COORDINATOR'S MEMO.

To: SRRT members

From: Doris Kirschbaum, Action Council Coordinator

News from the Midwinter Meeting in Washington, D.C.:

Budget was not one of the main considerations at Action Council meetings. Task Forces were allotted the full amounts requested, and we look forward to some interesting programs in Chicago.

Discussion and debate, at times heated, extended over the three Action Council meetings concerning SRRT's role in ALA's Strategic Long-Range Planning (SLRP). A committee, headed by John Sheridan, has been established, and he would welcome any ideas, suggestions, or opinions from SRRT members—whether you think SRRT should not get involved in long-range planning, that it should participate fully and how, or anything in between, or beyond.

Joan Goddard moderated SRRT's annual presidential forum featuring Regina Minudri, Donald Sager, and Al Trezza. Action Council voted to endorse Minudri for President of ALA. See the endorsement article in this issue.

Roundtable chairs met once again to discuss whether the group should be formalized and what that would mean. Not all roundtables were represented, and it is hoped that when we meet in Chicago there will be full representation. SRRT had already agreed that such a group would be beneficial, but some roundtables have expressed concerns and some have not been heard from.

SRRT will be co-sponsoring a program on privatization of government information with GODORT in Chicago. It is scheduled for Saturday, July 6, from 2-4 p.m. Please plan to attend.

Thinking ahead—SRRT is planning to have a program in New York in 1986.

Because of space limitations, SRRT will not have a booth in Chicago, but we have applied for a table. Elizabeth Morissett has agreed to coordinate that effort, but she needs help in staffing it. Volunteer some of your time. Let her know if you have materials you want displayed.

The winners of the Coretta Scott King Award were announced by that task force. The winner: Motown and Didi by Walter Dean Myers (Viking, 1984). Honor awards: Circle of Gold by Candy Dawson Boyd (Scholastic, 1984) and A Little Love by Virginia Hamilton (Philomel, 1984). No award was given for an illustrator. See the announcement in this issue.

Because the Men's Issues Task Force has not met for two successive conferences, it has been discontinued, in keeping with the SRRT by-laws.
And finally, many members of SRRT, its task forces, and Action Council—past, present, and hopefully future—joined the demonstration against apartheid at the South African Embassy.

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BE A WATCHDOG

In keeping with SRRT's policy of being "ALA's watchdog," Action Council is trying to ensure that a SRRT member is at all Executive Board and Program Evaluation and Support Committee (COPES) meetings. Linda Pierce is trying to coordinate and make sure that all the meetings at the Chicago conference in July are covered. While it is difficult to commit to being at a meeting when you don't have the complete schedule, she would appreciate hearing from people if they will be able to attend any of the meetings listed below.

Friday, July 5, 9:30-12:30--COPES
Friday, July 5, 2-4--COPES and Planning and Budget Assembly
Saturday, July 6, 9:30-12:30--Executive Board
Monday, July 8, 2-5:30--COPES
Tuesday, July 9, 9-11--Executive Board
Thursday, July 11, 9-12:30--Executive Board

Write to Linda at University of Idaho, College of Law Library, Moscow, ID 83843, or call (208) 882-0704.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Somehow in the printing process, the designation "Number 74" was deleted from the front of the December issue. With luck, "Number 75" should appear on the front of this one.

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ENDORSEMENTS

Regina Minudri, Director of Library Services at the Berkeley Public Library, has been endorsed by SRRT Action Council and the Feminist Task Force for the position of ALA vice president and president-elect. Action Council endorsed her after the forum it sponsored to hear the three candidates for the following reasons: she has demonstrated a long-term commitment to the issues of social responsibility in libraries; her experience on ALA Executive Board, on Council, and in the Divisions will enable her to maximize her one-year term as President and she will effectively carry on E.J. Josey's commitment to coalitions and to networking with other organizations; she has experience with the issue of comparable worth and pay equity in California; she is committed to free access to library services appropriate to the needs of the users; she is concerned for the advancement of women and minorities both as library professionals and as library users; and she is committed to
the growth of membership participation in the association and is aware of the importance of the individual within the bureaucracy.

The Feminist Task Force has also endorsed the following candidates for Council: Kay Ann Cassell, director, Huntington (NY) Public Library; Linda D. Crowe, system director, Peninsula Library System, Belmont, CA; Marva L. DeLoach, head, CRM Division, Illinois State University, Normal; Virginia H. Matthews, vice president, Library Professional Publications, Hamden, CT; Albert J. Milo, reference services coordinator, Santiago Library System, Orange, CA; Carol Starr, branch manager, Pleasanton (CA) Branch, Alameda County Library System; Susan J. Vaughn, associate librarian for collection development, Brooklyn College Library; Barbara Ford, assistant director of public services, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX (petition candidate); and Joan Marshall, associate librarian for technical services, Brooklyn College Library (petition candidate).

REFORMA, The National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking, also wants to call attention to two candidates who are members of both REFORMA and SRRT. They are Albert Milo, mentioned above, and Luis F. Chaparro, Public Services Librarian, El Paso (TX) Community College.

