FROM THE COORDINATOR

OUTGOING COORDINATOR'S MEMO

New York was a good time for all. It was my last conference as coordinator of Action Council, so this is my last note to you all. The SRRT-wide "Family Friendly" program was quite successful thanks to the preparations made by Elaine Harger. The program was the lead story in the Tuesday issue of Cognotes. This is quite a coup for SRRT!

Other SRRT programs, breakfasts, meetings, and miscellaneous events went off without a hitch, were well attended, and enjoyed by all. Congratulations and thanks to all of you who worked so hard to bring it all together.

The SRRT endorsements in the Council elections did only so-so. We managed to get three out of ten of our progressive slate elected to Council—Kathleen Bethel, Mark Rosenzweig, and Loriene Roy. Action Council appointed a project group to review the results and to gear up for next year. A few words about numbers: E.J. Josey got 4139 votes, Beverly Lynch got 3393, and of the other 24 elected, the votes cast ranged from 3071 to a low of 2265. With 1675 members in SRRT, according to the ALA Handbook 1995/1996, one must wonder about the voter turnout and the solidarity in our bullet voting. We must try harder to influence ALA's direction or blame ourselves when it goes awry.

There was good news in the election, too. Longtime SRRT member and former Action Council Coordinator, Barbara Ford, was elected ALA's President for 1997/1998. She wants to hear from us all about ALA's direction. Her email address is bjjford@gems.vcu.edu. Her snail mail address is 2113 Floyd Avenue, Richmond VA 23220. Contact her with your thoughts and ideas.

The resolutions passed by Action Council can be found elsewhere in this issue. Four appointments were made during the conference: Sandy Berman was named SRRT liaison to the Intellectual Freedom Round Table; Sanford Goin was named SRRT

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representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation; Larry Heiman was named SRRT liaison to ALCTS-CSS; and Theresa Tobin was appointed to the Editorial Board. Action Council selected the following officers for next year: Wendy Thomas, Coordinator; Elaine Harger, Secretary; and Roland Hansen, Treasurer. GOOD LUCK to them all.

Now on a personal note, I served on Action Council from 1987 until this past conference, serving as the Peace Information Exchange Task Force Coordinator, At-large Action Councillor, Exhibits Coordinator, Membership Chair, Secretary, and finally as Coordinator. It has been a most "interesting" and rewarding experience and I would like to thank all of those along the way who have encouraged, supported, and assisted me--especially Tom Wilding, who does so not only as a fellow SRRT member and librarian, but as my life partner as well.

--Stephen Stillwell

INCOMING COORDINATOR

First and foremost, thanks are due to Stephen for his many years on Action Council and his leadership as Coordinator. He'll be a tough act to follow!

Several important items were discussed at Annual in NYC, including the following:

OLOS
The search process for a new director of the Office for Literacy and Outreach Services is underway, and I am hopeful we will have someone in this position by early 1997.

Brochure/Newsletter/Web
The SRRT brochure is in desperate need of updating. It can be a great publicity too, so we should take the time and effort to make sure it reflects our current activities. If you have comments, suggestions, and ideas, get them to me by October 1, 1996; I will pass them on to Sandy Berman, who has agreed to work on the layout. Also, we discussed moving SRRT into the electronic age. The editorial board will work on getting the SRRT newsletter on the Web and will also work on creating a SRRT web page.

Elections
As Stephen noted, three out of ten progressive-slate people were elected to ALA Council. Thanks are due to those who organized and distributed the slate--especially Al Kagan--and thanks in advance to those who have volunteered to work on next year's effort (Rosemary Stevenson, Michael Miller, Elaine Harger, and Al). It is crucial that we get more SRRT/progressive types elected to ALA Council. It is important for SRRT members to vote in the ALA elections every spring. It is also important for SRRT members to consider running for a Council seat.

I look forward to working with all of you next year!

--Wendy Thomas
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Cambridge, MA 02138
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Editor: Carol Reid
Assistant Editor: Ian Duckor
Book Review Editor: Steven Harris
Editorial Board: Carolynne Myall, Mark Rosenzweig, Madeleine Tainton

DEADLINE FOR DEC. 1996 ISSUE: 18 OCT 1996

September 1996
GLBTF enjoyed yet another engaging Conference. This time we got to enjoy ourselves a bit more by attending the 25th Anniversary Book Award Breakfast and the Task Force program that followed. Of course, there was a great deal of meeting time which proved to be productive as well.

