanded by: (a) the International Institute for Labour Studies' 103-p. Workers' participation in management; selected bibliography; 1950-1970 (Geneva: International Educational Materials Exchange, IIEE, 1971), which contains 1,200 entries for periodic articles, monographs, theses, government documents, book-chapters, & conference proceedings; (b) Workers' control/self-management/co-determination, an annotated, 30-p. " roster of material at the Makerere Institute of Social Research Library: April 1972" (Kampala; photocopies, including subsequent addenda, available gratis from Newsletter editor); and (c) Sam Dolgoft's newly published Anarchists Collective: Workers' Self-Management in the Spanish Revolution, 1936-1939, a 231-p. "collection of documents, commentary and photographs, with bibliography" plus an introductory essay by Murray Bookchin (U.S.: Free Life Editions, 61 Union Square West, N.Y. 10003, $3.45 pap., $10 cloth; Canada: Black Rose Books, 3934 St. Urbain, Montreal 131, Quebec)...*

These are probably "Things to get" rather than "Flashpoints," but nonetheless seem to fit here: (a) LABOR HEROINES: TEN WOMEN WHO LED THE STRUGGLE--a reprinted series of UNION W.A.G.E. profiles in scope from "Sarah Bagley," who fought for a 10-hour day in the 1840's, to Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Rebel Girl of the I.W.W." Tab is 75c each. On mail orders, add 25c for postage & handling. Special price for 10 or more copies: 60c each plus p & h. (b) WOMEN IN THE LABOR MOVEMENT, priced @ $2.50, fully records the speeches & resolutions of the first California AFL-CIO Women's Conference, May 1973. Add 25c for postage & handling. Ten or more copies cost two bucks apiece; $6 extra. Order from UNION W.A.G.E., P.O. Box 482, Berkeley, CA 94701...
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CATALOGER: MLS & MFA; 3 yrs. prof. experience in OCLC participating Univ. Lib. using LC; done orig. cat. of monos., contins., & serials; reads Fr. & Germ.; persuaded C.S. Spalding to revise LC treatment of homosexuality & gay liberation; pub. in Revolting Librns. & L.A. Advocate.

CONTACT: Steve Wolf/82 Richdale Ave./Cambridge, Ma. 02140.

Broderick's bit

Answer time in the new corral

Two big questions being asked of me these days: One, how could you be such a Janey-come-lately to the feminist movement? Two, was it really necessary to step out of the closet with such vigor (read "vehement," although they can't bring themselves to use the word)?

Why haven't I been involved in women's liberation from the beginning? It's a good question and deserves the best kind of answer I can give. Especially important in the library world, where token women have consistently turned their backs on all the rest of womankind.

Token women operate on the assumption that they have somehow made it in the man's world and that all other women could too if only they would try harder. We do not see ourselves as women, but as professionals--teachers, librarians, etc. We are the world's worst elitists. Welfare mothers, prostitutes and suburban housewives (among others) are dismissed with a wave of the hand. They are social problems, not human beings, least of all our sisters.

My particular bias began with Betty Friedan. The Feminine Mystique, which I didn't read until its tenth anniversary, had nothing to do with me, the successful career woman. If some women wanted to let their lives be determined by their men's needs, that was their problem. I was doing very nicely, thank you. That was part of the problem.

Another part of it was that I have always been a very political person. In 1940, at the age of eleven, I had huge arguments with my best friend's father (a Republican) over Wilkie vs. Roosevelt and the issue of third terms. I must have been making some kind of sense or he wouldn't have consistently pursued the discussion with me.

In high school, my favorite author was Walter Lippman. And the Lanny Budd series by Upton Sinclair turned me on more than any non-political writings.

Until the fall of 1973, my entire focus was on political issues. For me the issue of black-white relationships in the United States was paramount. I had no time nor energy left over for being a woman, least of all a white woman. In some small way, I think my book, Image of the Black in Children's Fiction (Bowker, 1973), makes that clear. Each of us has just so much energy (excluding Sanford Sorman) and how we use it is a matter of priorities established at some level of our being that we are rarely aware of.

