Midwinter Schedule

Action Council:
Sat. 1/25 9:30 - 11:00AM
Mon. 1/27 2:00 - 4:15PM

Task Forces:

Alternatives in Print
Sat. 1/25 2:00 - 4:00PM
Sun. 1/26 2:00 - 4:00PM
Tue. 1/28 2:00 - 4:00PM

Civil Rights
Mon. 1/27 11:30 - 12:30PM

Environment
Sat. 1/25 11:30 - 12:30PM
Sun. 1/26 9:30 - 11:00AM
Mon. 1/27 8:00 - 9:00AM

Feminist
Sat. 1/25 2:00 - 4:00PM
Sat. 1/25 6:00 - 8:00PM*
Sun. 1/26 11:30 - 12:30PM
Tue. 1/28 9:00 - 11:00AM

Gay and Lesbian
Fri. 1/24 8:00 - 10:00PM
Sat. 1/25 2:00 - 5:00PM
Sat. 1/25 6:00 - 8:00PM
Sun. 1/26 4:30 - 5:30PM**
Mon. 1/27 9:30 - 11:00AM
Tue. 1/28 2:00 - 4:00PM

Library Union
Sat. 1/25 11:30 - 12:30PM

Migration, Refugees & the Homeless
Sun. 1/26 8:00 - 9:00AM
Tue. 1/28 11:30 - 12:30PM

Peace Information Exchange
Sat. 1/25 11:30 - 12:30PM
Tue. 1/28 8:00 - 9:00AM

Progressive Librarians Guild***
Sat. 1/25 8:00 - 10:00PM

CHECK THE CONFERENCE PROGRAM FOR LOCATIONS AND ANY CHANGES OR CANCELLATIONS!

* The Feminist and the Gay and Lesbian Task Forces are co-sponsoring a Saturday night social, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. There will be a cash bar and musical entertainment, and a directory of night spots and restaurants will be available. This will be a good time to connect with colleagues and friends and kick back and relax from confo-stress.

** The GLTF Book Award Committee meeting is a closed meeting.

*** The Progressive Librarians Guild may be listed in the program under UNO rather than ALA SRRT.

CIVIL RIGHTS ACTION KIT

At Midwinter, the Civil Rights Task Force will focus on reviewing materials for the proposed Civil Rights Action Kit - loose-leaf materials about civil rights within the context of librarianship and communication. Items will include brief philosophical essays, descriptions of model programs and a bibliography of selected readings. The kit is being prepared for low cost publication within ALA.

REMININDER FROM THE TREASURER

Budget proposals from all task forces are required to be in the hands of the Treasurer prior to the start of the Midwinter meeting. Task Force coordinators please take note. The budget will be an important agenda item for the first Action Council meeting.
SRRT EDITOR RETIRES

With the current issue, the editorship of the SRRT Newsletter changes hands, and all of SRRT owes thanks to the commitment and energy that Chris Sokol has given to the task of producing the newsletter over the last several years. The new editor would like publicly to thank her for passing on the oral and written traditions.

Please take note of the new editor’s addresses and telephone numbers, which can be found at the back of this issue.

ALA CODE OF ETHICS HEARINGS

There will be a hearing, "The ALA Code of Ethics: Is it Time for Revision?", at Midwinter. The hearing, sponsored by the ALA Committee on Professional Ethics, will be held on Sunday, January 26, 1992, 8:00-10:00PM. Those who wish to testify should contact the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom.

1991 ANNUAL CONFERENCE TASK FORCE REPORTS

Alternatives in Print

The Task Force presented a very successful program on "New South Publications and Films" in Atlanta. Four panelists were informative, lively and articulate in their presentations and answers to questions about the creation, publication and distribution of books, periodicals and films concerning women, African-Americans, Appalachian culture, and progressive politics in the South.

