FROM THE COORDINATOR

The March issue of American Libraries had a great cover! When Karen Whittlesey-First called me and told me that ALA had asked her if they could use the photo, all I could think about was, "They must really have a masochistic streak after the grief over last summer's issue with the gay rights parade on the cover." But it is wonderful - and it was just reprised in Library Notes here at Harvard, where Karen and I both work.

I took action upon a suggestion that I made to all of you in an earlier column. I spoke at the library schools at both the University of Rhode Island and Simmons College. The title of my talk was "ALA, SRRT, and You." Judging from the reactions, I think it went over fairly well in both places. I handed out SRRT flyers and copies of the March newsletter. I again encourage other members to go to library schools near their homes to make similar pitches for the Association and the Round Table.

I got a request for some personal views on proposals on cost-savings from the Committee on Program Evaluation and Support (COPES).

I responded to most of them as an individual, as requested. But on one, I responded as the SRRT Coordinator and as an individual. COPES is proposing that the publication of the twice yearly record of Council votes in American Libraries cease. These records show how each Councilor has voted on each issue. I said that I felt sure that SRRT would be upset if Council votes were secret with no public accountability. I ask you each to contact your state councilor, any relevant chapter councilors, and any at-large councilors you know to encourage them to vote against such a proposal.

See you in New Orleans.

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., SRRT Action Council Coordinator

ISRAELI CENSORSHIP ISSUE IN NEW ORLEANS

As reported here in previous issues, SRRT's International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF) has for some time fought for aggressive action by ALA in speaking out against censorship by the Israeli government, both within Israel and within the Occupied Territories. After the International Relations Committee (IRC) first ignored the issue and later brought forth a watered down resolution concerning censorship in the whole of the Middle East, the IHRTF sponsored a resolution which was
passed first by SRRT's own Action Council, then by the ALA membership at a membership meeting in San Francisco last summer, and finally, in a slightly revised version, by ALA Council. The final resolution called upon the Government of Israel to end censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank, Gaza, and in Israel itself, and directed the IRC to develop a means by which support could be directed toward librarians, journalists, educators and others working for peace, human rights, and freedom of information and expression in Israel and the Occupied Territories.

Despite a clear mandate and a direct charge, the IRC took no action based on this resolution, and instead, in a bizarre turn of events, came back to Council in Denver with a recommendation for the virtual reversal of the San Francisco resolution and for further study by the IRC. Despite the faulty reasoning offered for this and some outright inaccuracies about the IRC’s lack of opportunity to have input on the Israeli Censorship issue, ALA Council - which had overwhelmingly passed the San Francisco resolution - agreed to what certainly appears to be the delaying tactics of the IRC. There are a variety of conclusions which could be drawn from the actions and inactions of ALA Council and the IRC, but it certainly appears that there has been a concerted effort on someone’s part to emasculate the San Francisco resolution.

The new SRRT Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries (ICPL) is calling on all members of SRRT - and of ALA and the library community - to stand against these attempts to rescind or otherwise tamper with the resolution on Israeli censorship as it was passed by ALA Council in San Francisco. Letters, faxes, and other messages to that effect should be sent to the Executive Director, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago IL 60611; telephone: (800) 545-2433; FAX: (312) 440-9374. Copies of letters and faxes should be sent to the ICPL Chair, David Williams, Chicago Public Library, 400 S. State St., Chicago IL 60605; telephone: (312) 747-4629; FAX: (312) 747-4646.

**ELECTION NOTES**

In the best of organizations, things get screwed up. Somehow things got screwed up in SRRT as well. There are currently eleven at-large members of Action Council. Three (Garnes, Greenholz, Rosenzweig) finish their terms in New Orleans, four (Botto, Gilchrist, Harrington, Murden) have terms ending in 1994, and four (Granger, Kagan, Ray, Tobin) leave office in 1995. According to SRRT’s by-laws, there should only be ten at-large members.

In order to fix this, only two members will be elected to Action Council this year for terms ending in 1996. Next spring, there will be an election for four members, three of whom will have terms ending in 1997 and one of whom will be elected for a two year term ending in 1996. Those with the three highest vote totals will get the full terms; the fourth vote-getter will get the shortened term.

For the ALA Council election, ALA managed to publish an incomplete slate in the December issue of *American Libraries*. As a result, SRRT (and other ALA groups) developed inaccurate lists of members running for ALA Council. These incomplete lists appeared in the last issue of the *SRRT Newsletter* and on the postcard the Membership Coordinator produced and mailed. These oversights were discovered after the ballots had been mailed from Chicago. SRRT apologizes to those members whose names were omitted from the SRRT lists. (A word to the wise for people running for ALA Council in the future, don’t rely on ALA Headquarters to be accurate and to get the word out to divisions and round tables). If you are a SRRT member and are running, either on the nominated slate or as a petition candidate, make sure the *SRRT Newsletter* Editor and the SRRT Membership Coordinator know.
TASK FORCE REPORTS AND PREVIEWS OF NEW ORLEANS MEETINGS

**Alternatives in Print**

A wide variety of Louisiana's small and alternative publishers will be brought together for an event to take place during ALA's annual conference in New Orleans on Friday, June 25, 6:00-10:00 PM. The location will appear in the final conference program.