In the fall of '73, three interconnected events coalesced to bring me into the women's movement. First, there was "The Day the Final Click Came," (recorded in the April 1974 Emergency Librarian, p. 15, for those who care to pursue the subject.) Second, a couple of library school students were involved in forming the first Halifax Women's Centre. The Centre wanted its first public program to be "something special" and those students volunteered me. On a November evening, I spoke on "Sexism in Children's Books" to a wall-to-wall audience. And so, reluctantly, kicking and screaming, I found myself part of the Women's Centre and thus part of the "movement." The third event initiated with my grand library school director, Norman Horrocks. Norman is the kind of person who always knows what is going on and what needs doing. And when the Royal Commission on the Status of Women in Canada recommended that all institutions and agencies should be exploring the problems of women within their specific worlds, it followed that the Dalhousie Library School should have a conference on women in librarianship.

I was put in charge of planning the conference and my consciousness raising began in earnest. Because I am a good professional, I began to read anything and everything that would help make the conference succeed.

And I liked what I was finding. New worlds opened up to me. New concepts of myself as woman. I am a quick study and, once turned on, I mastered the literature and the issues in a few short months. It was so easy. All I had to do was substitute the word "woman" for "black." My political training served me well.
But, unlike my journey as a white woman into the black world, a journey that alienated me from myself because I wanted no part of being white, the journey into the women's movement offered a release, a freedom never felt before. In its simplest terms, I found that being woman is primary. Black, white, Chicana, Native American and poor mattered. It is not what we carry as a work label: waitress, housewife, university professor. But because I could not approve of myself because I could not approve of my actions, I had to happen the way it did because that was where I was at when I did it.

Once the click comes, there is no turning back, no turning off. So that is one part of the story. The second part is not so easy to deal with. Not because I can't find the words, but because to do it right will require a whole book and that will come later. Right now all I can say is that it had to happen the way it did because that was where I was at when I did it.

People I like very much, admire, respect, who every day take very unpopular stands on civil rights issues, have conveyed disapproval. They want to know, however they phrase the question, "Do you think you gained for us by doing what you did?" I'm sorry about that. I did it for me. I have never asked one of them what their actions would do for me. But equal pay for equal work with equal qualifications is one thing that is a civil rights matter. To drag the word sexual into the picture turns the issue into something bigger, harder, less acceptable, and more threatening. Sorry about that. As I've already said, I'm no longer interested in civil rights. I'm interested in human liberation, particularly my own.

This, the summer of '74, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has proven to me that I am on the right track. Even though I've always been a fairly decent teacher, I have discovered that subtly I was using the class—putting on a performance for them to approve of. I needed that approval because I could not approve of myself. Freed of that need, the results have been astonishing.

The first class I ran through my "where I am at" statement (basically the one in Booklegger #3/4, p. 37-9). I would like to be able to print all of the evaluations I received from that group, but let me indulge myself with two that are thoroughly representative.

Because you could come to us the students, as a whole person, and not as a facade, you enabled the class to respond to you and to one another as people, and not as so many bodies populating the classroom. Thank you for what you did for me and all of us.

This course has been beautiful because you are the course and the atmosphere you established was fantastic. We could be ourselves; we could put down the phony facades which we wore in other courses. This class started being a group the first day of class and congealed the last day of class. I have never experienced that atmosphere before...

A number of the students in Young Adult Literature changed their program to be able to take Children's Literature the second session. They have given me a new title. They said, one morning over coffee, "Signing yourself Associate Professor just puts you in the category of a blob. Henceforth, you are to be known as Charming Leader." In

I like that. I am only just beginning to be a whole person. But it is a good feeling and clearly the people in the classes are liking it as much as I am.

So, gentle readers, if you missed the joy of my earlier statement and saw only anger and hostility, reevaluate. If you saw it as a grandstand play, think a little more about it. If there was anger, it was directed against me for having been such a self-satisfied dumb-dumb all those years. And, yes, there is hostility—at a world that demands inhuman reactions from human beings. And so we move onward.

Notes from out on the street

The vocational dis-Placement Center at the ALA Convention was a zoo.

The gangs of hoarders craftily disguised as families, with bogus spouses and borrowed children savagely snapping up all the binders in a given category. The "junior professionals" tearing placement binders out of another's hands like frenzied Bacchants during dollar day at Filene's basement. The crowding, pushing, shoving, gouging, elbow-fouling out of Kansas City Bofler in the crush to grab the binders... Is this, fellow 93rd Annual Conference goers, "The Nature of the Profession"?

