FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hope the fall is going well for one and all.

News on the ALA restructuring proposal—after much needless delay, the Round Tables held an election to determine their two representatives on the Task Force. At the suggestion of several ALA councillors and SRRT Action Council members, I nominated Tom Wilding for one of the slots. There were about eight candidates put forward by various Round Tables. The two representatives chosen for the Task Force are Larry Romans and Ann Snoeyenbos.

The petition that ran in the last issue (and is being rerun in this issue) also ran in several other Round Table newsletters. Letters about this drive also appeared in American Libraries and Library Administration & Management. Results are trickling in. Please make this a personal priority—SRRT’s very existence is being threatened. If you really care about the Round Table, then sign it and get it signed by your colleagues. Get the completed ones to me before San Antonio.

Most other issues have been quiet over the last several months. There was one note of interest in the most recent recounting of the activities of ALA Council—a protest resolution over the human rights record of the Royal Thai government was passed. The hypocrisy of some of the Council in allowing this resolution to go through when SRRT has been regularly criticized for bringing up such issues is unbelievable. Point this out to them in San Antonio. Also hold this up to SRRT critics to show that human rights issues will be addressed by ALA even without SRRT’s actions.

On to San Antonio, where I will bore you all with stories about teaching a class entitled "World Civilization from 1500." See you there.

--Stephen Stillwell
Since few AIP members attend Midwinter, no business meeting has been scheduled. AIP coordinator Charles Willett will be at the Counterpoise booth (see below), and messages can be left there.

With the approval of Stephen Stillwell, Charles Willett has arranged a booth—tu be shared with all SRRT task forces—for the planned review journal Counterpoise, in order to market it, recruit reviewers, and promote SRRT. As an ALA unit, SRRT pays only half as much rent as commercial exhibitors do. Also, the Alternative Press Center has agreed to share the booth and the rent. The booth will be located in the official ALA row and will feature Counterpoise information, the Alternative Press Index, other publications, and materials about SRRT. If any SRRT members would like to display materials or help with staffing, please contact Charles Willett.

Note: Charles' telephone area code has changed. His new number is (352) 335-2200. This is also the number for CRICES Press.

COUNTERPOISE UPDATE

Last summer Charles Willett visited librarians, editors, booksellers, and publishers in eleven states coast to coast, planning for Counterpoise. Response was overwhelmingly positive. Everyone agreed that mainstream review journals shortchange the alternative press and that many important titles don't get identified, evaluated, or acquired.

Mattye Nelson has set up an ALA account. Make contributions (checks or money orders) payable to "ALA/SRRT/COUNTERPOISE" and send them to her at ALA, Office of Library Outreach Services.

ARCHIVING AND DOCUMENTING THE UNDERGROUND

In August, Chris Dodge attended the Second Annual Underground Press Conference, put on by Mary Kuntz Press at DePaul University in Chicago. He served on a panel of archivists and zine review publishers, "Archiving and Documenting the Underground," that suggested policies for preserving and documenting collections of zines at university, public, and private libraries.

ALTERNATIVE PUBLISHERS OF BOOKS IN NORTH AMERICA, THIRD EDITION

inclusion. The directory defines "significant" as presses that have survived five years or more, that are usually literary or politically left in outlook and philosophy, and that have as their primary focus a quality of text that is thought-provoking, if not consciously disturbing. Write: Byron Anderson, University Libraries, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Tel: (815) 753-9850. Fax: (815) 753-2003. Email: banderson@niu.edu

Copies of the second (1995) edition of APBNA are available for $12 (check or money order, including shipping) from CRISES Press, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608.

AIP PROGRAM AT 1996 NEW YORK CONFERENCE

Jim Dancy and John Chemey, the authors of "Beyond Limbaugh," which appeared in the March/April 1995 issue of Extra!, will co-chair a program at the New York conference on the topic "Watching the Right: What Librarians Need to Know." They are inviting four distinguished panelists from research centers and civil liberties organizations who will describe the current challenges the Right poses for citizens and the resources available to libraries. The panelists are being asked to prepare written texts, to be chapters in a book tentatively titled Watching the Right: a sourcebook for citizens, which McFarland & Co. plans to bring out in 1997. Other ALA units are cordially invited to co-sponsor this timely program. Please contact James P. Dancy at (608) 264-6598 or email: james.dancy@ccmail.adp.wisc.edu for more information.