"Food for Thought: A Free Speech Buffet" will offer exposure to the political, literary, artistic, and unconventional voices of Louisiana's alternative publishing community. Publishers as well as writers for the alternative presses will attend, offering exhibits and free samples of their publications. An "open mike" will provide an opportunity for librarians and publishers to speak about their work and issues of shared concern among participants. A cash bar will be available during the event.

The "Food for Thought" event is sponsored by the Alternatives in Print Task Force. Encouraging and broadening access to alternative publications is a primary focus of the Task Force. This year's event is "back by popular demand" following a similar successful program in San Francisco.

**Civil Rights**

The video on minority recruitment (an activity initiated by the President's Committee on Cultural Diversity) will be in its final, or almost final form, by the time of the New Orleans conference. SRRT Action Council members will have an opportunity to view it. The producer, John Ayala, reports that he received about twenty "feedback" letters suggesting revisions in the script, and many additional recommendations reached him and his committee. He thanks all these helpful and concerned respondents.

The "Civil Rights Action Kit" will include an essay on the professional education of librarians to be contributed by William Welburn, Diversity Librarian and African-American Studies professor at the University of Iowa. This will be an important addition to the other essays, fact sheets, and bibliographic materials that constitute the kit. There is a big difference between what front-line librarians need to know about cultural diversity and civil rights and what information they actually receive during their professional training. Welburn will explore the causes behind this gap, using his perspectives as a librarian and as a professor of African-American culture.

**Gay and Lesbian**

As you will read elsewhere in this issue (see inset on page 4), Karen Whittlesey-First has accepted a position as Deputy Executive Director of the Association of Library Collections and Technical Services (ALCTS) of ALA. Congratulations to Karen! The bad news for the task force is that Karen will have to resign all of her committee assignments as an ALA member, including her position as Female Co-Chair of the GLTF. Nominations will be accepted to fill this position at any of the GLTF meetings during the New Orleans conference, with an appointment being made at the final Steering Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 29. Anyone wishing to nominate someone - including themselves - should contact Roland Hansen or Karen Whittlesey-First as soon as possible.

Karen has done a wonderful job as Co-Chair. Her organization of meetings and the rally at Midwinter were terrific, and then to land on the cover of American Libraries as well! Her work with the Task Force strengthened it and increased its visibility within ALA in a very positive way. We will all miss her!

The Task Force moved most of its meetings away from Saturday, June 26, because New Orleans celebrates Gay Pride Day on that day. Activities begin in Washington Park at 10:00 AM, and the parade begins at Noon.
Planning for the GLTF social and Dutch treat dinner are still underway as of the newsletter deadline, so watch for news and announcements on listservs and in other media. Final plans should appear in the GLTF Newsletter in June, and flyers will be available at the OLOS table in the ALA Offices in New Orleans. The social is scheduled for Saturday, June 26, at 6:00 PM at The Mint, 504 Esplanade, on the patio.

The first meeting of the Bisexuality Discussion Group is scheduled for Friday, June 25, 4:30-5:30 PM.

**Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries**

The Task Force is the focal point of activity within SRRT to seek ALA action on the resolution passed in San Francisco (see page 1), and invites all who support the consistent application of Article 19 of the U.N. Universal Declaration of Human Rights on freedom of information and expression worldwide to be present and participate in the debate on the San Francisco resolution, most likely to take place at the ALA Membership meeting on Monday, June 28. The Task Force program, "Israeli Censorship, There and Here," will take place on Sunday, June 27, 8:00-10:00 PM. Final information on the location and speakers will appear in the final conference program.

**GOOD NEWS/BAD NEWS**

Effective immediately, I have resigned as co-chair of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Beginning June 21, I will be working at ALA headquarters as Deputy Executive Director for the Association for Library Collections & Technical Services (ALCTS). There I will have responsibility for planning ALCTS programs and projects, a job I look forward to very much. There will be other aspects to my work, of course, and I know I will be a very busy person, but not too busy to want to hear from you as you move along in your career and lives.

The task force has been a source of enormous pleasure to me. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to take some leadership as we begin, gay, and bisexual librarians came together to celebrate and to anguish over events and decisions which affect our lives. The people on the task force, its members, you are a group of caring, passionate, involved, and really interesting folks. It has been wonderful being a part of your lives professionally and socially. Thank you all for welcoming me.

In my new position I will attend ALA midwinter and annual conferences. And I will read about GLTF and SRRT activities, events, controversies, and celebrations. Please know that you will be in my thoughts as I begin a new chapter of my life. The new chapter also includes a slight name change which I think will make things easier. I am dropping "First" from my name and will now be known as Karen L. Whittlesey.

Thank you all for a wonderful year.

—Karen L. Whittlesey, Former Female Co-Chair, Gay and Lesbian Task Force

**Peace Information Exchange**

"Central America into the Next Millennium: Prospects for Peace," is the title of the Task Force program in New Orleans, and will take place on Sunday, June 27, 9:30-11:00 AM. The speakers, Michael Powelson and Diego Savalag, are both scholars whose research interests include Central America. Thanks go to Rebecca R. Malek-Wiley of Tulane University Libraries for putting the program together.