No wonder it's so difficult for university librarians to gain academic status. Creatures who behave as we do belong on hockey teams, not faculty senate.

Who devised this exercise in institutionalized bestiality, this diabolic rite de passage inflicted by the old to show their fear and hatred of the young? Who, in that bureaucratic monolith on East
Aaron St., is responsible for such fiendish sauvageries as the timing? Why wasn't the Placement Center opened until 11:00 PM on Monday? To ensure the maximum possible crowding and confusion, the highest noise level, and the minimum capacity for concentration? The exhibits area had been opened since Sunday morning. Does the day-and-a-half delay in opening the Placement Center tell us something about the relative values of our Convention planners? Furthermore, though its closing time was posted as 4:00 PM Thursday afternoon, why was the Center locked and shuttered up by one o'clock? Were they afraid too many applicants were finally mastering the knack of obtaining interviews?

And speaking of interview techniques, to what black-humoured wit are we indebted for the scheduling of the SRRT Jobs Task Force program at 2:00 PM on Monday, a scant hour after the Placement Center opened and scarcely enough time to allow even the fastest elbow-gougers and speed-readers to shove their way through the line, get ID numbers tattooed on their wrists, punch out all the competition for the binders in their chosen category, and find a space to read them amid the furious, and literal, pandemonium?

Still, when we arrived chez La Loire at 2:35 PM, hoping to obtain some glimmerings of advice and spiritual solace, the room was deserted save for three forlorn and barefoot convention-goers who warily informed us that they had merely dropped in searching for a quiet place to relax, and certainly nobody had shown up looking like they were about to conduct a program. Was the Jobs Task Force hiding its head in shame? Or had they simply realized the utter futility of it all?

Still, the scheduling diabolism, however barbaric, was as nothing compared with that most cunning sadism of all: the absence of interviewing facilities.

Why were both interviewers and interviewees compelled to scurry about from empty meeting room to empty meeting room, constantly pursued by avenging custodial staffs and mischievous sound technicians testing out their tricks?

Why were library directors compelled to meet with applicants standing up in hotel lobbies, corridors, and staircase landings, distracted by every passing sound and jostled by the madding crowd? If one director spots another amiably chatting (so it appears) with some callow youth while leaning against a banister rail, why shouldn't he amble over to discuss some mutual business, thus taking up ten minutes of a tightly scheduled twenty-minute interview? They surely didn't look like they were interviewing, did they?

The ALA Convention is supposedly the major meat rack--sorry, job market--for the library profession. Why then wasn't it a major priority of the Convention planners to guarantee proper interviewing facilities?

The Placement Center was surrounded by enormous ballrooms whose removable walls could easily be re-arranged in any pattern requested (see Convention Program, page 13). Would it have made life too comfortable for the supplicants and interviewers if a portion of one adjoining ballroom had been requisitioned as a permanent interviewing center with neatly spaced out tables, chairs, and cold (not warm) water? Could some East Aaron Streeter please tell us why this wasn't done--or was the Convention programmed by one of Henriette Avram's run-amuck MARS computers?

As noted before, the "theme" of our 93rd Annual Conference was "The Nature of the Profession." After spending all 3½ days at the dis-Placement Center, I'd guess that most prospective librarians know far more about the nature of our profession than they would ever care to ask.

Was it essential to our much-vaunted "professionalism" that the Placement Center operations be as inconvenient, uncomfortable, demeaning, degrading, and anti-humanistic as possible--or is it rather the all-too-fitting emblem of a vocation terminally afflicted with Computeritis and an insecure desire to be as "businesslike" as possible?

Instead of functioning as a placement finding service, that exercise in organizational sadism was more like a Skinnerian training device to teach the novices to stay in their places--in all the several senses of that expression.

Only confirmed masochists flourishing on pain and humiliation would willingly subject themselves again to the insidious indignities of that Turkish slave-market-cum-fraternity-hazing masquerading as professional placement.

So be grateful that you've got a job at all, and stick with it, no matter how unpleasant. Bowd by your department head and always kiss your Director's ass. Be docile and conformist, clean-cut and straight-arrow, just like those ideal Library School types, Egil Krogh and Jeb MacRuder. To get along, go along. So don't make waves. Never, never criticize. And remember well that there's a streaming horde out there just waiting to take your place the first time you step out of line.

That is the lesson implanted by the Skinner box in the Versailles room. And that, dear children, is the nature of our profession today.

