



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

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BULL- SHOT!

Review of "New York Is Book Country," Sept. 16, 1979

by Jackie Eubanks
Brooklyn College Library

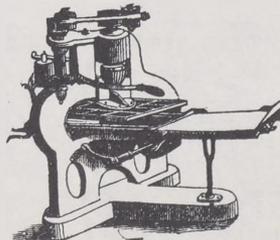
Like a wounded bull, the big book industry which is shuddering under reports of falls in sales and profits (as library budgets fall...) made a try at some bravado action using the very instruments that have been used against it: the small press, people, and direct appeal to the public with a free fair. The Sunday dawned bright and clear for the corrida, and the public turned out in great number since the NYIBC was touted widely in the big newspapers in advance. Flags chauvinistically waving "New York Is Book Country" were atop the non-selling booths on the Fifth Avenue plaza de toros and on the side streets of 52d (where The small press New York Book Fair had five booths of combined exhibits, and where the political, ethnic, and feminist presses were allowed to sell).

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case closed?

EXCUSE ME, DID I JUST STEP ON YOUR AMENDMENT?
STAYING ALIVE IN THE DETROIT TO DALLAS DISCO

by Jim Dwyer
SRRT Action Council

The debates over The Speaker and the Racism and Sexism Awareness Resolution have raised a question which has echoes throughout ALA: can an individual, or an organization, be genuinely committed to intellectual freedom and social progress simultaneously? Some IF purists have pronounced that whenever there is a potential conflict between the first and fourteenth amendments the first must prevail. Unfortunately, this narrow sightedness can create imaginary dilemmas and blow the real ones all out of proportion. It implies that the Bill of Rights is a Swiss cheese of internal contradictions and that those who support it in its entirety must be at least mildly schizoid.

According to John Henry Faulk, featured speaker at this year's Intellectual Freedom Round Table Forum: "The twenty-four amendments are a struggle to give greater and greater rights to a greater and greater number of people." Faulk should know; a victim of blacklists in the fifties, his eventual victory after years of courtroom battles is a symbol of the power of the Bill of Rights.

Who could better represent the interdependence between free speech and equal protection than an individual who was branded a "pinko" because of his support for civil rights in an open society and who was exonerated through a first amendment defense? Faulk has observed that "It takes courage to be free" and has remained courageous and outspoken in his satiric attacks on bigots, "flat earth" conservatives, the FBI, the CIA, and the military. ("The Pentagon's going to defend us into bankruptcy!") Believe it or not, Uncle Eli, but the same IF stalwart who maintains that "secrecy in government is the anathema of a free society" is also the socially responsible soul who blames our economic woes on "corporate fascist thinking and simplistic solutions."

Faulk commented briefly on the Progressive case, referring to "nuclear energy with all the hocus-pocus" and the abridgement of civil liberties which is the result of all ultra-secret operations. It is ironic to note that the U. S. government has been the wellspring of nuclear proliferation through the export of reactors capable of producing bomb grade plutonium yet has the audacity to suppress a theoretical article on the subject of building H-bombs. It's a little like someone handing a criminal a pistol and bullets and blaming the resultant murder on the author of the sharp-shooting manual.

Aware that such attitudes and actions on the part of high government officials must be resisted, ALA membership overwhelmingly ratified a resolution supporting The Progressive and condemning the federal government for an act of censorious prior restraint. (See page 4.) Interestingly enough, the resolution emanated not from one of the many intellectual freedom groups within ALA but from SRRT Action Council. Perhaps the real issue is not so much one of intellectual freedom groups within ALA but from SRRT Action Council. Perhaps the real issue is not so much one of intellectual freedom vs. social responsibility as it is one of intellectual freedom as a social responsibility.

Living in an age of nuclear secrecy, corporate coverup, saber rattling over Mideast oil, and an increasingly narrowminded judiciary, we no longer have the time or luxury to wallow in the comparatively petty squabbles within our ranks. Let's adopt an acceptable revision of the Library Bill of Rights attuned to the Awareness Resolution, quit worrying about which amendment is on whose turf and stand united against the increasing threats to all our civil liberties. As John Henry Faulk so tellingly observed, oppression is brought about through "manipulated opportunistic fear...We cannot allow ourselves to be stampeded."