The Fourth SIRS/SRRT Peace Award will be presented in New Orleans at the beginning of the program to the library program at The Lion and The Lamb Peace Arts Center of Bluffton, Ohio. Congratulations to them. Thanks go to this year's award jury.

**ACRL PROGRAM TO LOOK AT THE NEW EUROPE**

ACRL's Western European Specialists Section and Slavic and East European Section are jointly sponsoring the program "Europe East and West: New Resources for North American Libraries" at the ALA Conference in New Orleans. The program will take place on Monday, June 28, 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM. Refreshments will be served.

The documentation of recent events in Europe (the dissolution of the Soviet bloc and the rise of independent states, German unification, European Community integration efforts) represent (con't on p. 6)
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opportunities and challenges for North American collections. Speakers on the panel will focus on the areas of Eastern Europe, Western Europe, and a special collection on Germans from Russia, suggesting modes of access to information from previously inaccessible archives, microforms, books, databases, and other sources in a dynamic era.

Speakers include Edward Kasinec (New York Public Library), Sem Sutter (University of Chicago), Michael Miller (North Dakota State University), and Norman Ross (Norman Ross Publishing).

--Craig Likness, Trinity University

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL/SRRT JOINT PROGRAM: A CONVENIENT WAY TO HELP OUR COLLEAGUES

On May 25, 1992, Patrick Morisseau, a teacher, was beaten by Haitian security forces and arrested. It is believed that Morisseau was taken by these government agents because of his involvement with a political group which backed the ousted president Jean Bertrand Aristide. Amnesty International was contacted and investigated the case. On June 2 an urgent action was released by Amnesty and sent to individuals all over the world. Their job was to write, fax, or send telegrams to the government of Haiti and request information on his arrest and what charges were brought against him. They also asked that his safety be guaranteed while he was being detained. Eight days later he was released.

This is an example of what Amnesty International does every day. Amnesty works on behalf of prisoners of conscience. These are people who are persecuted by their governments for the non-violent expression of their beliefs, for their religion, their ethnicity, their sexual preferences, etc. Amnesty also works for fair trials for political prisoners and to end all torture and executions.

SRRT's International Human Rights Task Force (IHRTF) has been sponsoring a program whereby ALA members receive information about people who are in fields related to librarianship and whose human rights are being violated by their governments. A new pre-paid, automatic program, focusing on educators, now allows an ALA member to have a telegram, fax, telex, or LT cable sent each month to a government official in her/his own name. These messages are among the first that a government receives after it has arrested, tortured, or killed someone. This is called the Urgent Action FIRST APPEAL Pledge Program (FAPP). Full information is sent to FAPP members for further letter writing and other follow-up if desired. Participants can be billed for six months or a year at a time. Now we can help educators all over the world by pledging funds to this rapid response program.

If you would prefer to write letters, you can receive the written urgent action in the mail. These may be on behalf of educators, writers, or journalists, and the cost to you is the price of an overseas stamp.

Activities like this helped gain the release of over 1,600 prisoners of conscience in 1991. This type of program really works. It saves lives, it stops torture, and it frees people. Every letter, every telegram, every fax is crucial to the victims and their families. Governments must not be allowed to violate basic human rights without being held accountable for their actions.

If you have questions about Amnesty or would like to receive an urgent action in the mail to write each month, please contact: Cheryl Martin, 3237 1/2 Rosedale Ave., Dallas TX 75205; telephone: (214) 361-0580(h) or (214) 768-1209(w); FAX: (214) 521-3733; e-mail: aitexas@igc.apc.org . For more information about FAPP, contact either Cheryl Martin or SRRT/IHRTF member Al Kagan, African Studies Bibliographer, 328 Library, University of Illinois, 1408 W. Gregory Dr., Urbana IL 61801; telephone: (217) 333-6519; FAX (217) 244-0398; e-mail: kagan@vmd.cso.uiuc.edu .

--Cheryl Martin, Dallas TX

SRRT Newsletter

June 1993
FINDING SEX IN THE LIBRARY: NEW PETITION SEeks TO MAKE IT EASIER

Although it would seem like just plain common sense to make sex-related topics easy to identify, particularly since many library users simply won’t approach librarians for help in locating books, tapes, films, and pamphlets on “sensitive” subjects, current cataloging practice -- as largely dictated by the Library of Congress (LC) -- doesn’t help much. So the Cataloging Consumers Network (CCN), convinced that sex education and unabashedly erotic materials alike deserve to be found quickly and painlessly in this time of raging controversy over abortion, AIDS, homosexuality, pornography, birth control, and transgender issues, today announced another petition urging LC to effect immediate cataloging reforms.