DIVERSITY SUMMIT MELEE

Wendy Thomas and Mark Martin represented the GLBTF at the fourth Diversity Summit, held in ALA President Betty Turock’s suite on Friday, July 5, 1996. Their report on this event follows.

ALA President Betty Turock started holding Diversity Summits during the year she was President-elect. The summits were designed to be informal gatherings of representatives of ALA’s minority groups to discuss ways to increase diversity within ALA and the profession. From the beginning, the GLBTF was invited to participate, along with the Black Caucus of ALA, the American Indian Library Association, the Asian and Pacific Library Association, the Chinese American Library Association, and REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish Speaking. Representatives of OLOS and Stephen Stillwell of SRRT were also present.

The first two Diversity Summits were productive brainstorming sessions. At the third summit, held in San Antonio in January 1996, there was a draft proposal presented that included a mission statement as well as several specific recommendations for addressing diversity issues within ALA. Unfortunately, however, the GLBTF was not listed as a participating group in this draft proposal: only the five "ethnic" minority groups were included. Stephen Stillwell and Wendy Thomas, who were present at the San Antonio summit, brought this omission to the attention of summit participants. After brief discussion, a vote was taken as to whether or not the GLBTF should be included in the draft proposal (in effect, also deciding whether or not gays, lesbians, and bisexuals deserved diversity efforts within ALA). The vote was 19 to 6 in favor of including the GLBTF. Despite this clear mandate, discussion of this issue continued to dominate the rest of the San Antonio Diversity Summit. At times, the discussion was quite heated, and the atmosphere in the room was tense. There were several comments made about how gays can choose to be gay, but no one can choose his or her skin color, and several folks felt that including gays, lesbians, and bisexuals would in some way take away from efforts to increase ethnic minorities within the profession. Some members of the ethnic minority groups felt that the GLBTF did not need to be included because their groups already included gays, lesbians, and bisexuals.

Shortly before ALA’s annual conference in New York, we received invitations to the fourth, and presumably final, Diversity Summit. Because of the dissension at the San Antonio summit, a facilitator was asked to attend this summit; he spoke with all participants on the phone beforehand to get our impressions about what had gone wrong in San Antonio. From our conversations with him, we learned that only a few individuals were opposed to the GLBTF, although many were unaware that we had been a part of the process from the beginning.

The New York Diversity Summit was a failure. Despite the presence of two facilitators, we were never able to resolve the issue of the presence of the GLBTF. For four long hours, this issue was debated, discussed, and dissected. Again, the atmosphere was often quite tense. Although the majority of the attendees supported the presence of the GLBTF, there...
were several who were adamantly opposed to including gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in a diversity effort. The facilitators did not want to put the issue to a vote again, so they tried to lead the conversation to the point where consensus would be reached. It never happened.

These summits began as informal discussions, with no administrative structure to back them up. So, now that Betty Turock is former ALA President, there is no automatic mechanism to continue the summits, nor is there any ALA committee that is responsible for continuing them. Despite the lack of consensus during the last summit, most attendees want to continue the diversity discussion in some fashion. It was informally decided to post the question of including the GLBTF to the members of the groups originally invited to participate in the Diversity Summit, including the GLBTF. At the GLBTF membership meeting on July 7, 1996, the question was posed to those attending, and members agreed, not surprisingly, to endorse the participation of the GLBTF. We do not yet know the results from the other groups.

Despite the fact that this was an extremely difficult experience, it was, in a sense, good to hear these issues addressed. The Diversity Summit is a wake-up call for the GLBTF: we need to work on this issue, regardless of what happens in ALA. Our program this year, which featured a theme of diversity and outreach, was a prime example of what we need to do far more of in the future. One other possibility is the suggestion that the GLBTF host a social hour for all minority groups within ALA. This would be a splendid way to begin the process of getting to know each other and breaking down the barriers that separate us. Another idea, which surfaced in New York, is a GLBTF mentorship program for people of color—a way to increase diversity within the Task Force.

