CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Carolyn Caywood, 1998-1999 IFRT Chair

This business of being “Chair” has been full of surprises, and I blame the Internet for at least some of it. No, not filters this time—e-mail. ALA has discovered that, with e-mail, the meetings never have to end. OK, there has really been a lot of important business to handle this year. First, round tables like IFRT will soon have their own Councilors and that has meant elections and Bylaws changes. Second, the concern over library education has led to the Congress on Professional Education this year. IFRT was invited to send a delegate to represent our concerns. You can read my statement of them at http://www.ala.org/congress/. Third, ALA is working on changes to the way conferences are run, and again IFRT has had a voice in the effect those changes will have.

Meanwhile, it is the great privilege of being Chair to plan a program for the Annual Conference. I hope you will all want to attend “Kids Have Rights, Parents Have Responsibilities, Librarians have Ulcers” on Saturday, June 26, 1999, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., in New Orleans. Our main speaker will be Parry Aftab, lawyer, parent, and author of “A Parent’s Guide to the Internet.” A panel of librarians, Steve Herb, Pam Klipsch, Susan Oliver, and Jill Patterson will react to her presentation. Background material for the program is on a Web page at http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt_prgr.html.

With this program we hope to explore what happens when we say “parents should guide their own children’s use of the library.” For taking this position, we’ve been accused of not caring about kids’ welfare and of undermining parental authority and societal goals. Our response has been that only parents have the right and responsibility to teach their own children the values they should apply to reading, library use, and Internet use. Experience tells us that it is unwise and intrusive for librarians to make wholesale judgements barring access by young people to categories of information. We recognize that children, too, have rights and needs for information, and indeed that restrictions made to protect children soon limit adults as well. We know that we can help best by showing parents and children how to become careful and critical users of information. And yet, legislation and software seem like cheap and easy answers to many who worry that children may find information or ideas that others feel is bad for them. Is there any way to get beyond these polarized positions and help kids develop the wisdom they’ll need as adults?
After the program and the conference are over, IFRT will have a new Chair, Dr. Laurence Miller, and I will have the fun of finding people willing to run for IFRT offices. If you are interested, you can reach me at carolyn@infi.net.

IF Programs—Not Just for Banned Books Week Anymore

There’s an old adage about letting sleeping dogs lie, but it’s poor advice for libraries. If we present programs on intellectual freedom issues, we can choose the time and the subject to be most effective in helping our users and supporters understand our principles. Otherwise, we wait on chance to find out whether the dog bites, and often we’re already bleeding when we have to persuade our community that intellectual freedom principles are worth their support.

During the National Endowment for the Arts controversy, the Virginia Beach Public Library and Virginians Against Censorship presented a program titled “Public Art: Whose Taste? Who’s Taxed?” John Stewart, Assistant Library Director, put together a panel discussion on public funding for the arts and limitations on the artists. We were lucky that at that time Ralph Reed, then of the Christian Coalition, lived locally. In addition to Reed, we had a museum curator, a head of a school art curriculum, and a slide show from the ACLU. The sizable audience got very involved and raised provocative issues. The most interesting point, to my mind, was made by the teacher who was also an artist. She felt very strongly that public funding should not be contingent on art she created that wasn’t covered by that funding. Seems obvious, but throughout the NEA controversy, works not funded by the NEA were treated as though they had been, just because the artist had been funded for something else. I had not seen that point made elsewhere, and the public might never have thought about it if not for the program.

So, what programs have you developed to help the public understand intellectual freedom issues? Have you used the Internet Teach-In, Teen Read Week, or National Library Week to raise public awareness of how libraries support our liberties? Share your efforts with your colleagues through the IFRT Report. It’s a chance for you to brag and an opportunity for everyone to get fresh ideas.

IFRT Election Results

The IFRT membership adopted the proposed bylaws amendments by a vote of 310 to 12.

Pamela Klipsch was elected as IFRT Councilor. Cynthia Pirtle was elected vice-chair. Barbara Wortman was elected treasurer. Elizabeth Dailey and Melora Ranney were elected directors.