Specifically, CCN asks LC to dump one heading -- LITERATURE, IMMORAL -- which is both biased and unnecessary (for a detailed critique, see McFarland’s 1993-reissue of Sanford Berman’s Prejudices and Antipathies, p. 158-61). The Network also suggests substituting the more familiar terms, SEX EDUCATION, WET DREAMS, and SEXUAL FREEDOM, for the current, less commonly used forms, SEX INSTRUCTION, NOCTURNAL EMISSION, and FREE LOVE. Echoing demands on a previous petition relating to literary works, the new one recommends that LC assign "appropriate topical and genre headings" to individual works of sex-related fiction, poetry, and drama, which would result, for instance, in Nicholson Baker’s 1992 novel, Vox, being findable under TELEPHONE SEX-FICTION, and EROTIC FICTION, AMERICAN (in most LC-following catalogs, it’s now accessible solely under author and title).

Lastly, CCN calls for the swift creation and application of nearly fifty descriptors not yet in the LC thesaurus, ranging from ADULT BOOKSTORES and AIDS ACTIVISTS to TOPLESS BARS and VIOLENCE AGAINST PROSTITUTES. (Every suggested heading has already been established and used at Hennepin County Library in Minnesota.)

For more information or to secure petitions (which may be signed by any interested person, not just librarians), contact: Sanford Berman, Convener, Cataloging Consumers Network, 4400 Morningside Road, Edina MN 55416.

--Sandy Berman, Hennepin County Library

1993 GAY AND LESBIAN BOOK AWARDS

This year’s ALA’s Gay and Lesbian Book Awards will go to Ceremonies: Prose and Poetry (Plume) by Essex Hemphill and to Making History: The Struggle for Gay and Lesbian Equal Rights, 1945-1990 (HarperCollins), edited by Eric Marcus. These two books were chosen from a list of five finalists for literature and six for non-fiction. The awards will be made at the ALA conference in New Orleans at a presentation ceremony on Sunday, June 27, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (see the final conference program for location).

Other finalists for the 1993 award, all of which were among the best of 1992, included:

**Literature**

Almost History, by Christopher Bram. (Donald I Fine).


Written on the Body, by Jeannette Winterson. (Jonathan Cape).

**Non-Fiction**

Becoming a Man: Half a Life Story, by Paul Monette. (Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich).

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Earth House, by Jeanne DuPrau. (New Chapter Press).

A Member of the Family: Gay Men Write About Their Families, edited by John Preston. (Dutton).


The Gay and Lesbian Book Award Committee welcomes nominations for next year's awards (books published in 1993). Information, along with a brief statement (about a half page) should be sent by December 31, 1993, to Ellen Greenblatt, Central Technical Services, Lockwood Library Building, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo NY 14260-2200; Internet: ulcreg@ubvm.cc.buffalo.edu.

MCDONALD'S REVISITED

Certainly all SRRT members have signed up to participate in the national campaign to Adopt-A-McDonald’s. The campaign, undertaken by Beyond Beef, was active during April and May, and had as its main purpose to educate the American people who have been patronizing the fast food chain on what they have been eating all these years. Coming on SRRT’s resolution and contretemps with ALA Council (see SRRT Newsletter, #107, March 1993), the colorful brochures are an interesting contrast with the McDonald’s/ALA “Together is Better” program.

If you happened to miss John Berry's editorial column in the February 15, 1993, Library Journal, run out and get it. And if it doesn’t violate copyright, perhaps you could photocopy it and send it off to your state chapter councilor, or your favorite at large councilor, or perhaps the president of the Association for Library Services to Children.

FROM THE EDITOR'S INBOX

* From Cleis Press, a Spring 1993 brochure featuring Madonnarama: Essays on Sex & Popular Culture, edited by Lisa Frank and Paul Smith, A Forbidden Passion, by Cristina Peri Rossi, translated by Mary Jane Treacy, In the Garden of Dead Cars, by Sybil Claiborne, and Only Lawyers Dancing, by Jan McKemmish. For more information, contact Cleis Press, P.O. Box 8933, Pittsburgh PA 15221; telephone (412) 937-1555.

* Since 1990, the new series of People's Culture has appeared every two months. Its advertising claims that it has “a perspective on the great tradition of Midwestern radical and progressive thought and life.” Issues feature news and notes concerning conferences, cultural events, book reviews, historical and travel articles, graphics, and essays on theory, strategy, etc. Some issues appear as theme issues on such topics as Latin American literature, British labour literature, and decelebrating Columbus. Sample issues are available for $2.00. An annual subscription is $15.00. For additional information, contact Fred Whitehead, Editor, People's Culture, Box 5224, Kansas City KS 66119.

* Nukewatch announces a move of their office and a new telephone number. The publisher of Nukewatch PATHFINDER, maintains an address at P.O. Box 2658, Madison WI 53701, but their new phone number is (608) 767-3023.

* Carl Jensen, the founder of Project Censored and for seventeen years its director, has authored Censored: The News That Didn’t Make the News - and Why. Jensen examines the larger picture of corporate media control, its historical precedents and the implications of self-censorship in a free society. The book is priced at $12.95, and is available from Shelburne Press, P.O. Box 2468, Chapel Hill NC 27515. For more information, contact Diane Lennox at (919) 942-0220; email: dlennox@aol.com.
* The Trejo Foster Foundation for Hispanic Library Education (TFF) and the University of Arizona will co-host a three day National Institute, July 29-31, 1993, to discuss issues concerning Hispanic library education in the U.S. It will provide a unique opportunity for participants from across the country to discuss issues and possible solutions for the improvement of library education and information services pertaining to Hispanics. For more information, contact the National Institute for Hispanic Library Education, P.O. Box 6021, Tucson AZ 85703-2021.