Library Science--love it or change it.--Steve Wolf, 82 Richdale Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02140.
Reviews


Several reviews (e.g., SLJ, April 1974, p. 68; & May 1974, p. 32; NYRB, May 5, 1974, p. 19) have highly praised this picture-story. At a child's level, the book's treatment of these "odd" characters might be described as Laurel-and-Hardy slapstick, but noticeably missing is the empathy-element which made L-H's antics humane as well as humorous.

Things like sitting in the bathtub fully clothed, eating mashed-potato-and-butter-scotch sundaes, and having a dog named Kitty are funny. But at a different level, the book isn't so funny. For it reinforces many old prejudices that sensitive people are trying to scrap. For instance, the notion that people of limited intellect are "stupid" permeates the book:

◊ Papa Stupid has an idea. "This was unusual." Therefore, "stupid" people are incapable of coherent thought.

◊ "stupid" people act "differently" from "normal" people. They look, dress, and act stupid. They are the kind of people you want to stare & laugh at.

Another undesired and undesirable shibboleth is that older people have poor memories:

◊ Grandpa Stupid says, "Come again whoever you are." To his son.

Older people also behave inane. Grandma, e.g., spends her time in a closet.

Today, when we're trying to increase awareness and empathy within ourselves and our children, trying to substitute understanding for ridicule, do we really want to strengthen or implant these biases in kids' minds? This isn't a "horrible" or "terrible" book, but it's also not a good book. There are better, much better... R. Jaworski & S. Pheil, Technical Services Division, Hennepin County Library, 7000 York Ave. S., Edina, MN 55435.

Story pack. The Feminist Press, SUNY/College at Old Westbury, Box 334, Old Westbury, NY 11568. 1974. 6 pamphlets. $2.50.

The Feminist Press is making a commendable effort to enlarge the realm of non-sexist literature. "The five stories we offer," FP claims, "represent a variety of feminist approaches to a liberating, new style of children's literature." Unfortunatel,y they've overlooked one very important point about children's lit.: whether children will read it. Several of these mini-books provoke sharp adult reactions, but can hardly interest or hold most young-sters who-unlike their elders-are relatively unburdened by idiotic preconceptions.

The idea of non-sexist literature is great. We definitely need such material, but these creations, even if 100% certified non-sexist, are generally (and familiarly) flat in style & development. The actual response to more than one of them was: "So what?" Further, the same deal with simple themes, narrow non-topics, which makes them one-dimensional reading. There are other books on similar topics that are much less dull & constructed.

MY BODY FEELS GOOD, by S. Singer, S. Olderman, & K. Raceiras. 14 p. "Ages 3-6 and older." Paradoxically, this is sexist in that it concentrates exclusively on girls. To be truly non-sexist, shouldn't promote the awareness among males & females alike that "my body feels good." A book that showed girls and boys swinging, playing in the sun, tumbling downhill, & swimming would be better balanced.

If used in class, one or two pages would probably cause problems. The best example: an illustration captioned "I like to play with my brothers." For that alone it's, however, the 10-page opus might at least be remembered. Otherwise, its imprint on both young & old brainspan is sure to be slight.

An alternative: Boys & girls mutually explore different body movements in Dady Garelick's JUST SUGGEST (Scholastic, 1969).

LIVING WITH NANCY, by B. Siegel. 10 p. "Ages 3-6 and older." In this tale about a little girl whose parents are being divorced, her confusion over what's happening is well portrayed. Interestingly, Nancy, the daughter, appears to do things with her mother only after the breakup. The actually seems to have it better then: Daddy takes her nowhere every Saturday & hother spends more time with her. There's a critical shortage of divorce-stories, & this is a helpful, albeit modest, contribution. For children at this age, through, an even better choice is THERE IS DADDY? THE STORY OF A DIVORCE, by Beth Goff (Bacon, 1969).

PETER LEARNS TO CROCHET, by I. Levinson. 6 p. "Ages 3-6 and older." Peter learns to crochet. That's exactly & totally what "happens." So what?
The object is obviously to demonstrate that boys can do what tradition dictates is a girls' activity. Fine. But there's just not enough action, plot, or character development to pull it off, to make the reader give a damn. If only the worthy "messages" had been transmitted in a grabbier way.