Out of approximately 1,500 eligible voters, an average of 322 cast their votes in this election.

The entire 1999 ALA election results can be found at http://www.ala.org/alaorg/election99/.

IFRT Awards Announced

JOIN THE IFRT TO HONOR THE 1999 AWARD WINNERS AT THE AWARDS CEREMONY, WHICH WILL BE HELD DURING THE IFRT PROGRAM “KIDS HAVE RIGHTS/ PARENTS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES/ LIBRARIANS HAVE ULCERS!” ON SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2:00–4:00 P.M., ROOM 1 OF THE NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION CENTER.

IFRT/SIRS State And Regional Achievement Award

The Oregon Coalition for Free Expression (OCFE) will receive the 1999 SIRS State and Regional Achievement Award presented by the ALA IFRT.

The Oregon Supreme Court has ruled on a number of occasions that the Oregon Constitution provides a greater protection of free expression than the U. S. Constitution. In reaction to this, individuals and organizations that
oppose free speech were successful in getting first a ballot initiative and then a referendum on the ballot, both of which would have narrowed the protection of free speech in Oregon. OCFE will receive the award for providing leadership for organizations and individuals committed to free speech in Oregon in opposition to, and thereby, defeating these measures.

"The State and Regional Achievement Award Committee very much admires the grass roots nature of OCFE, the leadership shown in working to defeat attempts to narrow the protection of free speech in Oregon, and OCFE's educational efforts in support of the Freedom of Expression during its brief history," Committee Chair Laurence Miller said. "IFRT is honored to be able to recognize the Coalition's work."

The State and Regional Award is funded by Social Issues Resource Series, Inc. and consists of a citation and $1,000. The award recognizes successful and effective intellectual freedom committees or intellectual freedom coalitions that have made a contribution to the freedom to read in libraries or to the intellectual freedom environment in which libraries function.


Immroth Memorial Award

Mainstream Loudoun has been named the winner of the John Phillip Immroth Memorial Award for Intellectual Freedom, presented by the ALA IFRT.

Mainstream Loudoun was selected for its role in Mainstream Loudoun v. Board of Trustees of Loudoun County Library, in which Judge Leonie M. Brinkema of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia ruled that the highly restrictive Internet policy imposed on Loudoun County libraries was invalid under the free speech provisions of the First Amendment.

"The Immroth Award Committee recognizes the great efforts of Mainstream Loudoun and members of the Loudoun community in supporting freedom of access to Internet resources in the public library and its initiation and involvement in significant and successful landmark First Amendment litigation in the area of Internet access in libraries," said Immroth Committee Chair Tom Budlong. "Mainstream Loudoun stands as a model to the rest of the country in showing how a group of concerned citizens can organize themselves and their community to fight in support of their First Amendment rights."

The Immroth Award consists of a citation and $500. Past recipients include the Director and supporters of the Rutland (Vt.) Free Library (1998), Ronald F. Sigler (1997), the plaintiffs in Case v. Unified School District (1996), and the Fort Vancouver (Wash.) Regional Library Board of Trustees (1995).

"Kids Have Rights/Parents Have Responsibilities/Librarians Have Ulcers!"

What do we mean when we say parents should guide their own children's use of the library, and how do parents feel about that? Come explore who is responsible for a minor's use of the library, especially since the advent of public access to the Internet.

Parry Aftab, lawyer, parent, and author of A Parents' Guide to the Internet (http://www.familyguidebook.com/aboutparry.html), will present her perspective on these questions. Reacting to her presentation will be a panel of librarians consisting of Steven L. Herb, chair, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee, Pamela R.
Klipsch, IFRT Councilor; Susan E. Oliver, Principal Librarian, Tampa - Hillsborough County Public Library, North Tampa Branch, Tampa, FL; and Jill K. Patterson, Senior Librarian, Glendora Public Library, Glendora, CA.