Panelists included Eric Bates, editor of Southern Exposure, produced by the Institute of Southern Studies in Durham and considered to be the best progressive magazine in the South; Beverly Guy-Sheftall, co-editor of Sage: A Scholarly Journal on Black Women, produced at Spelman College in Atlanta; George Brosi, a bookseller from Whittier, NC, who owns Appalachian Mountain Books, and who is co-author of a book with Eliot Wigginton of Foxfire renown; and Ruby Lerner, Executive Director of IMAGE: Independent Media Artists of Georgia, which sponsors the annual Atlanta Film Festival, featuring alternative viewpoints. The panel was moderated by program chair Martha McPhail of San Diego State University.

Mimi Penchansky was succeeded as TF Coordinator by co-Coordinators Sylvia Y. Curtis and Jackie Eubanks.

Coretta Scott King Award

Tuesday, July 2, 1991, was a day of historic significance for all who attended the 22nd Annual Coretta Scott King Award Breakfast during the ALA Annual Conference in Atlanta. A moving tribute was paid to a special guest, Ms. Rosa Parks. A surge of emotion swept through the room as this gentle lady graciously greeted the over 800 attendees, thanking them for their welcome - she who had done so much to change the face of the nation. Mildred Taylor, winner of the Coretta Scott King Award for The Road to Memphis, said with assurance that the incidents of prejudice which so humiliated her book's heroine, Cassie, would never again happen because of the work of Rosa Parks.

Present to witness this moment in history were fifty school children - library users from the Atlanta area. The children were sponsored by corporate groups, publishers, a local PTA, church groups and interested individuals. Through the generosity of the publishers, each child received an autographed copy of either a winning or an honor book.

Among the many in attendance were Lillie Patterson, winner of the first Coretta Scott King Award, actress Ruby Dee, actor Ossie Davis, a former winner, and Ms. Clara Jones, the first black president of ALA.

Environment

The Task Force was busy in Atlanta, sponsoring one program, co-sponsoring two others, and holding three business meetings. The Task Force program, "How Green Is Your Library", drew about 80 people. A program co-sponsored with the ACRL Law and Political Science Section drew a full house. Less well attended, unfortunately, was a program co-sponsored with PLA which featured Gale
Alston from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, who covered a wide range of environmental information sources. Attempts to help "green" the conference had mixed results. ALA did set up recycling bins in the office area and used re-cycled paper in its copy machines. Problems with disposable plastic cups and tons of throwaway material from the exhibits area signified targets for additional efforts. People willing to work on these should contact Nancy Pope, Middleton Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Don Boyden of Gale Research visited the Task Force meetings. Gale is setting up an advisory board for their environmental reference works, which are currently on the drawing board. A number of Task Force members will serve, but Boyden is looking for additional participation, particularly from the public library sector. Interested people should contact him at Gale Research, Penobscot Bldg., Detroit, MI 48826.

Sharon Elliott provided a framework for discussions about a possible Green Award to a publisher or vendor. A dry run will be held at Midwinter to determine any problems before actually creating an award.

Two program ideas for the 1992 Annual Conference were identified. Kim Ginther-Webster will chair a program which will focus on the environmental impact of paper vs. computer vs. microfilm as media for information dissemination. Speakers representing the various industries, as well as critics of the industries are being sought.

Terry Link will chair a program featuring David Brower, arguably among the most well-known environmentalists. Brower is the former director of the Sierra Club who many years ago formed the Friends of the Earth and, more recently, Earth Island Institute. He will address the relationship between poverty and the environment and the role of information and libraries in addressing this.

Three new Steering Committee appointments were made at the Atlanta conference. Roland Hansen was appointed Co-Chair; Susan Hoffman was appointed Book Awards Committee Chair; and Kathy Anderson was appointed Newsletter Editor. Each of these are two year terms, expiring in July 1993.

Three important Steering Committee positions are vacant, however: Co-Chair (female); Clearinghouse Coordinator; and Feminist Task Force Liaison. Interested persons should get in touch with Roland Hansen, Readers' Services Librarian, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60603 (Telephone: (312) 836-5097).