WHOA SIPAPU! BON VOYAGE, NOEL!

With volume 26, no. 2, consecutive issue from no. 52, Noel Peattie is concluding Sipapu. Here is a passage from its final issue:

"Still, as one of our prisoner friends wrote to us, 'why are you stopping now, when there is more work to be done than ever?' The best answer is that the editor is sixty-two, and there are just so many years left to do his own writing, after twenty-six years of reviewing and promoting the literature of others ... and finally the world of the Internet, and suddenly Sipapu--compiled and largely written, twice a year, by a retired librarian in a lonely farmhouse--is technologically out-of-date: an ambling nag beside a spacecraft."

In addition to his "librarians' novel" Amy Rose and his poetry collection Western Skyline, both published in 1995, and a short book due in 1996, Hydra and Kraken: the lore and lure of lake monsters and sea-serpents (all from Regent Press), Noel has started a free newsletter, The Typhooner, for owners of Cape Dory Typhoon sailboats, and is co-authoring a French-English, English-French nautical dictionary.

AIP HOME PAGE

The AIP home page, at http://www.lib.lsu.edu/hum/aip.html, is currently under construction. Steve Harris welcomes your suggestions. You can contact him at: notsrh@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu

FEMINIST F

INSPIRE AN ASPIRING LIBRARIAN

The Feminist Task Force is sponsoring, for the second year, a mentorship program for women of color interested in choosing librarianship as a profession. Talented students, library employees, or library patrons will be invited to attend the 1996 ALA annual conference in New York City, and encouraged to apply for admission to an ALA-accredited MLS program. Selected nominees will receive paid registration to the conference and be
paired with a mentor who will introduce them to the profession, answer questions, and provide assistance in navigating the conference. Mentors and candidates will each receive complimentary tickets to the Feminist Author's Breakfast. Interested nominees should send a letter of application, as well as a letter of support from a librarian, to the address below by June 15, 1996. Applicants should have completed at least the junior year of college by the time of the conference. Professional librarians are also needed as mentors. Mentees may accompany mentors on their regular conference schedule or an individualized schedule can be collaboratively designed. The mentor should also be free after conference to answer questions about graduate library programs, scholarships, specialty areas, etc.

Contact: Debra Gilchrist (phone: 206/964-6553)  
Pierce College Library  
9401 Farwest Drive SW  
Tacoma, WA 98498

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL

MIDWINTER SCHEDULE

Below is the schedule of our meetings and events at Midwinter. Specific locations were not available at press time; check the Conference Program, contact one of the co-chairs, or read GAY-LIBN [listserv] as the date approaches.

Friday, Jan. 19, 8-10 pm  
Steering Committee

Saturday, Jan. 20, 2-5:30 pm  
Book Awards Committee (closed meeting)

Saturday, Jan. 20, 6-8 pm  
GLBTF Social Hour (TBA!)

Sunday, Jan. 21, 9:30 am-12:30 pm  
Program Planning Committee

Sunday, Jan. 21, 4:30-5:30 pm  
Read-Aloud

Sunday, Jan. 21, 8-10 pm  
Books Awards Committee  
(closed meeting 8-8:30; open 8:30-10)

Monday, Jan. 22, 9:30-11 am  
All Committees Meeting

Monday, Jan. 22, 2-4 pm  
Program Planning Committee

Tuesday, Jan. 23, 8-9:30 am  
Steering Committee  
(NOTE: this will appear as 8-11 in schedule)

As always, we welcome any and all to our meetings. Please join us!

GLBTF NEWSLETTER

Unfortunately, we are behind (again) in producing our newsletter. Please accept our apologies.