Introducing the program, scheduled in the New Orleans Convention Center, Room 1, on Saturday, June 26, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. during the 1999 Annual Conference, will be IFRT Chair Carolyn Caywood.

IFRT offers the links found on its Web site at http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/ifrt_prgr.html as background information for the program and as a resource for all who want young people to use the Internet safely and sensibly.

Selected Intellectual Freedom Programs in New Orleans

Sunday, June 27

"E-ETHICS: Issues for the Digital Age"

Join the Committee on Professional Ethics from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel, LaGalerie 2, and explore what the possible reactions can be to becoming involved in the following ethical situations:

What about a situation . . . where Mom drops Junior off at the library? Internet access is there. Computers in the "children's room" are filtered, those elsewhere aren't. What about that? Junior finds an unfiltered computer, and guess what else? Are the librarians supervising who's using what? Did Junior get into a chat room? Mom reappears and dresses down the library director. Where's that person coming from, she wonders? Does the Code of Ethics tell us anything about what this library and its staff should be doing?

What about a situation . . . with a spooky guy using an Internet access computer? It's a public library just outside of "Littleton, Anywhere." The guy hasn't signed his name to the Internet check-in sheet. And he won't tell Patron Number One who he is. All this is taking place in front of the reference librarian. Guess what the reference librarian does? What in the Code of Ethics tells us what the librarian should be doing?

What about . . . a heated discussion among library media specialists about chat and e-mail access? What about the school library that forbids all chat room access? Or the one that has an acceptable use policy that requires parental permission for chat? Or allows chat and e-mail only before or after school? Can the schools limit use of chat and e-mail "for educational purposes only"? Does the Code of Ethics inform the discussion about access issues in these libraries?

This year, the Committee on Professional Ethics tackles a theme program on ethical conduct in the age of electronic resources. There's serious purpose behind the amusement. The Ethics 'R Us troupe has worked timely issues involving privacy and confidentiality, assistance to young people, "offensive" materials, chat room and e-mail access, and much, much more into the presentations. As always, each skit is followed by robust audience discussion of the ethical issues and how the Code of Ethics guides librarians' decisions.

Christian Boissonnas and Marc Meola will moderate. Yes, our very own Phil Donahues-in-the-making! Or is it Jerry Springers? Howard Zogott will direct. Everyone on the Committee on Professional Ethics plays a part. Join in!

Monday, June 28

"Preparation IF: Prescriptive Planning for Problems"

From 8:30-10:30 a.m., in the Convention Center, Room 344, the Intellectual Freedom Committees
of AASL, ALSC, ALTA, and YALSA will present a program emphasizing that all staff should be secure in the knowledge that they are not only following their library’s policies, but also are complying with state and federal law. Learn from people in the field how to inform everyone, from pages to Friends, about your library’s policies and guidelines as well as First Amendment issues. With planning and training, everyone can be confident and united when faced with a patron’s questions and concerns. Speakers include Carrie Gardner, school librarian, Milton Hershey (PA) School; Vivian Wynn, Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County.; and Candace D. Morgan, Ft. Vancouver (WA) Regional Library.

"Freedom, Privacy, and the Internet: An Academic Library Primer"

From 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., at the Fairmont Hotel, University Room, the Association of College and Research Libraries Intellectual Freedom Committee is presenting its program “Freedom, Privacy, and the Internet: An Academic Library Primer.”

In an intellectual freedom framework, the program explores the practical, legal and theoretical aspects of making open Internet access available in an academic library—with due regard for privacy and freedom of access for library users. Steven L. Herb, IFC chair, is the program speaker.

Following the program, a hearing will be held on the third draft of ACRL’s “Intellectual Freedom Principles for Academic Libraries.”

"Internet Legislation in the States"

From 10:00 a.m.-Noon, the Intellectual Freedom Committee and Committee on Legislation will present a program updating current efforts to legislate the Internet in the states. The program is scheduled in the Convention Center, Room 1.

“The Book (Movie) Made Me Do It!”