The IHRTF program in Atlanta was very successful, with large attendance and lively debate. Participants on the panel included Palestinian-American librarian Noha IsmaiI from Minnesota; Middle East affairs expert Nubar Hovsepian; Israeli librarian and peace activist Josepha Pick; and Israeli publisher Dror Greenfield. Notwithstanding the refusal of the Israeli consulate and the Anti-Defamation League in Atlanta to participate in the panel, the IHRTF did manage to recruit Mr. Greenfield to join in on the very day of the program. The program began at 8:00PM on Sunday, June 30, and went well overtime as the panelists and audience debated Greenfield's justifications for Israel's censorship policies and closings of Palestinian institutions. The major library professional media covered the event and reported on it to varying degrees in the weeks and months after the Atlanta conference. (See also a Letter to the Editor from Task Force Coordinator, David Williams on p. 5 of this issue.)

The Task Force co-sponsored programs with both the International Human Rights Task Force and the Task Force on the Environment. Each program was well attended and contributed to ongoing discussions and dialogues, the first concerning Israeli
censorship and the second on environmental librarianship. A program planned for San Francisco will discuss economic conversion. Anyone interested in helping should contact Stephen Stillwell, CSIA Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138 (Telephone: (617) 495-1408.

The Second Annual SIRS Peace Award was given to Faye A. Lander, Media Specialist, Cleveland (Ohio) Public Elementary Schools for her work in promotion of international understanding among children and in the community. The award was presented at the annual SIRS reception.

SRRT members interested in serving as jury members for the Third SIRS Peace Award should contact Stephen Stillwell at the above address.

REFUGEES, MIGRATION AND THE HOMELESS

The Task Force is in need of a new chair. Elizabeth Morrissett, the former chair, sent the following letter:

"TO COLLEAGUES IN THE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES ROUND TABLE

"Having left the hard/easy work of head librarian, and entered the world of the desk reference librarian, I am faced with the fact that I am asked to skip MIDWINTER meeting, because the state legislature is in session then and I am needed here.

"Therefore, in fairness, I am resigning from the Task Force on Refugees, Migration and the Homeless, and unless I find a successor in a couple of weeks, it is probably best to lay the task force down as a sincere effort.

"I'll send any bibliographies we assemble (a few are on hand) to the Exhibits Chair next summer for distribution.

"As a long-time conference 'junkie', I shall miss getting to ALA very much. Midwinter is often the real action-locus of the library politics.

"Warm regard to you all."

Anyone interested in furthering the work of this task force should get in touch with Elizabeth Morrissett, Reference Department, Alaska State Library, Juneau, AK 99811 (Telephone: (907) 465-2944).

FROM THE EDITOR'S IN-BOX

*The seventh edition of the Handicapped Funding Directory has been published by Research Grant Guides, P.O.Box 1214, Loxahatchee, FL 33470. It lists 1242 funding sources for programs and services for the disabled.

*Minnesota Library Association's Social Responsibilities Round Table publishes the MSRRT Newsletter, a source of alternative news, opinions and resource listings ten times per year. Interested persons may subscribe by making a donation (suggested $15.00), payable to MLA/MSRRT. Address mail to: Chris Dodge/Jan DeSirey, 4645 Columbus Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.

*Hampton-Brown Books has issued its 1991-1992 catalog of books for bilingual education. (Hampton-Brown Books, P.O.Box 223220, Carmel, CA 93922.)

*Baker & Taylor Books has issued a multicultural catalog, Many Voices, Many Books...Strength Through Diversity. It features an introduction by National Book Award winner Charles Johnson, author of Middle Passage.

*The National Women's History Project has an array of multicultural materials, including posters, books, videos, etc. For their catalog, send $1 to 7738 Bell Road, Windsor, CA 95492.

*Green Library Journal is being launched this Fall. Maria Jankowska, a member of the SRRT Task Force on the Environment, is editor and Chris Sokol and Diane Prorak, also Task Force members, are associate editors. The journal is looking for articles, reviews, announcements and bibliographies on environmental issues, especially as they relate to libraries, publishing and information. Send all submissions to the editor, c/o University of Idaho Library, Moscow, ID 83843.