* Hispanic Books Distributors, Inc. announces the publication of two new works. Quien Es Quien: A Who's Who of Spanish-Speaking Librarians in the United States is in progress and expected for publication this year. Technical Dictionary of Library and Information Science; Diccionario Tecnico de Biblioteconomia y Ciencias de la Informacion, by Marta Stiefel Ayala, Reynaldo Ayala, and Jesus Lau, is a comprehensive bilingual dictionary of terminology related to librarianship, computing, media, audiovisuals, etc. The price of the dictionary is $100, plus shipping and handling. For more information, contact the publisher at 1665 West Grant Road, Tucson AZ 85745; telephone: (800) 634-2124.

* Books to Build a New Society, is the title of New Society Publishers' Spring/Summer 1993 trade catalog. New Society Publishers is a not-for-profit, worker-controlled publishing house, dedicated to promoting fundamental social change through nonviolent action. For a copy of the their current listings, contact them at 4527 Springfield Ave., Philadelphia PA 19143; telephone: (215) 382-6543.

* A bit late for April 15, but better late than never: Nolo Press has published Stand Up To the IRS, by Fred Daily, a tax attorney with over twenty years experience. For more information, contact Nolo Press, 950 Parker Street, Berkeley CA 94710; telephone: (510) 549-1976.

* Third World Resources, is published quarterly to alert concerned educators and activists to new resources related to Third World regions and issues. Third World Resources maintains a documentation clearinghouse and computer accessible databank on related organizations, books, periodicals, pamphlets, audiovisuals, and other education/action resources. In addition to Third World Resources, a nine volume set of paperback resource directories on Third World regions and issues is also available. Third World Resources is a project of the DataCenter. For subscription information, contact Third World Resources, 464 19th St., Oakland CA 94612-2297.

* The NAACP Henry Lee Moon Library and National Civil Rights Archives is located at 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore MD 21215, on the first floor of the NAACP National Headquarters. It is "a national information center that highlights the legacy of the NAACP and its struggle for civil and human rights." A brochure on the library is available, and the Library publishes the NAACP Library News, a newsletter on the activities and resources of the library itself.

* The first volume of the Gay/Lesbian Periodicals Index has been published by Integrity Indexing, P.O. Box 33094, Charlotte NC 28233-3094. It contains close to 33,000 entries, and is available only in microfiche format at $40.00 plus shipping.

* The first book to be published by Gemma B. Publishing Inc. is Can't You Be Still, a book in which the heroine is a little girl with cerebral palsy. The book was written by Sarah Yates, whose daughter has cerebral palsy, to whom the book is dedicated. Gemma B. Publishing is located at Box 713-740 Corydon Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3M 0Y1.

* Muckraker is a quarterly publication of the Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR), and is dedicated to "in-depth reporting on the individuals and institutions that shape our lives." The Spring 1993 issue contains articles on the alcohol and birth defects, Nellie Bly (Elizabeth Cochrane), and mortgage lending, as well as a pull-out reprint section. CIR is located at 568 Howard St. - Fifth Floor, San Francisco CA 94105-3008.

This work makes its timely appearance as the glow of the "triumph of capitalism over communism" fades, and the realization sets in that universal peace and economic prosperity are not at hand. The author, currently the President of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, has worked in India's villages and organized for nuclear disarmament in the U.S. The interest in this work will be mainly for those with a little background in economics and political science.

The first and most powerful section of this book is its indictment of capitalism as a system that has to be judged globally, by the impoverishment and repression of Third World countries as well as the relative, though declining, democracy and prosperity of the U.S. and Western Europe. A number of interesting tables and examples are used to illustrate this point. Makhijani also treats the problems of centralized socialism which contributed to its downfall.

The work's second half is devoted to defining a vision of an "economic justice and peace system" through the restructuring of the capitalist economy to become decentralized, flexible, equitable, and democratically controlled. This seems to be a mighty leap from what is described in the first half, but the author sees a common ground between the equitable distribution of wealth and the maintenance of private property and individual incentive. One is left with the sense of "these proposals sound interesting, but how do we get there from here?"

The writing style is more scholarly than popular. Bibliographic references are in footnote form. There is no index. Despite its drawbacks, this book deserves a place in academic and large public libraries as a contribution to the debate over how to achieve economic justice.

--Peggy Elwell, San Jose Public Library, San Jose CA.


This is a festschrift for a Black American librarian who has fought all of his adult life to improve access to libraries, to educate the public through culturally diverse public library collections, and to instill a sense of hope in young Black. Surprisingly, he was able to rise to the presidency of the American Library Association (1984). This was in spite of his activism to update subject headings (from "Negro" to "Black" or "African-American"). He used library classes as forums of discussion (inviting authors to appear in classes) and as platforms to plea that his students study the communities into which they moved and to educate those people by providing library books on as many ethnic groups as possible. He never ceased pushing young Blacks to succeed and to come as close to perfection as possible in the library world.