Please be sure to vote.

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COUNCIL REPORT

Mary Biblo, chair of the ALA Minority Concerns Committee, reports that the following actions were taken by the ALA Council at the 1985 Midwinter Meeting (Council Documents #25, 25.1):

Action 1: Section 3.2 on Trustees of the Policy Manual was revised to read (new text is emphasized): "The American Library Association supports fair demographic, age group, socio-economic, ethnic and racial minority representation on governing boards of public libraries."

Action 2: Council requested that the ALA Washington Office express our concerns to the Director of the Office of Indian Education Programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington about the impact that lowered standards (issued under Title XI of the Education Amendments of 1978, P.L. 95-561) will have upon library services and educational excellence in the BIA.

Action 3: Council voted that ALA go on record opposing a constitutional amendment mandating English as the official language of the United States. The task of monitoring and actively lobbying against such legislation was delegated to the Washington Office. The office should report to Council at the Chicago Conference all action it has taken in this matter.

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ADDRESS CHANGES

The following changes to the Action Council list in the SRRT Newsletter no. 73 (Sept. 1984) have been reported:

Treasurer
Nancy Gruber (1986)
965 Elizabeth
San Francisco, CA 94114
(415) 285-1358 (h)
(415) 821-0458 (w)

Conference Arrangements & Programs
Kay Cassell (1987)
108 Woodbury Rd.
Huntington, NY 11743
(516) 271-7121 (h)
(516) 427-5165 (w)
At Large

Joan Goddard (1985)
Evergreen Branch Librarian
San Jose Public Library
(408) 238-4434
MAIL:
1171 W. Latimer
Campbell, CA 95008
(408) 374-4697

Task force liaisons

Civil Rights
Donnarae MacCann
717 Normandy Dr.
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 338-5505

Coretta Scott King Award
David Searcy
East Atlanta Branch
Atlanta-Fulton Public Library
457 Flat Shoals Ave. S.E.
Atlanta, GA 30316

Library Union
Mary Rosenthal
Owen D. Young Library
St. Lawrence University
Canton, NY 13617
and:
Helen Lewis
1 Eastwood Rd.
Storrs, CT 06268
(203) 429-4699

Past Coordinator
Linda Pierce
University of Idaho
College of Law Library
Moscow, ID 83843
(208) 885-6521 (w)
(208) 882-0704 (h)

Also, the telephone area code for Brooklyn is now 718.

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LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE

The task force held two meetings at ALA Midwinter in Washington. Discussion focused on the program and poster session to be presented in Chicago this summer. The program, "Sexual Harassment: What It Is and What You Can Do About It," will be co-sponsored with the Feminist Task Force and the Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship. It will be held on Saturday, July 6, from 2-4 p.m., and will feature a film on sexual harassment. Kathleen Prendergast will moderate a panel discussion after the film. Speaking on the panel will be Diana Rock, chair of the Women's Committee of AFSCME, the cartoonist Nicole Hollander, and others.

A poster session has also been slated for the conference on organizing a union. This will be a practical approach to union organizing in the library setting and will outline the steps necessary to form a union, such as knowledge of labor legislation, how to contact a union, forming an organizing committee, and signing up members. Bibliographies on union organizing, sample contracts, literature from different unions, and recent research on library union wage differentials will be available at the session. Helen Lewis, Doreen Lilore, and Mary Rosenthal will be on hand to answer questions.

Other conference programs concerning unions and labor are the AFL-CIO/ALA Joint Committee's program on labor history to be held on Tuesday, July 9, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and the Staff Organization Roundtable's program on Sunday, July 7, from 2-4 p.m.


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SRRT Newsletter - 4 -

March 1985
CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

Walter Dean Myers, author of Motown and Didi (Viking), will be the recipient of the 1985 Coretta Scott King Award for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to literature for children and young people published in 1984. Although there is a category for an illustrator's award, the award is not being presented this year.

In Motown and Didi, Walter Dean Myers has created a moving, fast-paced story of a teenage boy who lives alone in a condemned tenement building. Though wary of involvement with other people, Motown instinctively goes to the rescue of a young woman being attacked by a gang of junkies. Myers' intimate knowledge of the cold reality of ghetto living provides the credibility necessary to this story of inner-city life and of the drug culture.

Cited for honorable mention are Virginia Hamilton for A Little Love (Philomel) and Candy Dawson Boyd for The Circle of Gold (Apple Paperback/Scholastic).

All recipients will be honored at the annual Awards Breakfast on Tuesday, July 9, at 7:30 a.m. in Chicago during the 1985 ALA conference.

The legacy that Brad has left with us is a powerful aid as we consider next steps. His passion for justice was combined with an untiring effort to clarify and communicate its practical implications. He served the profession by being a brilliant editor within the library press, as well as by his initiative and great sensitivity (as described in the December 1984 SRRT Newsletter). In the projects that lie ahead, especially in the preparation of the forthcoming social responsibility manual or reader, Essays on Equity and People's Issues: a Handbook on Social Responsibility for Librarians, Brad's perceptiveness and willingness to delve to the heart of a problem will be remembered. Those of us who worked with him over the years know that there was hardly any end to the questions he would raise--questions about precedents, contexts, cause and effect relationships, complexities that reached beyond a single intellectual discipline. The challenge is to continue in this spirit as issues change and sometimes defy definition.