*University Microfilms International has announced the ten top selling doctoral dissertations of 1990. Among them were:
The Iron Ore Eaters: A Portrait of the Mining Community of Moriah, New York, by Valerie Beth Rosenquist, PhD, Duke University, 1987; War Against the Panthers: A Study of Repression in America, by Huey Percy Newton, PhD, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1980; and An Historical Investigation of the Social and Cultural Consequences of Micmac Literacy, by Marie Ann Battiste, EdD, Stanford, 1984.

*The Original Library Movement, an organization concerned with returning public libraries to their original mandate of providing an intellectual and cultural resource for all citizens, publishes a journal. For information write: P.O. Box 421221, San Francisco, CA 94101.

SRRT PEOPLE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Washington Post article, reprised in Discovery Five Hundred, the newsletter of the International Columbian Quincentenary Alliance, Ltd., reports the passage of the ALA resolution on the Quincentenary. Sanford Berman is prominently featured in the article.

Jackie Eubanks has a letter to the editor in the October 1991 issue of American Libraries on ALA Council's modification of the resolution on Israeli censorship.

In the same issue, Mark Rosenzweig's suit against the New York Public Library is featured in an article on p. 833+.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Letters to the Editor are welcome, but will be published at the discretion of the editor, who may edit and abridge them as needed for publication.)

Dear Editor:

The campaign launched in early 1990 around the issue of Israeli censorship and library closings in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza had made an impact on a number of levels within ALA prior to the 1991 ALA Annual Conference. Some librarians upset by ALA criticism of the Shamir government made their feelings known to the ALA leadership and the SRRT Action Council Coordinator, while the Anti-Defamation League protested the IHRTF program on Israeli censorship (see program description in IHRTF Report on p. 3 of this issue). These pressures were reflected in the controversy which erupted inside Action Council just prior to and during the Atlanta conference.

The International Relations Committee (IRC) circulated a draft resolution on Israeli censorship and library closings which was to be introduced to ALA Council at the conference. For the previous year and a half, the IRC had been collecting documentation on this subject from a wide range of human rights organizations, and ALA itself co-published the 1991 World Report by the Article 19 Centre on Censorship in London, which documented these Israeli policies.

The IRC resolution was watered down. While "objecting" to Israeli censorship and library closings in the Occupied Territories, the draft resolution also contained the ambiguity of calling for respect for human rights to be "balanced" against the "security needs of all inhabitants" of the Territories. By the time the IRC resolution reached ALA Council, any direct mention of Israel had been dropped in favor of a general objection to censorship in the Middle East as a whole, but it did retain a reference to "library closings in the Occupied Territories.

Council, however, removed this on the grounds that use of the phrase "Occupied Territories" amounted to "Israel-bashing." Clearly the ALA leadership was dead-set against even mild public criticism of the Shamir government, even though the censorship and human rights violations are clearly documented by reports published by ALA itself!

The inconsistency of the ALA Council in refusing to "single-out" Israel for criticism (after previous condemnations of apartheid South Africa and other such regimes) was made even more blatant by this Council's subsequent action in Atlanta concerning the Soviet Union's despoiling Afghan libraries during the past military occupation of that country. What this means is that if the behavior of America's closest ally in the Middle East (and greatest recipient of U.S. foreign aid) is to be
properly addressed by this professional association, which claims to be against censorship and library closings, this issue will have to be taken by SRRT to the ALA membership at the next conference. Toward that end a resolution is being prepared to be circulated and discussed at the Midwinter conference.

I particularly wish to address the more sensitive aspects of what happened in the Association and in SRRT Action Council around this controversy. This is necessary both because of the transparent accusations of anti-Semitism made against me and the issue of my "style" in pushing the censorship issue.

Why do I feel so strongly about this issue, and why did I re-join ALA after many years of absence to raise it? For me, the real question is why so many Americans with decent and humanistic sentiments on most other issues would so willfully turn a blind eye to the ongoing destruction of another people's homes and livelihoods. The plain facts of almost a quarter century of brutal military occupation and the role of Israel as America's greatest aid recipient ought to propel issues of Israeli censorship and library closings to the top of the agenda of any American professional association which purports to care about intellectual freedom and human rights.