From 2:00–4:00 p.m. in the New Orleans Convention Center, Room 245, the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee and the Association of American Publishers, Inc./Freedom to Read Committee will present “The Book (Movie) Made Me Do It!: Is There a Causal Link between Reading and Viewing and Copycat Behavior?”

The panel will discuss whether a new limit to free speech is being drawn in light of Byers v. Edmondson, a case brought against film director Oliver Stone and the producers of the 1994 film Natural Born Killers, that reading a book or watching a movie can cause “copycat” behavior. Also discussed will be how such a limit on free speech could affect libraries and television, movies, books, and other creative works. Audience participation will be encouraged.

Panel members are Peter Irons, professor of political science, University of California—San Diego, director, Earl Warren Bill of Rights Project, and Rodney A. Smolla, George Allen Professor of Law, T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA. Moderating the discussion is R. Bruce Rich, Weil, Gotshal & Manges, counsel to the AAP Freedom to Read Committee. Introducing the program is Patricia S. Schroeder, president and chief executive officer, Association of American Publishers.

1999 Annual Conference Meeting Schedule

The 1999 American Library Association Annual Conference will be held June 24–June 30 in New Orleans, Louisiana. Following is a schedule of intellectual freedom programs and meetings. All ALA members are welcome to attend.
Meetings

Thursday, June 24
- Freedom to Read Foundation, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Convention Center, Room 1
- Intellectual Freedom Committee I, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m., Convention Center, Room 1

Friday, June 25
- Intellectual Freedom Committee II, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1
- Intellectual Freedom Round Table I, 2:00-5:30 p.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1

Saturday, June 26
- Intellectual Freedom Committee III, 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1
- IFRT Membership Promotion Committee, 9:30-11:00 a.m., Convention Center, Room 348
- LeRoy C. Merritt Humanitarian Fund, 12:30-2:00 p.m., Marriott, Mardi Gras A
- Committee on Professional Ethics I, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Marriott, Mardi Gras B

Sunday, June 27
- Intellectual Freedom Committee/Committee on Legislation, 8:00-9:00 a.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1
- Intellectual Freedom Comm./Intellectual
- Freedom Round Table/Div. IFCs, 9:00-10:00 a.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1
- IFC Issues Briefing Session, 8:00-9:00 a.m., Marriott, Mardi Gras B
- Intellectual Freedom Round Table II, 8:00-10:00 p.m., Convention Center, Room 215
- Committee on Professional Ethics II, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Marriott, Mardi Gras G,H
- Intellectual Freedom Committee/Association of American Publishers, 5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m., Marriott, LaGalerie 1

Tuesday, June 29
- Intellectual Freedom Committee IV, 2:00-4:00 p.m., Convention Center, Room 1

Report from Congress on Professional Education—Carolyn Caywood, Chair

It was a fascinating and congenial meeting, structured to downplay position-taking and to foster new insights. At times, I felt it was over-structured, but I appreciated the efforts to avoid splits into opposing camps. The planners made use of a lot of meeting techniques like brainstorming on flipcharts and voting with stickers.

In order to arrive at a list of values for library education, they pulled keywords out of the Code of Ethics and had us rank them. Some of us felt that was an injustice to the Code and too limiting. However, it had the effect of putting Intellectual Freedom in the final list of 5 values. Privacy and confidentiality did not get voted into that list, possibly because folks saw them as covered under IF. The other 4 values were large lumps of many concepts: access, service, professionalism and professional development, and respect.

A list of skills to be taught was developed, and again they were very broad categories: communication/interpersonal skills, management, political skills, specialization (children, cataloging, archives), and technology skills.