A few alternatives on the sex-role motif: Charlotte Zolotow's _William's doll_ (Harper, 1972), Elizabeth Levy's _Nice little girls_ (Delacorte, 1974), and _Boys and girls, girls and boys_, by Eve Merriam (Holt, 1972). In these three, children also engage in stereotype-zapping, non-traditional activities. The crucial difference, though, is that the kids aren't lifeless, cereal-box cut-outs. Not plastic teaching aids. They're distinct. Special. (Like honest-to-God people.) And adventures befall them. The net result: Social "lessons" become good "reads."

_WHEN IT PICKED THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL_, by E. Yatzeck. 6 p. "Ages 6-10." This is a genuine class assignment, written by a ten-year-old girl. Her summary: "It tells how Elena (the heroine) calms the hysterical kids, saves the teachers, and does some other miracles." The handscripted tale captures all the fun of a child's daydream, the girls--for instance--patiently keeping the boys from drowning themselves because "their mothers wouldn't like it." It's short, but filled with the wild, exciting escapades of fast-thinking girls. And refreshingly uncluttered with didactic blah.

_THS STRANGE HICKET FAMILY_, by A. Nisco. 10 p. "Ages 6-10." A small girl & her conservative grandparents take a walk into a strange part of town. There they find the women are breadwinners & the men "househusbands." Intriguing concepts for adults, but likely--in this rendition--too bare for children.

_TEACHER/PARENT MANUAL_. 8 p. Includes an introduction, loose "Reply forms," & "strategies" for each story. The questions are rather routine. And when "manuals" say "discuss," the usual outcome--if not intent--is that adults do most of the "discussing." Other suggestions are for "small group" projects--which could be tough to implement when the "small group" consists of 30 hyperactive first-graders.--S. Phee, with a little input from sb.

**K-R sez:**

Sandy suggested & I agreed that messages from Action Council to SRT members might be most easily communicated through a column in each newsletter. As new AC Coordinator, I'm especially concerned with letting you know what national SRT is up to & hearing what you think we should be doing. Any ideas, complaints, or proposals would be appreciated.

The AC elections were a real mix-up this year. Due to innumerable difficulties, the ballot didn't arrive in time for many people to vote before the conference. At the AC/membership meeting, the decision was made to invalidate the partial ballot & elect all the new councilors at that time. I came to NYC thinking the election settled and wound up AC Coordinator! I hope such surprises can be avoided next year.

AIA's Washington Office has recently sent a letter to all heads of divisions, RTs, etc., asking for comments & criticism re the 2d draft of the National Commission on Libraries & Information Science report. To develop an official reaction, AIA seeks responses from all groups & individuals. "It is not necessary," the letter explains, "to produce a definitive analysis of the current report in order to make suggestions." The AIA Legislation Committee welcomes and encourages piecemeal contributions and is especially interested in identification of missing elements. Although the Commission has made some concessions to the needs of library users & potential users, this is still a slick, machine-oriented report that warrants our attention. I urge SRTers to get a copy from AIALS, 1717 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20006, & forward their reactions to ha. Betsy Hoffman, AIA Legislation Committee, c/o AIA Washington Office, 110 Maryland Ave., N.W. (Suite 101), Washington, DC 20002. Comments can also be sent directly to the Commission. Action Council will discuss the report at Midwinter, perhaps generating formal, SRT-backed recommendations.

This year we lost membership & seem to be looking for new directions. SRT energy & initiative have always come from its members, as well as from their elected reps. AC needs your thoughts, feelings, & participation to make SRT an effective agent for change within both AIA & the library world. DO 171- Nancy Kellum-Rose, AC Coordinator, 247 - 25th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94121 (S-13).