It is precisely the willful blindness of so many otherwise decent and progressive Americans to confront this issue which has left it to a few brave (or foolhardy) souls to take up the cause of Palestinian rights. Those who accuse us of anti-Semitism are in effect saying that there is no way anyone can both be opposed to the persecution of Jews and for Palestinian rights and a two-state solution. They are also trying to shift the focus from the concrete issues of what is happening in the Occupied Territories to the realm of personality and prejudice in an effort to silence those who would otherwise support human rights and freedom of information and expression.

Those who realize that I am not an anti-Semite but still have misgivings about my tactics and "style" should recall that this anti-censorship campaign began relatively quietly nearly two years ago with reasoned overtures and ample documentation to a number of ALA units which should be concerned about such matters. With the exception of SRRT, I was met in nearly every one of these units with either stony silence, bureaucratic obfuscation, or angry and hysterical opposition. With the exception of the IRC, no other unit of ALA was willing to look at the full range of documentation and take a stand on the issue.

Instead of dealing with the documentation and the issues in open debate, the hardline defenders of Israel inside ALA wrote letters and spread rumors accusing me of anti-Semitism and otherwise impugning my motives and character. Pressure was brought to bear on SRRT to curb my activities as IHRTF chair. Finally, the most prominent of the hardline defenders of Israel inside ALA came to SRRT Action Council and transparently accused me of anti-Semitism to my face. In the end, those who were angry with my style or otherwise vulnerable to emotional demagogy won a narrow majority to water down some resolutions passed by AC in 1990.

The bitterness of the debate at Action Council and the retreat of some of its members from the strong stand taken in 1990 is unfortunate, but not irreparable. To those who have the integrity to admit the facts on Israeli censorship and the appropriateness of ALA's taking a stand on the matter, I regret anything I may have said or done to offend you in the heat of controversy. Faced with a solid wall of opposition on the part of the ALA hierarchy and indifference and hypocrisy from any number of people who should know better -- and attacked by hardline defenders of Israel in the most vicious personal terms -- I fought back as resolutely as I could. In this struggle it was not always possible to remain polite and not mention certain individuals who had already thrust themselves into the forefront of opposition to the anti-censorship campaign or who had attacked me personally. For my part, I am willing to consider any suggestions on how to further this campaign if you, for your part are willing to give us the collective support which we will need to move the ALA to a principled position of support for Palestinian national and human rights.

--David Williams

December 1991
SOCIAL ISSUES TASK FORCE APPOINTED

According to College and Research Libraries News (September 1991, p. 505), ACRL has appointed a Social Issues Task Force to determine "if ACRL should or should not respond to social issues." The task force seeks broad input. SRRT members who are also ACRL members should send comments to the chair, Cerise Oberman, Feinberg Library, State University of New York, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

PEACE SPINE LABELS

SIRS Peace Award winner, Faye Lander, made a suggestion at the Peace Task Force meeting in Atlanta. She suggested the need for a spine label for peace and conflict resolution books. Task Force Chair Stephen Stillwell reports that, while he has located spine labels with Civil War type cannons for war stories, he has not yet located any peace labels. A major library supplier contacted is passing this suggestion on to their new products review committee. SRRT members are encouraged to contact their library suppliers and suggest that they consider such a label as well.

"REACH OUT FOR BOOKS"

(Ed: The following is a report on a model social action program by a public library in response to a call for such program descriptions in an earlier SRRT Newsletter.)

The Russell Public Library, located in Middletown, CT, has been participating for the past year in an outreach program in the community known as "Reach Out for Books." This service is managed by the Outreach Committee of the library, formed in the Spring of 1990, a direct outgrowth of the library's long range planning process. Two of the objectives of this plan are to increase the use of the library by minority and older members of the community, and to expand off-site services to people with restricted access to the library.

The city of Middletown has a population of approximately 42,750, with eighteen percent of the community in minority groups, and almost fourteen percent of its citizens over the age of sixty. So there were significant numbers in the community to reach. An idea that came up in one of the first meetings was to set up what in the 1960's and 70's were known as "deposit collections." (It is not clear what these collections are called today, as a literature search failed to find this term used as a subject.) The committee also became aware of LSCA grant money that could be applied for and would be necessary to begin this project.