Josey fought as a civil rights activist. Blocked from membership in the Georgia Library Association, he nevertheless continued his work in the NAACP and in the formation and meetings of ALA's Black Caucus. He forced ALA to accept responsibility in social issues and to make all states free of racial prejudice in their ALA chapters. He viewed racism in libraries as indicative of society's acceptance of racist viewpoints, and he thus
fought racism in its bureaucratic and its social guises. The word "fought" cannot be stressed too much, since he was a warrior whenever confronted with segregation and ignorance.

The book concludes with an extensive chronological list of works by and about Josey, and it is followed by an index. This is a good book to place in library schools, public libraries, and even school libraries. Josey is a remarkable man, and the essayists reflect a unanimous appreciation of his work. He is a hero in a field which otherwise might not be known for its social concerns. Recommended.

--Sharon Mulak, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Madison WI.


The editors of The New Labor Press brought together a good bunch of sharp, knowing essays on the state of labor journalism in the U.S. The New Labor Press is a wake-up call, a call to action for union writers and editors. The authors, hardly unaware of labor’s waning influence, or labor newspapers’ ho-hum history, see the union press as a vital link to a rejuvenated movement.

The essays cover such topics as reforming staid publications, reporting on racism, labor cartoons and photos, and women in union publications. Several exemplary publications are highlighted: United Mine Workers Journal, the Autoworkers' Solidarity, Racine Labor, and the Mill Hunk Herald. (The odyssey of Mill Hunk Larry Evans vies with the dozen pages of labor cartoons for the most entertaining.) The volume concludes with a point counter-point dialogue on the need for a national labor press.

One might expect a book with this title, and indeed with this subject, to test one’s attention span. It doesn’t. The presentations are lively, practical and thought-provoking. Its appeal will go beyond those directly involved in the labor press, but unfortunately not much beyond those already interested in the labor movement.

--Rob Lerman, Woburn Public Library, Woburn MA.


Little needs to be said regarding the value of fiction and poetry in presenting sensitive, controversial matters to young readers. AIDS awareness, among other topics, has benefitted from a number of such works. These are even more valuable when they contain strong plots and interesting characters.

Unfortunately, Clayton Bess’s The Mayday Rampage falls short on characterization, though its heart and intentions are noble. Through the story of Molly and Jess, Bess presents the hard facts regarding HIV transmission and its effects on individuals, their community, and society at large. It stumbles, however, when it fails to present characters that enhance a familiar plot: idealistic young people in conflict with their elders.

Jess and Molly write a series of articles on AIDS for their school newspaper. Molly also presents AIDS information through an advice column. Predictably, the articles lead to conflict with the school administration and townspeople, who force the couple to apologize for their actions. They publish an underground newspaper to continue their writings, which leads to Jess’s expulsion after a fight with his principal and the firing of a gay teacher. Through all of this, Jess and Molly become lovers. However, Molly learns that she was infected with HIV through sex with a friend of Jess. The book closes with a brief account of the couple’s life after high school; Molly is slowly dying, but Jess remains by her side.
There is heart and soul to this book, but it is diminished by the style Bess chooses to tell the story. The text of an audio recording made by Molly and Jess presents events solely from their perspective. While this can be an effective technique, in this case it retards the development of the work's characters. It produces instead single dimensional characters: the "good" lovers and their supporters versus "bad" administrators and religious fanatics. Perhaps a conventional narrative would have allowed the development of whole characters who fully express the fire and passion Bess wanted.

This is not to deny the book's strengths, especially its frank discussion of sex and sexuality. The blunt language will offend some, but it is impossible to discuss sex and AIDS without it. Some adult books on the topic should be so straightforward.

In the end, The Mayday Rampage is a competent though flawed effort. The open minded reader, young and old, may benefit from and love the story. It disappoints, though, because it could have been much more.

--Stephen L. Hupp, Capital University, Columbus OH.

**WOMEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY, A special issue of the REVIEW OF RADICAL POLITICAL ECONOMICS 23 (3/4) Fall and Winter 1991. Riverside CA: Dept. of Economics, Univ. of Cal. 346p. $40 individuals, $70 institutions.**

This collection circles the globe in the scope and authorship of its fourteen articles, two review articles and thirteen book reviews. Editors Radhika Balakrishnan and Laurie Nisonoff ask, "what is the impact of gender on men's and women's work, lives, and representations." While this question expresses a widespread concern and the included topics are not exclusive to the educated elite, the language and layout is aimed at an academic audience. Its small print, minimal graphics and tightly packed text underscore this focus. For researchers, however, the issue is a gem, since each article provides extensive, up-to-date references.