**Late stuff**

More things to get

_SELCTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HOMOSEXUALITY_: Books & articles cited in the just-issued 6th ed., says HIC's Don Slater, "are all positive, the best available to date, and quite well balanced." Items are grouped into 10 categories, including Fiction, Biography, Law, Psychology, Lesbian, and Sociology. Available @ 35¢ each or 3/$1 from Homosexual Information Center, 3473 Cahuenga Blvd., Hollywood, CA 90028. The price, Don notes, "merely covers costs." Need an annotated bibliography on all aspects of job discrimination, laws, remedies? Then check out Marija Macht Hugher: _SEXUAL BARRIERS: LEGAL AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF EMPLOY-"
Nancy Siefers' ABSENT FROM THE MAJORITY: WORKING CLASS WOMEN IN AMERICA both identifies problems unique to women workers & proposes solutions. It's $1.25 from The National Project on Ethnic America, 105 E. 56th St., NYC 10022. ■ THE SILENCED MAJORITY is a 5-part filmstrip/audio package on jobs, law, education, sexist ads, Feminism & other women's issues that's ideal for high schools, colleges, & adult discussion/training programs. For more info on the kit, which also includes project ideas, a reading list, posters, button, & a multimedia guide for educators & community leaders, contact Ann Grifalconi at Media Plus, Inc., 60 Riverside Drive (Suite 11D), NYC 10024. ■ Two related, "groove tube" items: 1) WOMEN IN THE WESTLAND FIGHT BACK: A REPORT ON THE IMAGE OF WOMEN PORTRAYED IN TV PROGRAMMING contains monitoring methodology plus data on commercials, soap operas, children's shows, news, & entertainment. Specifically analyzing the treatment of women & men on WRC-TV (Washington, D.C.), the report was used in a petition filed with the FCC in May 1972 to deny WRC's license renewal. Copies available @ $5 from Kathy Bank, 2153 California St., N.W., Washington, DC 20008. 2) THE IMAGE OF WOMEN IN TELEVISION presents the results of a month-long study of TV news programs & commercials conducted by the Sacramento Branch of the American Assn. of University Women. The survey involved 31 monitors, all Sacramento AAUW members, who were assigned to every news program, every day, on the 5 Sacramento channels with network affiliations. The report concludes, in part: "We believe that the image of women as projected in television bears little relationship to the realities of women in today's world. We feel this can & must be changed." Tab is $1.50, including postage. Order from Carolyn Flatt, 27 Greenway Circle, Sacramento, CA 95831.

Compiled by Sara S. Whaley & Margrit Eicher, A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES RESOURCES ON WOMEN is a 21-page reprint from WOMEN STUDIES ABSTRACTS. A basic, annotated survey, it's available @ $1.50 each for single copies or $1 for ten-plus from WSA, P.O. Box 1, Rush, NY 14543. ■ On June 14th, NARMC's Eric Prokosh wrote: "We are trying to bring our slide show to the attention of librarians, as we think libraries can help to inform the public about the nature of the continuing war in Indochina and the new forms of U.S. involvement there through military and economic aid... Any suggestions about how to tell librarians about our show will be very welcome." First, what's "NARMC"? An acronym for National Action/Research On The Military-Industrial Complex, an American Friends Service Committee project located at 160 North 15th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102. (Among others, Naomi Chomsky, William C. Davison, & Gabriel Kolko serve on the Advisory Council.) Second, what's the "slide show" all about? Called THE POST-WAR ERA, the 160-frame presentation reveals "how American involvement in Vietnam has changed since Jan. 27, 1973, when the Peace Agreement was signed. American military personnel were required to leave, but American equipment and civilian advisors are still there. Our government continues to pour billions of tax dollars into South Vietnam... enabling General Thieu's army to go on fighting and his massive police and prison system to go on jailing those who complain..." Designed for use by schools, community groups, churches, & TV, the show runs 35-40 minutes. Total cost for the slides, a script, & documentary pamphlet: $50.

The Friends of Micronesia (2325 Noe-Anley Ave., Berkeley, CA 94703) issue a quarterly, 24-p. NEWSLETTER (individuals: $3 p.a.; institutions: $12), rent-out a MICRONESIA SLIDE SHOW ($5), distribute relevant paperbacks & reprints (e.g., the 50% SUDDEN REPORT, an "official U.S. blueprint for the takeover of Micronesia"), and publish such original material as a MICRONESIA FACT-SHEET (10c each or 10-plus @ 5c), Alex Phillip's NOVEMBER CHRISTMAS, and a 50c "background collection of newspaper clippings." Each NEWSLETTER runs FOM's 5-point "program," which begins: "We support the Micronesian struggle for self-determination and have pledged ourselves to support the Micronesian people in any way possible. (Other NEWSLETTER features: a tear-out poster & current bibliography.) In case any readers hadn't yet realized it, "Micronesia" is a Pacific area that LC would still euphemistically class under e.g.,--TERRITORIES AND POSSESSIONS. In other words, even while Portugal is now in the course of granting independence to Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, & Angola, Micronesia remains an American colony. There's no other term for it, as the FOM wares only copy. To fill an obvious & serious information-void, every library should both subscribe to the NEWSLETTER & stock FOM's inexpensive singles.