(Ed. Note: In the weeks since the writing of this article, the injunction against the Progressive has been dropped, accounting for the title of this article.)



LETTERS...

Dear Editor:

My response to ALA's return to Chicago for the midwinter convention is to attend the conference, but to stay in a hotel whose management and/or union supports the ERA. Many people will maintain a total boycott of Illinois, a non-ratified state. Others may commute from neighboring states in order to attend important meetings, bringing food or eating in restaurants that have voiced support for the ERA.

What information can you supply those who, like me, would like to identify and patronize commercial enterprises in Chicago that support passage of equal rights?

Sincerely,
Joan Goddard

Dear Joan:

We contacted Marlene England of the Chicago Public Library, who tells us that, to her knowledge, no alternative plans for conference "attendees" have been provided. She is interested in working on the problem, however, and would like to hear from anyone who is willing to assist on the project or has any ideas to offer. Please contact Marlene by writing to her, c/o Cataloging Division, Chicago Public Library, 425 N. Michigan, Chicago 60611 or by calling (312) 269-2900.



stopping sexism

Significant among the events at Dallas in June was the model Sexism Awareness Training Workshop which took place at the beginning of the conference. The Sexism and Racism Awareness Training Committee sponsored the workshop; said committee was set up as an ad hoc group two years ago in order to carry out the provision of the 1976 Racism and Sexism Awareness Resolution adopted by ALA to develop a model racism and sexism awareness training program for librarians.

The two-day workshop, which drew 44 participants, was conducted by a professional training team. A half-day panel discussion on "Sexism in the Library Profession" began the workshop; participants broke into two groups for the remaining day-and-a-half. Dealt with were subjects such as the life messages and scripts with which people have grown up, negotiation skills, assertiveness techniques, and suggested changes that libraries can implement in this area. A very interesting phase of the proceedings came on Saturday night, when a party was held at which men and women were asked to practice role reversal and "switch" traditional roles.

At the end of the workshop, one of the groups unanimously voted to ask ALA to establish the ad hoc committee as a permanent group, so that racism and sexism awareness workshops could become a continuing service of ALA. Also proposed was that, in addition to awareness of oppression because of race and sex, the oppression of older people - ageism - become an issue for future awareness training workshops. The statement appears below:

"The participants of the LAMA-PAS Sexism Awareness Training program found the workshop extraordinarily useful on both a personal and professional level. Many of us had attended the LAMA-PAS Racism Awareness Training Workshop last year and found it equally useful.

"We are concerned that the ad hoc committee which sponsored both workshops is about to dissolve. Therefore, we strongly urge that the committee become a permanent committee of LAMA-PAS in order to continue the valuable work.

"One positive response to last year's workshop has already been shown in the replication of the workshop at one of the largest county library systems in the nation, Los Angeles County Library.

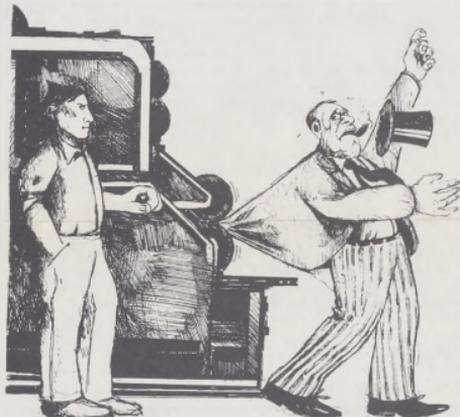
"This committee could serve a continuous role of education and consciousness-raising in the areas of racism, sexism, and ageism as indicated at the Intellectual Freedom Committee's stimulating program (at ALA's 1979 Annual Conference). In addition, the committee could identify resources and resource people, assist libraries to develop training programs and provide further model workshops at library conferences."



(continued from p. 1)

To early arrivals, and most kids, "blame the victim" yellow balloons proclaiming "I'm a Bookworm in the Big Apple" were freely distributed -- an ironic slogan fortunately poorly printed. Along Fifth Avenue, restraint of trade was business as usual, as even the big houses were precluded from selling by the "7 Sinners," the seven big book stores on Fifth under whose aegis the fair was given sanction by the Fifth Avenue Association. The theory was that if you saw a book, you should walk into Rizzoli's (or Doubleday's or Scribner's, etc.) and buy it. However, the bookstores were not overwhelmed with business nor were the restaurants. The atmosphere of circus prevailed through the antics of the mass paperback book stalls featuring animal folk, mimes, and salesfolk acting to beat the band to make their "products" palatable. However, even at show booths where kids could pitch bean bags, the prizes were posters -- not books!