Finally a list of barriers—compensation, image, time and cost, rapid change, geographical location of LIS programs, and misconceptions of what we do—was generated. This was toward the end, and I’m not sure I can explain what all the barriers meant. It should be noted that all these lists were very much contingent on the process and I wouldn’t want to see them pushed too far, but they did stimulate some interesting strategies that I see as very hopeful.
Some of the strategies ranked as worth pursuing are:

- marketing/advocacy/recruitment to the profession
- funding research on the needs of the profession
- adding other associations to the accreditation process
- writing a values “credo”
- a panel on compensation of the profession
- continuing dialog on library education
- rewarding risk-taking in the workplace
- working on the whole spectrum of education, from paraprofessional to post-graduate and continuing education after the degree personal professional
- developing more active relationships with the schools by libraries and librarians cooperative global delivery of library education, especially specialization classes.

The idea of extending recruitment to teens was brought up several times, and I tied it to IF, pointing out that our strong IF stand has great appeal to teens. I also pointed out that IF has strong relationships to all the skills identified, not just the traditional one of collection development.

Some possible directions for IFRT to pursue, in my opinion, are:

- Developing a competency document on IF—educators said they use competence documents to help develop curriculum.
- Pushing for research on the IF needs of the profession. Getting involved in the writing of that values “credo.”

I’m very glad to have had the opportunity to attend and I hope I represented your interests well.

Rice v. Paladin Settled

On May 21, the first lawsuit “succeeded” in which a book was blamed for an act of violence. On that date, Paladin Press agreed to pay relatives of murder victims “millions” to settle their case against its book *Hit Man: A Technical Manual for Independent Contractors*. Plaintiffs claimed the man allegedly hired to commit a brutal triple murder used *Hit Man* to commit those crimes.

Because they considered Rice v. Paladin Enterprises, Inc. a First Amendment case, the Freedom to Read Foundation and other organizations joined an amicus brief in support of Paladin. The brief argued that the perpetrator of a crime should be punished, not the source of the information. It also argued that countless thrillers and mystery books contain information similar to that found in *Hit Man*.

Robert O’Neil, director, of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression at the University of Virginia, told the *Washington Post* that the legal merits of the case favored Paladin because of the difficulty in proving the publisher intended *Hit Man* to be used in a murder. O’Neill conjectured, however, that a jury verdict would almost surely have gone against Paladin because of the schoolhouse murders in Littleton, Colorado. “If there was any connection between the crime and the book, the likelihood that a . . . jury would have reached an astronomical figure must have played a part in the decision,” O’Neil said.

1999 Jefferson Muzzle Awards Announced

On April 13, the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Protection of Free Expression announced the 1999 Muzzle Award winners. In recognition of Mr. Jefferson’s birthday each year, the Center highlights the importance of the First Amendment by acknowledging acts that curb free expression.
This year, the first ever Lifetime Muzzle was awarded to New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr, the Texas Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee, and the Woodland School District (Missouri) also were among the winners.

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani was awarded a Lifetime Muzzle for his consistent disregard of First Amendment principles in his attempts to make a “safer, cleaner, and more hospitable New York City.” The administration has refused permits for protests and parades, imposed prohibitive licensing rules and permit fees, barred ads critical of the administration, and suspended and fired city employees for views expressed while off-duty.

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr received a Muzzle Award for issuing a subpoena requesting Monica Lewinsky’s bookstore records. Kramerworks & Afterwords bookstore fought the subpoena and it was eventually withdrawn.

A Muzzle was awarded to the Texas Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee for prohibiting do-it-yourself law materials. Nolo Press, a publisher of legal self-help books, and subject of a Committee investigation, has filed suit along with the Texas Library Association and the American Association of Law Libraries.