New GLBTF female co-chair Bonita Corliss is particularly committed to increasing the presence of people of color within the GLBTF. Please contact her and Mark Martin with your comments, suggestions, and questions on this issue.

**TASK FORCE BOOK AWARD 25TH ANNIVERSARY BREAKFAST**

This year, the Book Award Committee celebrated its 25th Anniversary with the first annual GLBTF Book Award Breakfast. These annual breakfast award ceremonies are one result of our being charged with making the Award self-sustaining by the year 2000 (more about other fund raising plans below).

Patricia Neal Warren, Jonathan Ned Katz, and Andrew Collins spoke to a crowd of over 180 breakfast goers before the award-winning authors rose to speak. Jim Grimsley, author of Dream Boy, read from his work after briefly telling the audience a bit about his life. Urvashi Vaid, activist and author of Virtual Equality, briefly spoke of her work and how much need there is for more out activism in the world at large and within ALA. Her partner, comedian Kate Clinton, entertained the room with her trenchant (and very funny) comments about current events, particularly a dinner in honor of Alphonse D'Amato hosted by the Log Cabin Republicans, a conservative gay Republican organization.

Kathy Anderson and the members of her committee did an excellent job organizing the event. An unexpectedly heavy turnout of ticket purchasers at the door raised the total count of breakfasters by thirty. Even this sudden increase didn’t fluster Anderson and the event went forward seamlessly.
The committee also secured a sponsor, Book-a-zine, and enough giveaway goodies that each seat had a mixed bundle of t-shirts and books. A representative from the local GLAAD office also brought giveaway items.

After the speakers finished, a large crowd of interested individuals stayed to speak with the authors and get the autograph or two before going on to other events. Fortunately, the next GLBTF event took place in a room next door to that in which the Breakfast was held.

WHAT ABOUT THE SIDE STREETS?
SERVING THE UNDERSERVED ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

A crowd of over 90 librarians filled the conference room for the Task Force program on serving the underserved. The speakers addressed techniques for serving children of inner city neighborhoods, an ethnically diverse urban population, university students seeking (or not seeking) lesbian and gay information, and researchers and the general population seeking lesbian-specific resources.

The question-and-answer period elicited quite a few questions from the audience to which the panelists eagerly responded. Running over time, the program moderator was forced to close the meeting while hands were still going up. After officially closing the session, many audience members literally rushed the podium to continue their queries.

A MESSAGE FROM GLBTF FUNDRAISING CHAIR, WAYNE MULLIN

Colleagues:

The first GLBTF Book Award Breakfast ceremony in NYC was a huge success (even with the light food)!

Will it continue? Yes! If we all pull together with our support.

What you may not know is that the Book Award must be self-sustaining within the next five years.

During ALA's annual meeting, the GLBTF approved a fundraising plan to support the Book Award and other Task Force activities. Subscribers to GAY-LIBN (listserv) will see more about this fundraising effort in the weeks and months ahead, but right now I need your help in identifying additional Fundraising Committee members.

If you are at all interested in helping with Task Force fundraising efforts to ensure continuation of the GLBTF Book Award and other Task Force activities, or know someone who might like to help, please email me immediately at <wmullin@cats.ucsc.edu>

You can also call: 408/459-2171 (work) or 408/425-1227 (home)

I want the committee in place soon. Women and minorities are strongly encouraged to volunteer. I'm happy to answer questions any of you might have.

-Wayne Mullin
Fundraising Chair
GLBTF

NEWSLETTER

After suffering nearly a year without a Task Force newsletter, we now have an editor, a schedule, and a committee! Now all we have to do is meet the tasks we've set for ourselves. Feel free to contact our newsletter editor at the address below:

Mary Callaghan "Cal" Zunt
Librarian
Cleveland Public Library
< mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu >

SRRT Newsletter 5 September 1996
RESTRUCTURING/STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Task Force has a number of new tasks before it. Some have been imposed from outside, some are "homegrown," but all are necessary for the continuing survival of the Task Force. One result is an effort to restructure Task Force communications through establishment of committee-specific listservs. Using the model of the Steering Committee list established a few years ago, all standing committees with more than one member (y'all know how that goes) have their own list to facilitate communication. ALA HQ, specifically Rob Carlson, has been very good about hosting these lists.