An initial step was to survey many of the social service agencies in town to determine the population served, need and desire to participate in some type of "deposit collection" process. Eventually six agencies were chosen to participate in the project, including a couple of shelters for the homeless, a women's shelter and the town's Senior Center and community health facility.

The library was fortunate enough to receive a $4,000 LSCA Title I grant, awarded under the "innovative" category. Once the funding was secured, the committee focused on the types of materials that would be purchased for each agency. Initial surveys of the various locations revealed very different literature needs and interests. It was obvious how valued these materials would be in these settings.

Requests came in for topics, including recovery issues, stress reduction, goal setting, parenting and job hunting. One of the family shelters was primarily interested in fiction and children's materials. The Senior Center received all of its materials in large print. Several places were interested in magazine subscriptions, and we were able to supply in some cases up to three or four titles per agency. Journals concerned with sports, current news and parenting and titles for teenagers have been requested.

Included in our initial grant request were funds for purchasing inexpensive shelving, if needed at any of the sites. Most places had some type of area already designated for books, or had so little space that colorful plastic milk crates worked just fine. The most unique location for materials is in one of the family shelters. Due to the layout of the building, the only room shared in common
is the laundry room. This is where the books, magazines and storage crates are housed, and that seems to work well for this agency.

Just about all of the materials purchased have been brand new, with the exception of a few gift books that were in very good condition. Processing costs have been minimal. A simple system of using different colored dots to designate where the books were headed was used. Each book additionally contained a label with the name of the project, "Reach Out For Books," the names of the sponsors and a reminder to return materials to their common area after reading. Whether a check out system was needed was left up to the individual agency. With one exception, this has not been considered necessary. There has been little indication of loss or damage to materials so far. Some funds were held in reserve for replacement, but these funds have been able to be used instead to increase the number of magazines to some agencies and to add titles where needed.

In addition to ordering books, each Outreach Committee member worked with one or two agencies, including visiting from time to time to see how the collection was being used and keeping up with additional request/replacement needs. At this point, other types of programming have not been tried at any of the agencies. This will be a future consideration, as children's programming seems to be a real need.

Response by the agencies has been very positive to date. At the Senior Center, for example, what was once primarily a fiction collection has added large print titles in subject areas such as health and financial planning, to the delight of many users. Several agencies have expressed great pleasure at being able to have current magazines and new books on hand for their clients. A final questionnaire will be handed out to each agency representative shortly to get more specific and measurable feedback on the project - what worked and what could have worked better.

The budget year for the grant has almost ended. The Russell Library, however, feels that it has made a commitment in the area of outreach and participation in the community.

The Library's own collection development budget will include funds not only to continue the work done in these six agencies, but also to expand to other places as well. Several potential sites have already expressed an interest in being part of future projects. Those involved in the program have learned a great deal more about the community and how libraries can really have an impact on individuals who are often thought of as unreachable. While the Russell Library looks forward to continuing and expanding these efforts, others in the profession should be encouraged to participate in similar endeavors.

--Cathy Ahern
Russell Public Library, Middletown, CT

SRRT NEWSLETTER NEEDS REVIEWERS

The editor receives a number of new books and journals for review and is looking for additional reviewers. If you would like to be added to the reviewer list, please contact the editor (see address at the back of this issue) and specify particular subject areas of interest to SRRT in which you feel you have some expertise.

COMIX ON THE PERIPHERY

Comic books are becoming acceptable acquisitions for American libraries. The recent boomlet of articles on this topic generally overlooks the contribution of alternative comix to this medium.

Underground comix had their widest circulation from 1969 to 1973. They looked like mainstream comic books in form, but any similarity ended there. Narrow in focus, they were designed to shock, using themes of sex, drugs and anti-war politics. Their decline in 1973 has been attributed to political apathy and the rise of local laws against head shops, which served as major distribution outlets. A small group of the original underground comix publishers have survived by distributing more mainstream material or by appealing to a fine arts audience.