Other Muzzle winners include the (1) Woodland School District, recognized for attempting to control the off-campus expression of a student by suspending, and consequently failing, a student based on the opinions expressed on his Web page; (2) the Louisiana Supreme Court for restrictive regulations on whom legal clinics can represent, effectively limiting access to the courts; (3) U.S. Representative Robert L. Barr for sponsoring a budget amendment that prohibits spending on Washington D.C. Initiative 59. The ban prevents the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics from releasing the results of a vote on the legalization of marijuana for medical use; (4) Judge Gregory K. McClintock and Attorney Stuart R. Lefstein for excluding Matthew Hale from the Illinois Bar for his personal beliefs; (5) the Arenac County (Michigan) Prosecutor’s Office for prosecuting a Michigan man for swearing in the presence of women and children; (6) Principal Timothy Dawson of Killian High School (Miami, Florida) for having students arrested, and eventually expelled, for views expressed in an underground newspaper; (7) the Pinellas County (Florida) School District for forbidding a teacher, with parental support, from utilizing President Clinton’s grand jury testimony and Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr’s Referral to Congress in a history class; (8) the West Virginia University Athletic Department for removing a football fan because of the ideas expressed on a sign; and (9) WJLA-TV, the Washington D.C. ABC affiliate, for accepting and refusing political ads based on the opinions expressed.

For more information on these awards, and previous Muzzle winners, visit the Jefferson Center Web site at http://www.jtcenter.org/muzzles.html.

Ann Symons Puts Intellectual Freedom at Center Stage—by Aimee Fifarek

ALA President Ann K. Symons has based her term of office around issues of intellectual freedom. A long time school librarian, she has been an advocate for intellectual freedom rights for children and adults alike. Her theme, “Celebrating the Freedom to Read! Learn! Connect!” is the outcome of the many books, articles and programs that she has produced throughout her career. The objective of the 1998-1999 presidential initiative is:

To appeal across the profession to all types of librarians and libraries to broaden our shared sense of values and our understanding of the challenges of intellectual freedom to our profession and to the public at large, to stimulate communication and create opportunities
for dialogue on the issues and principles of intellectual freedom, whether at the national or local level.

[http://www.ala.org/symons/initiatives.html]

One of the many products of this initiative is Libraries: An American Value, a 21st century intellectual freedom statement which reaffirms ALA's commitment to an open information society (see page 10, this issue). This statement will be invaluable resource as we continue to struggle with questions about providing access to information.

In her inaugural speech [http://www.ala.org/symons/inaugural.html], Ms. Symons told the membership that intellectual freedom is a message close to my heart. But the truth is I didn't just choose this message, it chose me. With the recent defeat and resurgence of the Communications Decency Act (CDA), and continued challenges to books in libraries around the nation and world, access to information in all formats continues to dominate the intellectual landscape of the librarianship.

Events that raise awareness about intellectual freedom—like this year's eighteenth annual celebration of Banned Books Week—help to educate us as librarians, so that we can continue to encourage our patrons to think critically about these issues. What follows is a list of upcoming events based on Ann Symons' theme "Celebrating the Freedom to Read! Learn! Connect!"

April 11-17, 1999, National Library Week

National Library Week was celebrated with President Symons' theme "Read! Learn! Connect! @ the Library." Web pages have been put up at the ALA site [http://www.ala.org/celebrating/] that have ideas and suggestions for celebrating our national holiday at your library. Many school libraries also observe April as School Library Media Month and they celebrated with the same theme.

May 3-4, 1999, National Library Legislative Day

The 25th annual National Library Legislative Day was held in Washington, D.C. This year's theme, "Tell Your Library Story; Make New Friends for Libraries," has an important post-election focus for 1999. In Ms. Symons' words, this was an "opportunity for the library community to have a visible, unified voice on Capitol Hill."


This preconference is designed for librarians with an interest in intellectual freedom who work with young adults. Attendees will learn intellectual freedom advocacy skills and how to deal with challenges to both print and electronic formats. Speakers include: the Case family and Nancy Garden, plaintiffs and the author of the book involved in Case, et al. v. Unified School District 233; Joe Janes, University of Washington and founder of the Internet Public Library; Judith Krug, Director, ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom; and teenagers from Louisiana and around the country.