Available @ $1.50 from St. Louis NoX: (P.O. Box 16132, St. Louis, Missouri 63105): SEX DIAS IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL LITERATURE ANTHOLOGIES. ■ INDIAN FAMILY DEFENSE, an 8-page, letterpress bulletin, "will be published quarterly by the Association on American Indian Affairs." Our hope is that a newsletter which collects and exposes the isolated experiences of different tribes will demonstrate the national scope of the Indian child-welfare crisis -- and become an instrument for change." To secure a complimentary sub, send your name & address to AAAI, 432 Park Ave. S., NYC 10016. This is a "natural" for Social Welfare & Indian Studies collections, as well as for all libraries serving Native Americans.

THE PORTRAIT, a 16mm color film, in 45 minutes depicts the horrors of drug addiction by relaying the story of Lee, the central character, & some of the people in his life. Written by Neil Harris & Kris Keiser from Harris' original play, the movie was produced in Harlem as a way to generate much-needed dialogue between potential user & nonuser, parent & YA, and persons wishing to gain greater insight into the problems of the drug sub-culture. The...
An addition to the Index/Directory, which presumably will go to organizations crisis service centers, includes a division at risk. To arrange showings, etc., contact the office at 259 East 10th St., NYC 10009.

Michael Sheridan writes: "We've put together an educational, multimedia experience around a visual book we created concerning America & the corporate industrial visual & environment. Published by Links Books (53 6th St., NYC), it's titled the E-CaCUs: LOOK BOOK. Concerning itself with the changing use of imagery, trademarks, insignia, & symbolism in the corporate American & international world of trade, politics & finance in a pre-revolutionary, pre-revolutionary American society, it deals with individual consciousness, survival & necessity for the American people to understand & familiarize themselves with the visual imagery of the 70s. The book calls for a taking of responsibility for the situation in America—at home, in the community, & nationwide—to make the powers of government, business, & finance aware of & responsive to the needs of the people. The exhibition consists of several parts. There are 14 volumes of visual material & a photo negative & photo-offset printer's plate. All of these pieces were necessary to create the finished product. By example they show the complex mechanical & technological nature of creating, printing & producing books. Along with this example of how a book was made...are some of the best original pages, framed for viewing. There's a thorough exposition of slides, which go beyond the book to further express the use & relevance of the book's imagery in society. The new multimedia production includes a 1-hour video, interpretive images are in 4 groups: Corporate images (140), Organic images (140), & Street shots (140). There's a microfilm of early stages of the book & a microfilm viewer for audience participation. There's also a 1-hour videotape interpretation of the book with an audio/music track, together with a written explanation." To arrange showings, etc., contact like at 259 E. 10th St., NYC 10009.

The Ann Arbor Women's Crisis Center knows how to run an anti-rape program. They've done it for over 2 years. And for $1.25, they'll share their experience in the form of a manual: HOW TO ORGANIZE A WOMEN'S CRISIS SERVICE CENTER. VDC's address: 506 N. Division, Ann Arbor, MI 48105. For an extensive acquisitions-guide to A/V materials on women—films, cassette, kits, filmstrips, & phonodiscs—see the Spring '74 VDC STUDIES ABSTRACTS, p. 1-5.

MEDIA REPORT TO WOMEN: The upcoming index to v. 1-2 will feature a directory of women's media—including groups, schools, workshops, networks, & collections—in such categories as Publications, Newsletters, News services, Syndicated columns, Cable TV, Radio, Videotape, Film, Music, Theater, Speakers' bureau, Art, Feminist bookstores, Libraries, Bibliographies of nonsexist children's books, Catalogs/directories/alsmanacs, and Graphics. The monthly MEDIA REPORT TO WOMEN is widely used as a research tool not only in many libraries, but also by media & nonmedia companies, institutions, government agencies, & individuals. An additional component of the Index/Directory, which presumably will go to all A/V-subscribers a roster of media women who ask to be included. The editors request that women who want to be listed send their name, address, phone number, & a brief identification (not more than 15 words) like "Free lancer on women's employment subjects" or "First class FCC license." Annual NR rates: $15 for institutions & men (until EPA is ratified), $10 for individual women. Order from 5306 Ross Place, N.W., Washington, DC 20008.