GLBTF PLANNING COMMITTEE

The GLBTF Planning Committee is in the middle of planning the 1996 program. The theme of the program will focus on outreach to underserved communities. Look for the finalized announcement in the Winter GLBTF Newsletter directly before Midwinter. Also, if you are interested in hopping onto the GLBTF planning bandwagon, we will be starting to plan for the 1997 annual program at Midwinter. Please contact the planning chair, Michael Miller, via e-mail (miller@columbia.edu).
GLBTF FUND-RAISING

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Task Force is embarking on a fund-raising effort in support of its highly successful annual Book Awards program. Wayne Mullin (University Library, University of California at Santa Cruz) will head the fund-raising effort. He is looking for people interested in working with him, good ideas, and potential donors. Wayne can be reached via e-mail at: wmullin@cats.ucsc.edu or by calling (408) 459-2171.

GLBTF BOOK AWARDS UPDATE

The winners of the GLBTF’s 1996 Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Book Award will be announced at the ALA press conference on Monday, January 22. The awards will be presented at a gala breakfast commemorating the 25th anniversary of the GLB Book Award at ALA’s Annual Conference in New York. If any of you are able to help with local arrangements for the 25th anniversary breakfast, please contact the Chair of the Breakfast Planning Committee, Kathy Anderson, at: anderson@library.atlantic.edu or the Chair of the Book Awards Committee, John DeSantis, at: john.c.desantis@dartmouth.edu

For more information, contact the GLBTF co-chairs:

Wendy Thomas
Schlesinger Library
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617/495-8647
Fax: 617/496-8340
wendy@harvarda.harvard.edu

Mark Martin
Temple Archives
300 Park
Diboll, TX 75941
Phone: 409/829-3543
Fax: 409/829-3523
memartin@usa.net

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MIDWINTER

The International Responsibilities Task Force is meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 2:00-4:00 pm.

The Progressive Librarians Guild is meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 4:30-5:30 pm.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Manuscripts of articles, book reviews, and bibliographies that explore progressive/left perspectives on librarianship and information issues are wanted for possible publication in Progressive Librarian. An upcoming issue will focus on intellectual and academic freedom within libraries and academia.

Contact:

Editors, Progressive Librarian
P.O. Box 2203
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108

Phone contact: Elaine Harger, (212) 647-7833
Email contact: John Buschman,
buschman@genius.rider.edu
PETITION ON ALA'S SELF-STUDY

We, the undersigned members, while acknowledging the need for positive change and growth and acknowledging flaws in the current ALA structure, request that ALA’s Executive Board and Council cease current plans to drastically overhaul our Association by immediately disbanding the Self-Study Committee and the Structure Revisioning Task Force.

We further strongly believe that the $30,000 annual cost of the Self-Study and projected similar costs for the Task Force, as well as the effort and time spent on this initiative, are misdirected at this time when ALA, libraries, and librarians face great challenges from a changing federal structure, the emerging information infrastructure, and other challenges of a new millenium.

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Please circulate the petition among your colleagues. Feel free to make additional copies for distribution. Please post to any lists where ALA members discuss issues of concern. Petitions, letters, and cards (be sure to include ALA membership number) should be returned to Stephen Stillwell, 2021 Rumson Dr., Arlington, TX, 76006, by Midwinter. Or, send email (with ALA membership number) to: iy20@jove.acs.unt.edu

BOOK BANNING IN KANSAS

Ian Duckor and I recently mounted an exhibit for "Banned Books Week" at the New York State Library. I also helped organize two days of public readings to commemorate the event. I chose to read from a young adult novel about lesbianism, Annie on My Mind by Nancy Garden, a book that had been removed from a Kansas high school library and was slated to go to trial that very week. I pointed out that twenty years ago, a similar incident in New York State (though then mostly centered on books dealing with race) had led to the Supreme Court decision, Pico v. Island Trees. The ACLU calls the Kansas case "the most significant arts censorship lawsuit in the country today." I was recently forwarded an update on this trial which noted that the judge is not expected to make a decision for a month or so. [Ed.]