The readers showed up! And so did the tourists! And lots of kids! New readers, the promise of each free book fair, as the small press discovered and continues to court, locally and in the New York Book Fair and the San Francisco International Book Fair. Most readers and potential readers were excited at this industry recognition of their community.



The small press people, more experienced with free fairs, once again talked books, and so were mobbed with interested visitors. Not many editors or production people showed up for the big press booths, so they featured, as usual, their star-system authors. Many of the sales staffs also must have balked at service too, considering the few big houses represented: just the hardy ones who run the AAP and a scattering of moderate-sized commercial houses.

"Expert book fair go-ers and book trade folk accustomed to the New York Book Fair atmosphere were canvassed later, and they say that the big book people have a lot to learn from small press book fairs: "No bathrooms!" "Not enough space to stand and read and make choices for later purchases!" "Baby strollers on the toes -- imagine being a kid with flesh pressing on all sides and not a book to be seen!" "The Brentano booths (the only big bookstore in Chicago) did not have even one book on display!" Marvin Scilkin (The U*N*A*B*A*S*I*S*T Librarian newsletter, \$15/year/4 issues GPO 2631, NY, NY 10001) visited from New Jersey with his associate editor and wife, Mary, and their two kids; they left early.

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The Gotham Book Mart, secure on the edge of Fifth and 52d, featured books by Edward Gorey for sale. The side streets of 52d and 53d were a better deal for the publishers of alternative literature since they were allowed to sell books there, and so were specialty bookstores, because these side streets were closed and made into promenades while Fifth Avenue was open to traffic, and so only teamster-types and the usual artful dodgers weaved across Fifth for their interests to avoid jams of sightseers. Another big plus of the side streets was the attraction of music provided by the organizers; disco music and dance were to the West and progressive jazz to the East drew crowds for the small presses. On 53d Street, upwind of a shish-ka-bob stand across the street for the Museum of Modern Art were the poetry readings arranged by the New York Book Fair folk. They were, as usual, delicious, and they made one hungry for more.

More was to be had! On 52d, as part of the NYBF combined exhibits! Many of the poets who participated are featured in the New York Waterways chapbook/magazine, which has documented the readings held at seven different waterfront locations so far in New York (Summer series, nos. 1-7, \$2.00/each, Ten Penny Players, 799 Greenwich Street, NY, NY 10014). Representative titles from the Downtown Poets Series were the notables Bang Bang Lulu by Phillis Manuela Gershtator (\$.81) and Sores and Roses by Fritz Hamilton (\$2.70), available from Downtown Poets Co-op, Box 1720, Brooklyn NY 11202. On hand, working to promote all the small press titles in the combines exhibit was Vince Campos and Susan Marks of New Scribes (1223 Newkirk Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11230. \$5/yr.)

Well, despite the fact that the event was publicized in advance, the New York press corps found more interesting sites to cover than the NYIBC -- the San Gennaro fest drew as many folks. Perhaps the wounded bull will try again next year?! Unfortunately, the decision will lie with those who staff finance offices of the behemoth McGraw-Hill Building and others, who are likely to find that the NYIBC wasn't "cost-effective." We can only hope, however, that they learn and discover that, as the small press knows, more commitment than carnival will build and serve the reading community.

Watch for The New York Book Fair in Spring!



BRAND NEW ADDRESS!!

Please send all SRRT NEWSLETTER correspondence to:

Julie McCartney
6 Jones St. #2A
New York, New York 10014

E.R.A. REMINDER:

THE UNRATIFIED



the progressive

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROGRESSIVE MAGAZINE

WHEREAS The Progressive magazine is the target of censorious prior restraint on the part of the government of the United States; and

WHEREAS the information contained in the censored article is freely available in unclassified documents found in American library collections; and

WHEREAS the Los Alamos Scientific Library is now the object of censorship and repression which may set a precedent for similar repression of other libraries and similar unclassified information; and

WHEREAS the Freedom to Read Foundation has entered the case in support of The Progressive and Freedom of Information; and

WHEREAS the Library Bill of Rights states that "Libraries should cooperate with all presses and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas,"

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Membership of the American Library Association go on record as deploring the actions of the United States Attorney General's Office, supporting The Progressive's case, and demanding that the case be dropped immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to the Attorney General of the United States, the Freedom to Read Foundation, and the national press.