Topics for articles include the naturalization of sex and women's work in development; women's responses to structural adjustment policies; guidelines to the study of rural third world households; dynamics of changes and women's resistance in Malaysia; tradition and transition in Bali; "Market Orientation and the Reconstruction of Women's Role in Philippine Agriculture;" peasant migration in the Peruvian Andes; problems in the analysis of African agricultural households; peasant patriarchy in Vietnam; women and modernization in Iran and Afghanistan; wage inequality and labor intensive production in thirty-three U.S. manufacturing industries; and an interpretation of sexual division of labor and social control. A photo essay of "Women in the South Asian Economy" rounds out the issue.

In the review articles, Ann Ferguson compares Joan Cocks' *The Oppositional Imagination* and Nancy Fraser's *Unruly Practices*; Nancy Breen examines Nancy Cott's *The Origins of Modern American Feminism* and Susan Lehrer's *Origins of Protective Labor Legislation for Women 1905-1925*.

The 13 book reviews run close to the 1,000 word cap, and critique such works as Hartmann's *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs* and Waring's *If Women Counted*. A lengthy list of books received and available for review completes the volume.

--Erika Steffer, Toronto, Ontatio, Canada.

**THE ELDERLY IN AMERICA: A BIBLIOGRAPHY, compiled by Joan Nordquist. Number 23 Contemporary Social Issues - A Bibliographic Series. Santa Cruz CA: Reference and Research Services. $15.00 pbk. 64p. 511 Lincoln Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060.**

If "bibliography" is defined simply as an organized list of materials, then Joan Nordquist's *The Elderly in America* fits the description. If, on the other hand, one reserves the term bibliography for those publications that supply an intellectual framework for evaluating the literature of a subject area, through careful annotation and detailed
indexing, Ms. Nordquist's work falls short. This list includes 500 books, documents and pamphlets (no journal articles) arranged in fourteen main sections including designations such as "Long Term Care of the Elderly," "Nursing Home Care," "Elder Abuse," "Elderly Minorities," and "Law and the Elderly."

In each section books and pamphlets are organized alphabetically by author in a crowded, single spaced format. The coverage for the subject is sufficiently up to date, with many imprints from 1989 and 1990. Along with trade books there is a liberal sprinkling of United State federal documents. In a seven page "resource" section in the back, the compiler has provided lists of appropriate bibliographies, directories and national organizations concerned with the elderly.

The lack of an index is a serious flaw in any bibliography. In a work such as this, with some 500 entries, the lack is a tragedy. Users will simply not be able to locate specific topics working from a one page table of contents. Finally, the compiler has failed to provide users with any annotations. It is impossible to tell, for example, if a book is slanted to the needs of a lay reader or a specialist and for that matter what point of view is taken by a particular author. Because of a lack of indexing and annotation this list will only be useful for those already well informed in the field and cannot be recommended for general purchase.

--Donald C. Dickinson, School of Library Science, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ.

This is the unmistakable life story of a kid who turned his life around, transformed his body and his mind, and then as a gay man, enjoyed his new narcissistic outlook on life, action, and sex.

In many ways, this autobiography lives up to all of the promotional blurbs used to sell this book. If you are familiar with the old television show Green Acres, then you could see the comparison between James Melson and Lisa Douglas when she sings, "just give me Park Avenue". But instead of having neighbors like Arnold the Pig, Melson's buddies are more akin to the characters from Larry Kramer's 1978 novel, Faggots.

Interesting reading about transforming one's life, and facing consequences, but Melson is not the type of role model that Phyllis Schlafly is likely to approve of!

--Gary Klein, University of Toledo, Toledo OH.

This book combines the contributions of 25 men and women who have each participated in and written about a growing trend sometimes referred to as "leathersex" or "radical sexuality".

This anthology brings together individual perspectives on a radical sexuality that is often treated as a dark and socially taboo subculture (sadomasochism is generally viewed as being even more unspeakable than sex itself. The contributors bring the subject out of the closet, by virtue of their personal approaches and first hand accounts, touching on the psychological, sociological, political, anthropological, biological, historical, cultural, and spiritual aspects of a variety of radical/leather sex.

The language and first hand experiences discussed in this book are very frank, and are aimed at the open minded adult reader who is not squeamish about sex. The intended audience is people who either work with clients...
regarding sexuality or radical spirituality, or adults who are interested in learning more about spiritual forms of sexuality. But this is definitely neither a primer nor a "How To" book on sadomasochism.

At first glance, self-appointed censors might have a field day with this book. The authors discuss their own personal mindsets, after having experienced the intertwining of sexuality with spirituality, a taboo subject for some, but perfectly legal, safe, pleasurable, and mind expanding for others.

--Gary Klein, University of Toledo, Toledo OH.


The red aborigines,
leaving natural breaths, sounds of rain and winds, calls as of birds and animals in the woods . . .
. . . they melt, they depart, charging
the water and the land with names.

--Walt Whitman 1860

In the second half of the nineteenth century, the period when museums and institutions established their great ethnological collections, the widespread belief that the last remnants of an American Indian "golden age" located somewhere in a remote past and now rapidly disappearing, drove art collectors, dealers, museum curators, and anthropologists to record and collect the artifacts of what was to them not only a dying culture but a dying race. The collection of essays, written by anthropologists and art historians, examines the complicated patterns of "understanding and misunderstanding, appropriation and reappropriation" that resulted from this and many other misconceptions derived from ignorance, solipsism, imagination or fear.