From the Kansas City Star, October 5, and the Wichita Eagle, September 23, 1995:

"It was just weak," said Richard Marriott, who was one of four board members who voted to jettison Annie on My Mind from library shelves in January 1994. "I was somewhat offended by the nature of the book... I thought the book was educationally unsuitable... insignificant." Marriott testified that he found the novel to be predictable and that it "glorified the homosexual lifestyle... I believe what the Bible says about homosexuality. [It] is a sin." In late September, the president of the school board, Bob Drummond, a psychologist, said he voted to remove Annie for similar reasons. Drummond testified that he considered homosexuality a mental disorder similar to schizophrenia or depression... School board member Ron Hinkle said he opposed Annie [in part] because... it doesn't address the consequences of being gay, such as contracting AIDS. The case will be decided by U.S. District Court Judge Thomas Van Bebber. The decision is expected to take about a month...

In late 1993 the gay-advocacy group Project 21 donated copies of Annie and another gay-themed novel to area schools... The district accepted Annie, but rejected All-American Boy because it was poorly written. Olathe South High School received a copy, although the book had been on shelves there for a decade... School officials removed both copies... prompting several students, their parents, and a biology teacher to sue the district... "No formal complaint had ever been made about this book," the plaintiffs' attorney Eugene Balloun said in opening statements Wednesday. "They denied access to ideas because they disagreed with ideas in that book." The plaintiffs [represented by the ACLU] contend that the board violated their First Amendment rights of free speech and... due process... when the book was removed. School officials replied that they were exercising their right to choose material for students and their right not to succumb to the agenda of a special interest group. Defense attorneys argued the district willingly keeps numerous other books dealing with homosexuality in its libraries.

Nancy Garden testified Thursday the book is appropriate for students in junior high. "I wrote Annie to show both gay and straight kids that being gay does not doom you to a sad and miserable life." Garden testified that her book needed to be on school shelves because none of the district's library books that touch on homosexual themes are told through the eyes of a young lesbian.
Contact the P.E.R.S.O.N. Project for more information. The Project is always looking for volunteer organizers. P.E.R.S.O.N. (copyrighted) stands for Public Education Regarding Sexual Orientation Nationally. "Please cc us (for our files) on all correspondence you send or receive regarding one of our action alerts. Thanks!"

Gopher to: gopher.outright.com
Organizing manual: http://www.youth.org/loco/PERSONProject/ (under construction); and http://www.pride.net/pridenet/person
Resources: http://emanate.com/glwa/proj21 (courtesy of Gay and Lesbian Web Alliance)
Action Alerts and Organizing Manual:
http://www1.usa1.com/~furball/glb/person.html/ (courtesy of Children’s Animated Television)

AND OVER IN MISSOURI ...

The Project has also reported recently on the suppression of numerous copies of Becoming Visible, a book about gay and lesbian history, at high schools in the St. Louis area. In October, the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Teachers Network sent a letter to 85 high schools, proposing the donation as part of Gay History Month. Only two (private, religious) schools declined the offer. A month after the books were sent, a random check failed to find any copies in the libraries. Administrators and school boards claimed the right to pre-approve such gifts and pulled the book out of some libraries. Odd-sounding policies about not shelving or displaying books that aren’t "part of the curriculum" or "reviewed by a respected library journal" have been invoked.

Encroachments on the intellectual freedom rights of students appear to be on the increase, as "stealth" candidates continue to get elected to school boards, and librarians fail to resist efforts to control what materials may be acquired. Underlying this trend is the inevitable backlash to the boom in gay-related publishing. Policies regarding gifts seem to be slipping through a rather loopy loophole in the Library Bill of Rights and it would probably behoove those who care about the spirit of the law to take a closer look at this form of censorship.

INTERNET CENSORSHIP

The "Computer Decency Act," introduced by Senator Exon (D-NE), is nearing a Congressional vote. This bill passed the Senate last June, defeating the counter-proposed "Family Empowerment Act" (Senator Leahy, D-VT), which would have mandated research and development of technological controls for individuals to use in limiting the availability of various programs in the home and school. Representatives Cox (R-CA) and Wyden (D-OR) have also introduced similar legislation, called the "Internet Freedom and Family Empowerment Act." Congress must now choose between these two approaches. An extremist coalition of religious right organizations is pushing for a law even more restrictive than the Exon bill, which would outlaw all broadly defined "indecency" in online talk, web pages, and public archives on the Internet.