Submitted by James R. Dwyer
Approved by SRRT Action Council 1 6/26/79
Approved by ALA Membership 6/28/79

(See p. 2 for Dwyer article)

task force news

ETHNIC

Over two hundred people attended the program "Getting to Know Your Ethnic Community: Sources of Information and Research Resources," which was held in Dallas, Texas, on Monday, June 25, 1979.

Overall, the program proved quite successful inasmuch as it contained a number of ideas which might apply in one's own "Ethnic Community." ALA recorded the entire session. A cassette tape may be purchased from ALA Headquarters for those individuals who are interested in hearing the program.

The second part of the SRRT EMIE morning focused on program information and tips on securing funding from governmental and private sources.

Dr. Carroll Galbreath, Higher Education Specialist of the U.S.O.E. Region VI, summarized the Ethnic Heritage Studies Program which provides funding primarily for curriculum development. The current funding level is \$2 million. About 8% of the applications are funded, and the next application deadline is January 5, 1980.

Nancy Bolt, Acting Assistant Director of Public Library Programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities, emphasized their public program aim and their humanities focus. Jean Coberly, of the Seattle Public Library, and Kay Fagin, of the Oklahoma State Library, described their NEH-funded activities and the process of proposal development. NEH Research Collection funding is being used for preservation of local historical records, many of which have ethnic content, according to Margaret Child, Director, NEH Research Collections program. NEH works with proposal writers prior to formal application and averages a 50% funding success rate.

Seek private foundation and corporate funding, Gloria Brown of the Carnegie Corporation advised. Interest is strongest in Hispanic and American Indian concerns, but sources of local funding may respond to the ethnic interests of their communities.

The moderator, Joan Neumann, Special Projects Assistant to the Director of The Brooklyn Public Library, emphasized the need to keep Congress aware of interest in ethnic heritage and library funding. The President's proposal for budget has zero funding and/or reduced funding for the Ethnic Heritage program and for HEA TITLE IIB. This must be reversed by strong pressure on Congress to maintain adequate fund-

(continued on p. 6)



R.D. Shorley



Big plans are in the works for the Summer 1980 conference in New York. Elizabeth Morrisett, chairperson of this task force, includes the following as part of PIE's activities and preparations:

Peace films to be shown every evening from 4-8 P.M.

Bibliographies of new books, a core list for small libraries, and a longer core list for academic libraries to be made available.

Fliers prepared for the exhibit area with address of peace organizations and bookstores specializing in peace materials.

Speakers to address task force meetings.

Elizabeth welcomes suggestions, inquiries, ideas, and help. Write to her at:

Auraria Libraries
Lawrence at 11th Street
Denver, Colorado 80204

GAY

AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS

Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive? How to Get Gay Materials into Libraries.
A Guide to Library Selection Policies for the Non-Librarian (pamphlet). June 15, 1979. \$1.00.

Gay Aids for Counselors (list). 2 copies, 30¢; 3-10, 15¢ each; 16 or more, 10¢ each.

Gay Materials Core Collection List. A buying guide for small public libraries, also useful as a basic gay reading list. About two dozen nonfiction items. Revised annually. 2 copies, 25¢; 3-10, 10¢ each; 15 or more, 7¢ each.

Gay Materials for Use in Schools (list). Background material for teachers, counselors & librarians; young adult fiction and nonfiction; general fiction and nonfiction; audiovisuals. Single copy, 25¢; 2 or more, 15¢ each.

Gay Resources for Religious Study (list). 2 copies, 30¢; 3-10, 15¢ each; 16 or more, 10¢ each.

Gay Teachers Resources (list). 2 copies, 25¢; 3-10, 10¢ each; 15 or more, 7¢ each.

A Short Lesbian Reading List. Fiction and non-fiction books, and periodicals. 2 copies, 25¢; 3-10, 10¢ each; 15 or more, 7¢ each.