Flashpoints, cont.

Lately established in Dar es Salaam: a Liberation Support Group, one of whose main projects is to develop, through the Tanganyika Library Service, a special collection on African & other liberation movements. Pamphlets, books, magazines, documents, directories, & other material dealing with both movements & support groups should be addressed to the Liberation Movement Section, Tanganyika Library Service, P.O. Box 9293, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The Dar-group itself can be contacted at F.G. 3011S2, Dar es Salaam. As a close to the contacts in no. 30, p. 16, regarding the Walton-Cook ID testimony at midwinter, see "Assistant Director of Personnel for Equality Programs—defined, Token Negro (Uncle Tom)," F.R.E.D., v. 1, no. 6, p. 11.

The Women's International Network (WIN) is now preparing an INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS and so requests names & addresses of worldwide women's groups & media women contacts (including U.S. media women abroad), especially in Third World countries. Write Fran F. Lomken, WIN International Coordinator, 107 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02173. In April, Darlene Fife, NOA EX-PRESS editor & member of the CO/SLEP Women's Committee, made an inquiry through Rep. Lindy Boggs (Louisiana) regarding the condition of Vo thi Phy & some 200,000 other political prisoners in South Vietnam. Wrote Ms. Fife, "This imprisonment and torture is our responsibility, since American tax dollars maintain the prisons and train the police force," accused was a routine query from Boggs to the State Dept. That resulted in a monumental, hand-washing cop-out. While the State Dept. response & transmitted documents are too lengthy to reproduce here, the Newsletter editor will readily furnish photocopies. This, however, is
a tantalizing tidbit from the June 20th State Dept. mission to Rep. Boggs: "We do not have information about the status of Vo Thi Phu, who is reported to be imprisoned. Moreover, as pointed out in the enclosed publication, we do not believe it would be appropriate or useful for the US Government to intervene itself into individual prisoner cases involving either Vietnamese side" (Bluntly translated: We underestimate the inhumanity but refuse to be accountable for it. Barlene, incidentally, can currently be reached at Route 2, Box 206, Alderson, West Virginia 24910.

A message from Joan Baez, Dan Berrigan, Dave Dellinger, Daniel Ellsberg, & Gloria Steinem

How do you judge the value of a publication? Does it depend on how "big" the writers are whose work the magazine publishes? Writers whose names command high fees elsewhere often write for WIN Magazine when they want to reach an audience more interested in what they have to say than in their byline. Thus, Abbie Hoffman chose WIN as the medium for announcing his famous "resignation" from the movement.

Or is a journal's range of influence measured by how widely its stories are reprinted? The war diary of Sgt. Bruce Annello, killed in action in Vietnam, was first published in WIN & has since appeared in publications as diverse as the Las Vegas Free Press & Philadelphia Bulletin. Many have described it as one of the most moving documents to emerge from the Vietnam war.

Perhaps importance is measured, in part, by the kind of readers a mag reaches. When David McReynolds arrived in Hanoi for a visit, a Vietnamese official remarked that he'd been following Dave's writings in WIN.

Maybe it's a matter of courage. WIN, the first & still only publication to publish the complete collection of political papers ripped-off from the FBI, FBI office, has plenty of that, too. Then there's the ability to anticipate important trends & ideas. WIN covered women's liberation, ecology, alternative lifestyles, gay liberation well before the media blitzkriegs on these subjects. (Some people think WIN did it better, too.)

No other publication reaches as many active people every week with news & analysis from a nonviolent perspective. And there's more: incisive book reviews, poetry, & graphics. But beyond all that, there are ways in which a magazine is a living organism that defies categories. Published by a commune in rural W. NY WIN is not just a magazine. Its name—an acronym for Workshop In Nonviolence—expresses it best. It's a workshop, an action line, a tribal tom tom, an extended family. It grows & changes, argues & discovers, plots & prays. In joy & anger, peace & love... You can tell it's written by real people...from prison, the pocket line, the battlefield... beyond. WIN is by, for & of the people. All of us. Join us, won't you? Sincerely in peace.

Editor's note: WIN's address is Box 547, W. Ithaca, NY 14813. Introductory 6-month sub: $4; full year: $7; 2-year: $13; 3-year: $18.

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