For more information, check web sites at http://www.vtw.org/exon and URL: http://www.cdt.org/cda.html, gopher archives at gopher://gopher.eff.org/11/Alerts, or, via email, send a message to vtw@vtw.org (put "send alert" in the subject line for the latest alert, or "send cdfaqt" for the Computer Decency Act list of frequently asked questions.)
NO PRIVACY AT U OF C

Daniel Tsang wrote the following letter to University of California school officials regarding electronic mail guidelines. These guidelines can be found at: http://garnet.berkeley.edu:2001/email/memo.html

I am writing to request extension of the November 1, 1995, deadline for comments on the August 21 draft UC Electronic Mail Guidelines, so that more consumers can comment.

The draft as it stands is seriously flawed in several areas, including First Amendment rights, privacy rights, and appeals procedures for those accused of violating the guidelines.

It is also clear to me that even though this is a proposed policy, in fact, at the Irvine campus, a student worker has already publicly reported he was terminated because of something he sent on email, and an academic employee, on leave, discovered all her incoming email forwarded to an administrator without her consent, after she had refused to give up her password. At least at Irvine, it is a de facto policy. At Irvine, the University purpose equates to Big Brotherism.

The task force might want to try a different approach. Instead of basically arguing that every email message is a University record subject to disclosure under the state Public Records Act [does the administration want to release every email written over the Fertility Clinic scandals at UC Irvine?], it might more productively take the approach that in email as in paper correspondence, there can be administrative memos [that would normally be archived or kept in an administrative chronological file] and there is other correspondence that is, in effect, "private." The draft should define what is a University record, and what types of email messages would be exempted from public disclosure.

It is just too narrow to take the approach that because the University owns the equipment, all email must serve a narrow University purpose. For many, email has replaced the hand-written letter. Thus personal correspondence is routinely transmitted on University-owned equipment. The proposed language on "incidental" use is vague; what is incidental? What is too much? Ownership of the equipment does not imply any right to intrude on privacy rights. For example, in a state office building, users of public toilets have some expectation of privacy: surveillance cameras would not be permitted over stalls. The draft should at the very least prohibit interception of spying on users’ email communications, unless permitted by a court order.

It might make more sense to have a policy that attempts to protect users’ privacy rights [under state and federal laws and the state and federal constitutions] and then carve out exceptions, e.g., for investigation of criminal activity.

As it stands, the draft gives little sense that this is a public university where diversity of viewpoints and academic freedom are valued. Instead, it portrays the University as a business venture where corporate necessity is the main function.

Even the definition of University purpose as drafted is too limited. It does not include room for professional development; i.e., email is often used by professional colleagues to exchange ideas, scientific or otherwise, that are at the root of a vibrant academic community. There is no recognition of that in the draft.

Email has the potential of leavening hierarchies, allowing for communication between and across job titles. Instead of encouraging that, this draft casts a chill on free speech, making each email user worry about whether he or she is violating some narrow definition of "University purpose."
The singling out of union representatives as being banned from using email is pure discrimination and a likely unfair labor practice, especially when contrasted against the partiality shown toward administratively sanctioned house organs. The clear implication is that only those voices that support management will be allowed to speak.

In conclusion, I request that these comments be forwarded to all members of the task force.

ALTERNATIVE RESEARCH CENTER

The Alternative Research Center is located in Orange County, California, and is a not-for-profit project devoted to uncovering and analyzing the body politic, especially in the areas of political surveillance and repression. The library and archives are strong in sexual politics, race and policing, and surveillance studies. Archival material includes declassified documents on the gay movement. At this point there is no public access except through the Internet.