(continued on p. 6)

ETHNIC (continued from p. 5)

GAY (continued from p. 5)

FORTHCOMING LISTS

ing for training institutes and minority Fellowships.

In the business meeting of the SRRT EMIE Task Force the highlight was the presentation by Ms. L. Heather Nicoll, Program and Planning Consultant (NCLIS) on the White House Conference on Libraries. Assurance was given that our concerns for consideration of ethnic minority problems were being taken seriously by the NCLIS staff. Further, nominations for delegates at large were being solicited to be divided into 65 lay people and 35 library professionals possibly with ethnic backgrounds. Recommendations for resource persons and discussion leaders were also encouraged by Ms. Nicoll. The need for well organized and widely disseminated publicity, together with a campaign for keeping our Congressmen and Senators well informed about library related issues, are the chief priorities at this time.

Plans for undertaking another petition for an Ethnicity Round Table were briefly discussed. Carmine Diodati and David Cohen agreed to write a new preamble for the petition which would be very brief and easily accepted by the various caucuses.

It was proposed that the resolution part of the Ethnicity Statement sent to NCLIS by the EMIE Task Force be introduced as a resolution for the membership meeting. The proposal was approved and the resolution was adopted unanimously by the ALA membership meeting, Monday night, June 25, 1979.

The SRRT EMIE Task Force's focus at the 1980 ALA Conference in New York will be on Selected Outstanding Programs Servicing Ethnic Groups in the Local Community.

The EMIE Program Committee is currently soliciting from the library profession information on special, outstanding programs so that they can be dramatized for the membership at the New York Conference.

Suggestions should be sent to Natalia G. Davis at the address below. Presentations will be varied and creative, and audio-visual presentations will be encouraged. The following categories of information should be reported in brief: title, description, target group, facilities/materials needed, budget need, evaluation, staffing, goals/outcome and contact person.

Address all communications to:

Natalia G. Davis, Chair
EMIE Task Force 1980 ALA Program Committee
El Centro Hispano de Informacion
Brooklyn Public Library
Williamsburgh Branch
240 Division Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11211
212-387-6391

SUMMER 1980

SRRT, with the cooperation of the IFRT, will sponsor a program on the Racism and Sexism Resolution at the ALA Conference in New York City. For advance information, to offer ideas for the program, or to offer assistance, contact:

Joan Goddard
Empire Branch
San Jose P. L.
491 E. Empire
San Jose, California 95112

A Gay Bibliography. Selective nonfiction list of books, articles, pamphlets, periodicals, directories, and audiovisuals. 6th edition available late August 1979, 75c prepaid, bulk rates available. (The 5th edition, 1975-76, with 252 entries, is still available in single copies for 30c but has very limited usefulness because of its date.)

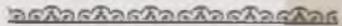
Gay Books in Format for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (Revised). Fall 1979.

Gay Health Helps. August 1979.

Gay Law and Civil Rights Materials. July 1979.

All prices include mailing. All orders must be prepaid. Checks should be payable to "Barbara Gittings - GTF" and sent to:

Barbara Gittings, Task Force on Gay Liberation, ALA (SRRT), Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103



happy birthday, srrt!

by Joan Goddard

The 10 year celebration held Wednesday evening, July 27 in Dallas was a participative, sharing event. A serious, up-feeling reflecting a recommitment of energy and attention was the general mood of the crowd of SRRT members who attended.

Numerously-titled awards were presented to people who developed and nurtured SRRT during its first ten years. With John Berry acting as Master of Ceremonies, members were called upon to share their thoughts on the history, future, and importance of SRRT. The general consensus was that it was important for SRRT members to continue their work in the many parts of ALA's whole, and to come back together periodically to regain strength and commitment to SRRT's goals.

My thanks to the many people who participated to make this reunion a successful event.



go STEIN-way

At the ALA conference in Dallas, the great Gertrude Stein - uppity, witty, egotistical, charming - was brought to life by actress Pat Bond. In Bond's one-woman presentation, Stein was humorously recreated through quotes from her work embellished by little-known facts about her early years in the U. S., her life in Paris with Alice B. Toklas, and the many famous artists who graced their salon, including Hemingway, Picasso, Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgeralds.

A crowd of 250 people attended this program, a remarkable group, considering 60 other meetings were being held at the same time.



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