Even the modestly non-racist and non-sexist advances from the early 1970s have now been reversed in many cases, and the history of that change needs scrutiny, as well as the forces that facilitated change. We need to discover why access to materials about American minorities for all age groups declined, why scholarly tools in minority studies were suspended, why the impetus for producing bilingual materials lost its thrust, why race and sex stereotyping became increasingly trivialized as issues, why literacy programs were scuttled, why effective coalitions between women's groups and other disadvantaged groups have been stymied.
Our much-missed coordinator realized that such problems have concrete, discernible parts, traceable lineages, and the potential for change. The task force agenda still stems from this conviction.

--Donnarae MacCann
Coordinator (succeeding the late Brad Chambers), Civil Rights Task Force

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

ALA's International Relations Committee is planning a President's Program on "Human Rights and the Printed Word for the Public Good" to be held on July 9 in Chicago. Speakers should include Thomas Hammerberg, Secretary-General of Amnesty International, London, and Nathan Perlmutter, Executive Director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, N.Y. Applauding this opportunity for librarians to confront crucial social issues, SRRT's IHR Task Force hopes to make handout materials available at the meeting. The meetings of the IHR Task Force will be held on preceding days. The task force's main project for the year will be the preparation of a "field guide to human rights materials," similar to Pat Case's excellent Field Guide to Alternative Media.

How are your library's civil rights and civil liberties??? Test your local library resources on access to contemporary issues addressed in the U.S. Bill of Rights with the following CONTEST! There are THREE chances to win. 1) a FREE BOOK will be sent to the FIRST person to send a list of FIVE civil rights or civil liberties periodicals currently received by any one library; 2) a FREE BOOK will be sent to the person who sends the LONGEST list of periodicals about civil rights or civil liberties being received by any one library; 3) a CHOICE of free books will be sent to the person who sends the longest list of periodical titles on one particular right, e.g. freedom of religion, right to life, freedom of sexual preference, etc. Send your list and the name of the library they were found in, with your name and address, to: Lee Regan, 2308 Freetown Ct., #22-C, Reston, VA 22091. Contest closes JUNE 15, 1985. Winners will be announced and the libraries will be immediately investigated by the FBI!

OPPORTUNITY LOST?

On November 28, 1984, the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., requested the Freedom to Read Foundation to lend its support in the case of National Gay Task Force v. Board of Education of the City of Oklahoma City by signing Lambda's amicus curiae brief. Their deadline for a decision was December 10, 1984. Amicus briefs were also being filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights, the New York Attorney General, and the National Education Association.

The Foundation, after consultation with the Executive Board, declined due to the short time frame.

Is this an instance where SRRT failed to take advantage of existing ALA machinery to get help?

--Susan Vaughn
SRRT Freedom to Read Foundation representative

AUTHOR'S QUERY

For a forthcoming book on lesbian and gay library service from Oryx Press, I would like to hear from librarians who have experienced censorship problems involving lesbian or gay male titles. Press clippings are especially appreciated. In addition, for a chapter on coming out on the job, I'd like to hear
from librarians who are out and who would be interested in being listed in a "Who's Who in Gay Librarianship." Let the world know who we are! I'll send you a form. Write to: Daniel Tsang, P.O. Box 29627, Philadelphia, PA 19144, or call (215) 849-4612.

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GAY TASK FORCE

The small public library received a bit of attention on January 7, 1985, at the ALA Midwinter Meeting when the Gay Task Force featured a workshop entitled "Gay Materials in Smalltown, U.S.A.?" Led by Susan Bryson, the workshop first centered on the small-town library and library community before exploring the controversial issue of gay materials.

The more than forty participants were challenged by and enjoyed a variety of thought-provoking activities. Trivia questions pointed out the lack of good selection tools, review sources, and funding in most small public libraries. A group brainstorming resulted in the identification of reasons why materials on gays and lesbians should be included in collections, as well as reasons why they in fact may not be there.

After informal discussion of a "disaster scenario" in which a public librarian in a small town is confronted by irate parents and citizens, workshop participants were stimulated to comment on the stumbling blocks presented. Several examples were offered of small-town public libraries and librarians who were able to successfully circumvent problems and incorporate appropriate gay/lesbian materials in their collections.

Finally, the participants were encouraged to become active library users and supporters. Ways of bringing more attention to the need for gay and lesbian materials in even the smallest libraries were suggested.

For a copy of the 7-page handout that Susan Bryson prepared for this workshop, send 50¢ in coin or stamps to: Barbara Gittings, GTF Coordinator, Box 2383, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

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BOOKS RECEIVED

From time to time, the editor receives review copies of books that might be of interest to SRRT members. Anyone who wishes to review any of the books listed below for the newsletter should write to the editor. The only compensation we can offer is the glory of seeing your name and words in print!

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