The advent of inexpensive photocopy technology ushered in a tidal wave of home-
grown comic books starting in the mid-1970s. Although fanzines and comics by fans emulating commercial work were in abundance, a strong network of about 500 cartoonists produced original and creative comic books known as "New Wave comix." They generally had small print runs and were distributed through the mail. Many New Wave artists (Kevin Eastman of Teenage Ninja Mutant Turtles, for example) have become well known professionals. The "New Wave" label died out about 1984, but the same network continues today.

Unlike the undergrounds, New Wave comix had a wide range of topics. From convicts describing prison life to Ph.D.'s producing Dada, the New Waves presented a grassroots composite of American Life.

A few libraries have research collections of underground and New Wave comix: Wisconsin State Historical Society, Iowa State University, and Washington State University. Michigan State University includes undergrounds and New Waves in their comprehensive collection of comic books. Jay Kennedy's Official Underground and New Wave Comix Price Guide (Boatner Norton, 1982) still remains as the most definitive bibliography on this topic. Kennedy is planning an updated edition in 1992.

Three periodicals cover news, opinion and reviews on this topic:

City Limits Gazette. Biweekly newsletter. $15.00/year. Publishers address: Steve Willis, P.O. Box 390, McCleary, WA 98557-0390.

Comix Wave. Monthly newsletter. $9.00/year. Publisher's address: Clay Geerdes, P.O. Box 7094, Berkeley, CA 94707.

Countermedia. Quarterly digest. $2.00/issue. Publisher's address: Pants on Fire Enterprises, P.O. Box 6822, Portland, OR 97228-6822.

--Steve Willis
South Puget Sound Community College
Olympia, WA
(and a small-press cartoonist)

GRANTS ON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

OPTIONS is a five-year old national program that provides two-year grants to colleges and universities to establish faculty speakers bureaus on international security issues for their local communities. Grants of $1,000 and $5,000 are available. Funding supports the coordination of local outreach, development of promotional materials and ongoing organizing expenses. Service support from the national office and networking with participating schools comes with the grant. The program's aim is to increase and improve public understanding of foreign policy issues and to increase citizen participation in the development of national policy. The organization is non-advocacy and non-partisan. More than 150 colleges and universities from 34 states are currently participating, engaging the efforts of 1,500 faculty speakers who provide lectures, debates, workshops and discussions to civic and church groups, service clubs and professional organizations in their campus region. OPTIONS is an independent, public, educational, and charitable organization, supported by major foundations, including the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the W. Alton Jones Foundation, the Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, and the Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation. For further information and application forms, contact: Marta Daniels, Executive Director, OPTIONS, c/o Brown University, 131 Waterman St., Providence, RI 02906. Telephone: (401) 331-4625. FAX: (410) 454-6957.

REVIEWS


The Writings in Home Words were derived from a series of creative workshops for the homeless called Home Fest at St. Stephen's Shelter in Minneapolis. These workshops were an attempt to empower the lives of the homeless by providing an outlet for their creative energy.
The poems, essays and short stories gathered together in Home Words make readers aware of the diversity of the homeless by putting them in contact with their lives, hopes and dreams. These works range from an essay about the strength and courage derived from Native American culture in "Basketball Traditional Style" to a science fiction story about someone living inside another person in "Trial by Fire."

Recommended for libraries with large collections in the area of homeless issues.

--Iver Matheson, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

AFRICAN COMMENTARY: A JOURNAL OF PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT. Amherst, MA: African Commentary Corporation. Monthly, 1989/90?: ISSN 1045-2303. $27.00/year. Publisher’s Address: 29 Pray St., Amherst, MA 01002.

Pan-Africanism, in the mode of W.E.B. DuBois, and Presence Africaine appears to be the thrust of this significant journal. Such a Pan-Africanistic approach includes a coterie of columnists representing both Africa and the Diaspora (e.g. Ghanaian Kofi Avonoor; Somali novelist Nuruddin Farah; Nigerian novelist Chukwuemeka Ike; South African poet Dennis Brutus; Kenyan-born Ali Mazrui; Jamaican Michael Thelwell; and African-Americans Gloria (Brewster Place) Naylor and Pulitzer novelist Toni Morrison.