To help ensure efficient communications, the Task Force Bylaws were amended during our membership meeting to allow establishment of listservs and to include Task Force co-chairs as "ex officio" members of all committees.

FEMALE CO-CHAIR ELECTION

Wendy Thomas, after serving an incredible three-year term as female co-chair of the Task Force, cycled out of office (and into SRRT Coordinator!). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wendy for doing a most excellent job for those three years. The Task Force faced many difficult situations in that period and Wendy handled them all with calm, poise, and an effective forceful expertise that I envy. I will personally miss having her as co-chair and look forward to working with her as SRRT Coordinator. Our Task Force loss is SRRT’s gain. Fortunately, Bonita Corliss has been elected to the position. She works for Seattle Public Library, as Project Director for Project Access, and in the Fine and Performing Arts Department, and has recently had the pleasure of returning from a six-month-long ALA/USIA Library Fellowship in Paris. Ask her about the joys of Paris during transportation strikes, bombings, and other not-so-distinctly French events.

Bonita brings a great deal of energy and a refreshingly direct spirit to committee meetings. This is one person who brooks no boilerplate! Be prepared to answer a question as directly as possible. I look forward to working with Bonita in the coming year.

The Task Force has a number of continuing projects and ongoing needs that will take our energy and resourcefulness to accomplish effectively. Anyone who wishes to put in their two cents’ worth (and is prepared to do just a little work) is welcome. Feel free to contact the co-chairs or any other committee chairs with your comments, suggestions, and questions.

--Mark Martin (1995-1997)
Temple Memorial Archives
300 Park Street
Diboll TX 75941
phone: 409/829-3543
fax: 409/829-3523
<memartin@tcac.com>

Seattle Public Library
1000 4th Avenue
Seattle WA 98104-1193
phone: 206/386-4515
fax: 206/684-4981
<bcorliss@spl.lib.wa.us>
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OMAHA LIBRARY WORKERS

WHEREAS a class of about 100 library employees in the City of Omaha (over 75% of whom are female) were disadvantaged by a reclassification scheme implemented by the City of Omaha six years ago; and

WHEREAS in July 1990 the Omaha City Council implemented a change in the wage structure of its management, professional, and technical employees by dividing them into four groups, each of which received varying raises for the first year of the new contract. All the library employees—regardless of prior classification, were placed in the group receiving the lowest wage increases. That group contained 87 of the 103 women represented by the union, the Civilian Management Professional Technical Employees Council (CMPTEC); and

WHEREAS the other three groups all received higher wage increases. Those groups contained 171 of the 250 men in CMPTEC. There were no women in the group that received the highest raise. Plaintiffs' statistical analysis of this selection concluded that there was less than a 1 in 1,000 chance that the impact on women in the groupings would occur by chance alone; and

WHEREAS this group sued the City for sex discrimination in January of this year and lost on claims of disparate treatment (intentional discrimination) and disparate impact;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Library Association write an amicus curiae brief in support of the appeal to the 8th Circuit Court.

Moved by: Diedre Conkling
SUPPORT OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS
AT THE ZIMBABWE INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

WHEREAS the Zimbabwe International Book Fair is the preeminent African book fair; and

WHEREAS the Government of Zimbabwe took actions to exclude the Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe from the 1995 Book Fair; and

WHEREAS the Human Rights Indaba at the 1995 Zimbabwe International Book Fair issued a strong statement against this Government action; and

WHEREAS the Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust has stated its intention to accept the future participation of the Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe, and if necessary to take legal action to do so;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the American Library Association commends the Zimbabwe International Book Fair for its stance in support of freedom of expression and human rights as reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be forwarded to the Government of Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust.