Each of the valuable essays explores an aspect of the development of Native American art history as a discipline. In an essay entitled "Franz Boas, John Swanton, and the New Haida Sculpture at the American Museum of Natural History", Aldona Jonaitis suggests that "... the most sensitive and progressive of whites, despite their conscious intentions to celebrate Indian art and promote the equality of all races, nevertheless ended up contributing to the design of an invented culture and reinforcing a process ... that had less to do with Native Americans than with communicating the power, authority and dominance of the elite class . . . ." Against this viewpoint W. Jackson Rushing's essay, "Marketing the Affinity of the Primitive and the Modern" traces the impact of an important exhibit hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in 1941, which "had a profound and immediate impact on the development of avant-garde art in New York", and appropriated a folk or "primitive" culture for a nation in need of a non-European (the old world was crumbling) identity. In another essay, Marvin Cohodas looks at the complicated and illuminating relationship of the Washoe basketweaving artist, Louisa Keyser, to the Nevada curio shop owners, Amy and Abe Cohn, who were responsible for commissioning and distributing her works.

The well produced photographs, appealing type, and attractive layout contribute to the overall excellence of the book's contents. Each essay is well documented with extensive footnotes and detailed bibliographies, and a useful general index follows the text. While scholarly in content, the majority of the articles are not dry in tone. Standing alone or taken together, the material in The Early Years of Native American Art History sketches the preliminary lines of an unfolding history, chronicling the many blindnesses and insights attending the scholarship and collection of Native American culture. It is not surprising that an intricate web of sympathy, romance, exploitation, co-aptation, degradation, generalization, and identifications patterns the deepest cultural attitudes towards the human beings whose home was America long before Columbus "discovered" it. Berlo and the other scholars collected in this work have grandly opened the investigation of its twining composition, for as we now know, human beings do not just melt away.

--Suellen Stringer-Hye, Texas A&M University, College Station TX.

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This excellent guide for the non-attorney describes what sexual harassment is and how to deal with it. The authors discuss the various means for handling sexual harassment, emphasizing the need for assertiveness and honesty. The first step they recommend is to make sure the harasser knows that you disapprove of his or her behavior. They also recommend using any formal complaint procedures which are available in your particular workplace. Only after these have failed should legal action be attempted. Provisions and limitations of the U.S. Civil Rights Act and each individual state's fair employment protection (FEP) laws are discussed, as well as the investigative procedures of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). Addresses and phone numbers of EEOC district offices and state FEP agency offices are listed.

A good resource for women who feel they are being or have been sexually harassed, this handbook defines clearly what is and is not legally considered harassment. "First steps to stopping harassment" suggests ways to confront the harasser and what to do if harassment does not end. It describes honestly the problems you may face in bringing a sexual harassment complaint as well as the limitations of the process. For employers and supervisors, there is a chapter on how to design sexual harassment policies and conduct training programs, complete with a sample policy, complaint form, and employee survey. Discussions on employer liability are also included.

An informative chapter on hiring and "managing" a lawyer is included, as well as a discussion of how to do your own legal research and find help from "friendly and open" librarians! The description of basic legal research tools is accurate and helpful. Included as an appendix is a list of organizations which offer legal and/or psychological help to victims of sexual harassment. I highly recommend Sexual Harassment on the Job for all libraries.

--Gwen Gregory, U. S. Courts Library, Phoenix AZ


Originating in 1982 with Jeanne Marie Col's research for a "global report on the status of women in public administration for the end of the United Nations' Decade of Women," this book compares the involvement of women in public administration in India, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Germany, Finland, and the United States.

Writing about the countries in which they were born and currently reside, the contributors to this readable, academic collaboration focus on: the number, level and career histories of female civil servants in the highest ranks of government; institutional descriptions of women in public bureaucracies; views of discrimination and equality; and barriers, obstacles and access to training and advancement. To substantiate their conclusions, they include a variety of references, and demographic, economic and governmental information.

The research design was adapted for use in each country to reflect differences in state structure and social situations, thus data and tables are not parallel. Instead, reports note "the findings which each researcher found to be most significant." Such adaptation may frustrate those who would like a more readily comparable design.

In the final report, Bayes summarizes the similarities and differences among the countries and women as evidenced in her colleagues' findings. She notes that a host of variables shapes the socialization of women in society and their advancement in public administration. However, due perhaps to the complexity of the issue and the small number of countries surveyed, "no simple correlations emerge from the data to explain . . . why women have been able to obtain positions in higher administration in some countries or why they have not."

--Erika Steffer, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
REVIEWERS WANTED

If you are interested in reviewing titles for the newsletter, please contact Steven R. Harris, Reference Department, Evans Library, Texas A&M University, College Station TX 77843-5000. Tel. (409) 845-5741.

EDITORIAL BOARD VACANCY

A three year appointment on the Editorial Board of the SRRT Newsletter will open at the end of the New Orleans conference. Persons interested in this appointment should contact the Editor.