Timely topics are examined, as when Dennis Brutus takes a piercing look at the "Crisis in South African Sport," and Spelman president Johnetta Cole looks at "Global Crisis: Our Children at Risk." Other articles (a total of twenty-one in the November 1989 issue): examine various phases of whether Africa is "useful to the African-American;" look at the idea that Africa is the birthplace of civilization; speak of the French Revolution's significance for Africa; applaud the success of Ali Mazrui's BBC television "The Africans;" denounce censorship; and celebrate African literature and Black music.

African Commentary is attractively formatted, with colorful illustrations, including a spatially-proportioned map of Africa that revises "the design of ethnocentric European Map-makers."

Chairman and publisher of African Commentary is Chinua Achebe, internationally known as a
novelist, and also as critic and diplomat. His purpose is "...to ensure that Africa and the rest of the Black world step into the next century with dignity...to reclaim the rich heritage of Africa." Although this journal was not Achebe's first venture into the world of publishing, its life was apparently a short one, limited to eight issues. Perhaps there are a few criticisms that could be made (e.g. this reviewer wanted to see some discussion of Africa and the Black world's stunning diversity of art, and would have liked to have seen contributions from a larger number of widely recognized African-Americans), the journal was a significant contribution to the world of learning. The tragedy is that it was not known more. Had it been, perhaps others would learn from John Henrik Clark that Black Americans "are the only immigrants who were actually invited here." Such information would surely broaden the insights of the general public if available. One can hope that the phoenix will rise again.

--Barbara A. Hunt, Ph.D., Columbus, Mississippi


The editors have compiled an excellent source of information and ideas for campus groups interested in fighting hunger and homelessness. Included are facts about homelessness, a directory of campus and national organizations, and practical suggestions for combating homelessness. Particularly useful are the many ideas for campus programming. For example, in the chapter called "Education and Action," the author takes readers through the "process of starting a course on hunger, homelessness or poverty" on their campus.

Highly recommended for college libraries.

--Iver Matheson, Washington State University, Pullman, WA


The author was a tattoo artist in Chicago and Oakland for eighteen years. This book is partly an autobiography, in which he describes in vivid detail how he came to abandon a career as a university professor of English to become a tattoo artist. Most of the book, however, concerns the motivations of the people visiting his tattoo parlor. For example, Steward draws upon the journals that he kept for Dr. Alfred Kinsey of the Institute for Sex Research to establish a link between sexual motivations and tattoos. He concludes that as many as three quarters of all tattoos may have some sexual motivation.

Steward has written a highly enjoyable and informative account of his life as a tattoo artist. The heavy reliance on anecdotes rather than a more scholarly approach may make this book more appropriate for public than academic libraries.

--Iver Matheson, Washington State University, Pullman, WA


Health food is socially responsible. Libraries should be promoting the availability of good, clean food to all levels of society, though in the U.S. today it is mostly the affluent and well-educated who have access to (and the desire for) whole-grain foods. Although The Bread Book is designed for those who have the motivation, time, and resources to bake their own bread from "seed to loaf," still it is an excellent source for those with limited time and resources.

Leonard's main ideas are: grow grains (preferably old varieties) organically;
grind the grain in a way so as to maximize nutrient retention; use natural leavening (not commercial yeast) to prepare the dough; and bake the loaves in a retained-heat oven (usually brick). Easy-to-follow instructions for each of these steps are included (including how to build your own brick oven). Leonard’s method of making leavening is quite a departure from the usual sourdough starter, but it may suit some hard-core natural bakers. Several good recipes are included as well.

Even readers who have no desire to dirty their fingernails with either soil or bread dough will find this book interesting. The Bread Book, will make you more aware of the discrepancy between really tasty, nutritious bread and the "balloon bread" accepted by most Americans as the standard.

--Chris Sokol, WLN Bibliographic Information Services.