Distribution:

His Excellency Robert G. Mugabe
President of Zimbabwe

Bornwell Chakaodza
Director of Information
Government of Zimbabwe

Mrs. Trish Mbanga, Executive Director
Zimbabwe International Book Fair Trust
78 Kaguvi Street
P.O. Box CY 1179 Causeway
Harare, Zimbabwe

This resolution was passed by the International Relations Committee and then by the ALA Council, July 1996.
The Freedom to Read Foundation board meeting at ALA in New York City July 4th, 1996, was a time for celebrating the victory in the lawsuit to declare unconstitutional provisions of the Communications Decency Act. ALA v. U.S. Dept. of Justice (with FTRF as a named plaintiff) had been consolidated with ACLU v. Reno into one case. A federal court panel in Philadelphia ruled the law to unconstitutionally restrict protected speech. One of the judges, Judge Dalzell, wrote: “Any content-based regulation of the Internet, no matter how benign the purpose, could burn the global village to roast the pig.”

According to FTRF counsel Theresa Chmara, testimony by librarians was crucial in the case. Among those providing written declarations were Judith Krug of ALA and FTRF, Sharon Hammer of Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Robert Croneberger of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Elliot Shelkrot of the Free Library of Philadelphia, Paul Mosher of University of Pennsylvania Libraries, and Joe Scorza of Health Sciences Libraries Consortium. Croneberger actually appeared as a witness before the three-judge panel, arguing about the harmful impact of the law on libraries. The U.S. Government is appealing. Later in July, another court (in Manhattan) also ruled the act unconstitutional. For links to websites detailing the history of this battle, check out <http://sun3.lib.uci.edu/~dtsang/netnews1.htm#hot>.

Chmara also reviewed other cases the FTRF was monitoring or participating in. Case v. Unified School District No. 233 (Olathe, Kansas, High School book removal case), concerning the removal of Annie on My Mind from the school library, because of its content (homosexuality), by the school board, resulted in an ACLU lawsuit that prevailed in district court, with the court ruling that the removal violated the First Amendment. The board returned the book to the shelves. FTRF advised the ACLU and provided awards information on the book.

The FTRF joined other plaintiffs in seeking a preliminary injunction against the prosecuting attorney of Hamilton County, Ohio, from violating the First Amendment rights of plaintiffs and their members. Prosecutor Deters had sent a letter to Barnes & Noble back in December, 1994, asking that certain periodicals, including a Playboy issue, not be displayed because they were “harmful to juveniles.” A district court in May 1996 found the letter to be an unlawful prior restraint. Deters has asked for a reconsideration.

The board discussed another case involving a professor at San Bernardino Valley College. The college, in finding that Prof. Dean Cohen’s classroom topics and language had created a hostile or offensive learning environment, decided he had violated its sexual harassment policy. FTRF had joined an amicus brief in Cohen’s lawsuit in federal court, prepared by counsel for the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression and the AAUP. The amicus brief argued that the sanctions subsequently imposed on Cohen (e.g., he must modify his teaching strategy) violated his First Amendment rights, and that any limitation on academic freedom would have a ripple effect on libraries, their collections, and the programs they sponsor. Board members expressed concern that the board not be seen as endorsing sexual harassment.

In a case that reached the U.S. Supreme Court, Alliance for Community Media v. FCC, the FTRF filed an amicus brief arguing against procedures for blocking cable programming deemed “indecent.” The court ruled the blocking requirement to be unconstitutional, but upheld a provision that allowed cable operators to block indecent programming on leased channels. The restriction on public access channels was ruled unconstitutional. In another cable TV case, Playboy Entertainment Group v. U.S., the
FTRF joined an amicus brief filed by the Media Coalition challenging the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The brief argues that the term "indecent" is unconstitutionally vague. That case is pending before the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware.

In a case the FTRF is monitoring, several artists in New York City are appealing a district court decision upholding a city ordinance requiring vendor permits for artists wishing to display and sell their works. The case is pending before the Second Circuit. In another case, the board is also monitoring an ACLU case in Weslaco, Texas, in which Pam Antonelli was fired from her position at Weslaco Public Library after making comments to the press about the removal of Howard Stern's Private Parts from the library. The case is in discovery.

In another case in which the FTRF wrote an amicus brief, Rice v. Paladin Enterprises, relatives of murder victims sued the publisher of two books, Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors and How to Make Disposable Silencers, vol. 2, claiming the publisher was liable for the homicides. The amicus brief argues that the perpetrator of a crime should be punished, not the source of information, noting that the information from Paladin Books could also be found in thrillers and mystery books in libraries. The district court denied leave to file amicus briefs, but the amicus group is seeking reconsideration.