The ARC’s Research Director is Daniel Tsang, who also hosts a public affairs interview program on KUCI, the public radio station at the University of California, Irvine. Subversity airs weekly on Tuesdays from 5-6 pm on KUCI, 88.9 FM, in Orange County. For information about Subversity radio interviews, the ARC, and Dan’s writings and activities as co-founder of the Alliance Working for Asian Rights and Empowerment (AWARE)--and more--check out his Web site at:
http://wopr.gsm.uci.edu/~subversity/arc.html. One interesting article available here concerns a subpoena that was served Subversity regarding Dan’s coverage of two local trials. There is also a very good link to alternative, conservative, campus, and mainstream news sources (many full-text).

PUT UP OR SHUT UP: YOUR MONEY OR YOUR RIGHTS

If the so-called "Silence America" amendment passes a Congressional vote this week, "Istook" will take away more than is given to the many grant recipients in this country. The Istook Amendment to H. 2020 would severely limit the free speech rights the nonprofit community (i.e. small, community-based organizations and individuals, but not corporate lobbyists, military contractors, or veterans groups). Unbelievably, this legislation would prohibit more than 5% of a group’s total expenses from being spent on lobbying, advocacy, or association. If this is exceeded, one would become ineligible for further grant monies. Note that it does not refer to 5% of the money received from government, but rather to private donations and other types of revenue. This is a clear attempt to silence dissent and free speech on the part of those who often oppose the fine print in the Contract with America. But, as David Cole puts it in a Natl editorial (10/30/95): "What good is a Contract with America if you’re not willing to listen to what America is saying?"

OBITUARY

The Coretta Scott King Award Task Force and SRRT mourn the passing of David L. Searcy. David, a graduate of the Atlanta University Library School, worked his entire career at the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. Active in ALA, SRRT, and the Coretta Scott King Award Task Force, he was currently on the Executive Board of BCALA. He was always committed to his profession. His presence at the annual CSK Breakfast and other ALA functions will be sorely missed.

SRRT Newsletter
ARCHIVE FOR ALTERNATIVE PUBLICATIONS, HAVANA, CUBA

The Cuban independent project "Banco de Ideas Z" is collecting publications from the alternative/underground world for an archive that will be open to specialists and the general public.

BIZ has already received a number of zines, CDs, cassettes, small press editions, posters, mail art catalogues, and publications from various social movements in many countries. This little archive is unique, because there are no exchanges from Cuba with groups, collectives, and archives abroad. We would like to recognize the invaluable contribution and solidarity of Chris Dodge, librarian from Hennepin County Library and editor of MSRRT Newsletter.

We want to receive materials from all over the world, and from diverse sources, to be promoted here through exhibitions, fairs, and events. As you can guess, we don't have money to purchase the publications, but—without any trouble—we can exchange your materials with some of our artists' books, flyers, compilations, and pamphlets we have printed on recycled Cuban paper.

In February 1996, Havana will again hold the annual international book fair, with the assistance of publishing houses and editors from many countries. Ideas Bank Z is planning to participate to exhibit our alternative press archive. It will be the first time the underground press will be represented at the fair.

We want to show your publications to the thousands of people who will visit the fair. Afterwards, the materials received will not be sold, but will become part of BIZ Archive. We will not display any publication that stimulates intolerance, racism, or disrespect of cultural and sexual diversity. About this matter we are not neutral: culture is a space for communication, not for discrimination.

Please send your materials to:

Abelardo Mena
Banco de Ideas Z
calle 19 #1362, apto 15, e/ 24 y 26
Tel: 537-37327
Email: ideas2@tinored.cu
EDITORIAL HUMOR ...

The Village Voice celebrated its 40th anniversary recently by reprinting excerpts from various pieces over the years and commenting on the evolution of what is probably this nation's most mainstream alternative newspaper. They stated that throughout those four decades they committed their fair share of typos. One all-time favorite was the rendering of a film critic's description of the movie "Harvey" as being the story of "a six-foot white rabbi." I Internet-relayed this to a friend who immediately typed back: "a kosher pooka!" The Village Voice has a Web site at: http://www.villagevoice.com/~voice