I was asked to report on a case the FTRF has been monitoring since it was filed in 1991. I announced the out-of-court settlement of Tsang v. CIA, a Privacy Act/Freedom of Information Act case, in which the CIA admitted turning over information about me to a foreign government. Documents released indicate the CIA's operations directorate collected information on my indexing of Covert Action Information Bulletin, on Gay Insurgent, which I edited, and on Lavender Archives. Although the CIA took the position it is not subject to the Privacy Act prohibition against collecting or disseminating information about the First Amendment-protected activities of Americans and permanent residents, it promised never to do it again in my situation, settling the case for $46,000 in ACLU lawyers' fees.

This report was based in part on a "Project Update" by FTRF Board attorneys distributed at the meeting.

--Daniel Tsang
<dsang@uci.edu>
SRRT Liaison to the Freedom to Read Foundation

WASHINGTON SRRT NEWS

The WLA Spring Conference was held May 15-18 in Bellevue, WA, and the following programs were sponsored by WSRRT.

"Social Issues: Hands On? Hands Off?" was presented by John Sheridan, director of Colorado College Library and past SRRT Coordinator, and focused on the role of ALA in social issues. Jonathan Betz-Zall, past Coordinator of Washington SRRT, spoke on the role that WSRRT had played in the state association.

"The Changing Library Workplace" discussed how library work environments are changing and how issues such as affirmative action, gender and parenting, and diversity will affect the library and library workers. Various human resources experts took part in the panel presentation and answered questions.

"Whose Ethics Are These Anyway?" challenged librarians to think about how ethical decisions are made in their libraries. What is the role of personal ethics, organizational ethics, and professional ethics in decision making? A lively discussion ensued on the need for discussion concerning ethics and the lack of organizational or management interest in such topics. There will be a follow-up session at the joint
Washington/Oregon Library Associations Conference next spring. This session was presented by Linda Pierce, past SRRT Coordinator, and Dr. Mark Alfino, professor of Philosophy at Gonzaga University.

"A World of Opportunities" focused on international job exchanges, hosting international visitors, IFLA, and other ways to get involved in the international world of librarianship. A well-traveled panel gave tips and advice on our expanding professional world.

These programs, along with the SRRT business meeting and other programs, made for an exciting representation. WSRRT officers for the coming year are: Linda Pierce, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA, Coordinator; Shirley Lewis, Washington State Library, Olympia, WA, Coordinator-elect; Lorrie Kovell, Timberland Regional Library, Olympia, WA, Secretary; and Konny Thompson, Gonzaga University Library, Spokane, WA, Newsletter Editor.

---Linda Pierce, Reference Services Librarian Foley Center, Gonzaga University Spokane WA 99258 509/328-4220 ext. 3834 <pierce@foley.gonzaga.edu>

**COUNTERPOISE: AN APPEAL**

Now is the time for all good SRRT members to come to the aid of our new review journal! *Counterpoise* begins quarterly publication in January 1997. The success of this daring effort to identify and evaluate English-language titles worldwide depends on how well institutions and individuals respond to it.

In his article "The Limits of the Earth" (*The Nation*, July 15/22, 1996), David C. Korten reports that of the world’s hundred largest economies, fifty are now corporations operating beyond the reach of government. The combined net worth of 350 billionaires equals the annual income of the poorest 45 percent of the world’s population.

A thin segment of the superrich ... has formed a stateless alliance that defines global interest as synonymous with the personal and corporate financial interests of its members. This separation has been occurring in nearly every country in the world to such an extent that it is no longer meaningful to speak of a world divided into Northern and Southern nations. The meaningful divide is not geography—it is class.

Korten refers to a recent report in *The Economist* that five corporations now control more than 40 percent of the global market in media, a fact he finds "especially alarming in its consequences for public debate on these very issue."

How well do libraries support this public debate? In my experience (from 1987 to 1995 I visited hundreds of libraries in the U.S., Europe, and South Africa and attended many international conferences and book fairs as a bookseller’s rep), libraries everywhere exclude alternative materials, especially titles promoting personal liberty and radical dissent. They favor privileged, mainstream views, while ignoring, in the name of "objectivity," "scholarship," "balance," "civility," and "good taste," the desperate shouts of the oppressed.

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**counterpoise** n. 1. A counterbalancing weight. 2. Any force or influence that balances or equally counters another. 3. The state of being balanced or in equilibrium.

**counterpoise'** tr. v. 1. To oppose with an equal weight; to counterbalance. 2. To act against with an equal force or power; to offset.

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The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

SRRT Newsletter 11 September 1996
Counterpoise, therefore, will serve two functions. For libraries of integrity, it will greatly aid selection, acquisition, and reference. For libraries with a corporate bias, it will help measure professional malpractice.

How can SRRT members help Counterpoise?

- Place institutional and personal subscriptions
- Recommend it to selectors and administrators
- Write reviews and letters to the editor
- Help with art work and design
- Identify materials for review
- Help with fund raising from foundations
- Help sell advertising space to publishers
- Distribute flyers at local/regional meetings
- Promote it in articles and broadcasts
- Get newsletters and journals to carry free ads

--Charles Willett, editor

☐ I want to try Counterpoise. Enclosed is my payment for a one-year subscription to four issues of Volume 1, starting in January 1997.

☐ Institution ... $35
☐ Individual ... $25
☐ Student, retired ... $15
☐ Canada, Mexico ... add $5
☐ Others, surface ... add $5
☐ Others, airmail ... add $15

☐ I want to make a tax-deductible donation to Counterpoise. Enclosed is my check for:
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☐ $250
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Make checks payable to:
ALA/SRRT/COUNTERPOISE
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Counterpoise is a publication of the American Library Association, which has IRS 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status.

VOLUNTEERS

I would like to help with:

☐ Identifying materials for review. Types?

☐ Writing reviews. Subjects?

☐ Promoting Counterpoise by writing an article, giving a talk, appearing on radio or TV, etc.
☐ Fund raising
☐ Marketing
☐ Other: __________________________

☐ I cannot subscribe or help at this time. Please add me to your mailing list.

Name: __________________________
Address: ________________________
City: __________________________ State: _____
Zip: __________________________ Country: ______
Phone: ______________________ Fax: ______
E-mail: ________________________

Mail this form to:

Counterpoise
1716 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608-4049

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SRRT Newsletter

12

September 1996
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REPORT

The big news from Committee on Education (COE) is a probable change in the process of foreign credentialing, which COE oversees. The Committee on Accreditation wants to outsource foreign credentialing to the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO). AACRAO would charge a $75 fee to the individual seeking credentialing.

Previously, when someone came from another country and wanted to work in the United States, the ALA Country Resource Panel for that person’s home country would look at their credentials and write a letter stating whether or not they seemed to have the MLS equivalent. This was a free service.

COE approved this idea in concept because committee members thought AACRAO would perform this service in a more standardized way than the Country Resource Panels. COE did have a few more questions needing clarification, such as the criteria AACRAO would use and if AACRAO was qualified to perform this service.

COE members were uninterested in discussing any possible impact resulting from the new $75 fee. One committee member did raise the issue of other professional organizations handling this for the professions they represent. She asserted that ALA should be responsible for credentialing for librarianship and not give this job to an unrelated organization. Other committee members were generally not supportive of this view.

One other note: The Task Force for the Review of LTA Certificate Training is looking for feedback on a statement available on the ALA website (URL unavailable at time of writing).

-- Jill Holman
SRRT representative to Education Assembly  
<holman@darkwing.uoregon.edu>

REPORT FROM THE LITERACY ASSEMBLY

The (Lila) Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund has funded a three-year literacy project, to be managed by ALA. While apparently not based in the Office of Literacy and Outreach Services (OLOS), the fund will support two positions within ALA to provide functional management for the project. The grant, totalling $5 million, will bring about $1.3 million to ALA, with the remainder going to the libraries participating. Thirteen library-based projects will be funded in North Carolina, New York, Illinois, and California.

At Midwinter 1997, in Washington, D.C., the Literacy Assembly is planning to hold a forum, bringing in many of ALA’s partners in literacy to make presentations. More information will be available about this forum in the near future.

At Midwinter 1996, the Literacy Assembly passed a resolution stating that literacy should be among ALA’s highest priorities for fundraising through the Fund for America’s Libraries. Only SRRT and one or two ALA divisions voted to support this resolution, but further action was hoped for at the Annual Conference.

Mary Ghikas visited the Literacy Assembly and discussed the search for the Executive Director of OLOS. The Literacy Assembly will be represented in the search.

-- Tom Wilding, SRRT representative to the Literacy Assembly
RESOLUTION ON INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS

WHEREAS independent bookstores contribute directly to cultural and political diversity by keeping backlist titles in stock as well as handling experimental literature, materials by new authors, and works that deal with unconventional subjects and viewpoints; and

WHEREAS the vitality and even existence of independent bookstores are now endangered by unfair and frequently illegal discounts and other subsidies (including discriminatory "remaining" practices and co-op advertising payments) afforded by major publishers solely to chain bookstores; and

WHEREAS the Robinson-Patman Act, which requires publishers to offer books to competing bookstores at the same prices and on the same terms, has not been energetically enforced by the Federal Trade Commission; and

WHEREAS the American Booksellers Association has undertaken an antitrust lawsuit against several mega-publishers, charging them with price discrimination, promotional allowance discrimination, and unlawfully favoring a limited number of large bookstore chains and discount outlets, including warehouse clubs; and

WHEREAS the decline or demise of independent bookstores concentrates undue power—for instance, decisions about what gets published and what doesn't—in the hands of four or five "superstore" chains, resulting in reduced choices for writers, publishers, and readers alike and constituting a form of "economic" or "market censorship" that can only shrink and narrow cultural and political diversity; and

WHEREAS the library profession is firmly and historically committed to promoting a broad and genuine variety of ideas and expression;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1,800-member Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association calls upon the Federal Trade Commission to vigorously and speedily enforce antitrust statutes relevant to bookelling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association expresses its support of the ABA's efforts to gain fair treatment for independent bookstores.

Copies to:
Federal Trade Commission
American Booksellers Association
Library Press
Publisher's Weekly
Small Press
Feminist Bookstore News
Alternative Press Review
National Coalition Against Censorship
National Campaign for Free Expression

This resolution, with minor revision, was endorsed by the Social Responsibilities Round Table, July 6, 1996.

Moved by: Maurice J. Freedman, Councilor-at-Large
Seconded by: Peter Graham, Councilor-at-Large
Submitted to ALA Resolutions Committee, July 8, 1996
Approved by ALA Council, July 10, 1996
RESOLUTION ON SUBJECT HEADINGS RELATING TO CLASS AND POVERTY

WHEREAS the American Library Association in 1990 adopted a "Poor People's Services Policy" that promotes, in part, "the ready accessibility of print and nonprint materials that honestly address the issues of poverty and homelessness, that deal with poor people in a respectful way, and that are of practical use to low-income patrons"; and

WHEREAS that same policy encourages activities and programs "likely to reduce, if not eliminate, poverty itself", and

WHEREAS Library of Congress subject headings can importantly affect access to vital library resources on hunger, homelessness, and poverty, as well as shaping library users' attitudes toward those topics; and

WHEREAS LC headings currently impede or distort access in much relevant material because of antiquated or insensitive language, coupled with a failure to recognize a host of significant subjects actually represented in library collections;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1,800-member Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association urges the Library of Congress to (a) replace PUBLIC WELFARE and PUBLIC WELFARE ADMINISTRATION with the more familiar forms WELFARE and WELFARE ADMINISTRATION; (b) humanize the current heading POOR by transforming it into POOR PEOPLE; and (c) swiftly establish and assign these warranted and essential headings related to poverty, hunger, homelessness, and social policy:

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<td>HOMELESS FAMILIES</td>
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Library Press

Thank You

RESOLUTION ON
STEPHEN STILLWELL

WHEREAS Stephen J. Stillwell, jr. has provided sterling, if somewhat flamboyant, leadership to SRRT Action Council for the past several years;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Action Council thanks him, especially for the leadership!

Moved by: Sanford Berman
Seconded by: Al Kagan
Passed by acclamation: July 9, 1996