Sunday, June 27, 3-5 p.m.—President's Program, "A First Amendment Conversation"

The President's Annual Conference Program will feature three renowned speakers on intellectual freedom: Bruce Ennis from Jenner and Block, who argued the CDA case before the Supreme Court, Nadine Strossen, President of the ACLU; and Christie Hefner, President and CEO of Playboy Enterprises and co-chair of the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards. The program will focus on the role that intellectual freedom and First Amendment rights have played in each of the speakers' lives and careers.
At Annual Conference in New Orleans there will be a pre-conference for international librarians on intellectual freedom and freedom of expression. There also will be a program at which papers are given by librarians from other countries on freedom of expression and access to information worldwide expression.

**Libraries: An American Value**

Libraries in America are cornerstones of the communities they serve. Free access to the books, ideas, resources, and information in America’s libraries is imperative for education, employment, enjoyment, and self-government.

Libraries are a legacy to each generation, offering the heritage of the past and the promise of the future. To ensure that libraries flourish and have the freedom to promote and protect the public good in the 21st century, we believe certain principles must be guaranteed.

To that end, we affirm this contract with the people we serve:

- We defend the constitutional rights of all individuals, including children and teenagers, to use the library’s resources and services;
- We value our nation’s diversity and strive to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to the communities we serve;
- We affirm the responsibility and the right of all parents and guardians to guide their own children’s use of the library and its resources and services;
- We connect people and ideas by helping each person select from and effectively use the library’s resources;
- We protect each individual’s privacy and confidentiality in the use of library resources and services;
- We protect the rights of individuals to express their opinions about library resources and services;
- We celebrate and preserve our democratic society by making available the widest possible range of viewpoints, opinions and ideas, so that all individuals have the opportunity to become lifelong learners - informed, literate, educated, and culturally enriched.

Change is constant, but these principles transcend change and endure in a dynamic technological, social, and political environment.

By embracing these principles, libraries in the United States can contribute to a future that values and protects freedom of speech in a world that celebrates both our similarities and our differences, respects individuals and their beliefs, and holds all persons truly equal and free.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
February 3, 1999

**John Glenn Testifies Against Flag Amendment; Senate Judiciary Committee Sends It to the Senate**

Despite testimony on April 28 by John Glenn, former U.S. Senator from Ohio, and others, against S. J. Resolution 14, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved the “flag amendment” by an 11–7 vote, sending it to the full Senate, which could vote on it before Memorial Day.

Adopting an amendment prohibiting the desecration of the flag “would do nothing less than gut the First Amendment,” John Glenn told the committee, and said such an amendment “goes directly to the issue of freedom of speech.”

Our Bill of Rights, he said, is “perhaps the most envied and imitated document anywhere in this
world” and is “what makes our country unique” and a “shining beacon of hope, of liberty, of inspiration to oppressed peoples around the world for over 200 years.” He pointed out that in all those years, despite foreign wars, economic uncertainty, “great national times of trials and tribulations and times of great emotion and anger, like the Vietnam era,” the Bill of Rights “has never been changed or altered by one iota, by one word, not a single time in all of American history.”

Although calling for harsh censure for those “pathetic and insensitive few who would demean and defile our nation's greatest symbol of sacrifice,” Glenn firmly believes a flag amendment “would be a hollow victory indeed if we preserved the symbol of our freedoms by chipping away at those fundamental freedoms themselves.”

“Let the flag fully represent all the freedoms spelled out in the Bill of Rights, not a partial, watered-down version that alters its protections,” Glenn said.

Unlike the flag amendment, which would prohibit flag desecration, the few restrictions on freedoms of expression that already exist, such as not being allowed to slander someone or yell “fire” in a crowded theater, “threaten real and specific harm to other people, harm that would come about because of what the speaker said, not because of what the listeners did,” Glenn noted.

“To say that we should restrict speech or expression that would outrage a majority of listeners or move them to violence is to say that we will tolerate only those kinds of expression that the majority agrees with, or at least does not disagree with too much,” Glenn said.

To Glenn, burning a flag, like picketing or marching in protest, is symbolic speech and should be protected. He does not believe flag desecration is a “major problem for this country requiring an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America.”

“Our most revered symbol stands for freedom but is not freedom itself. We must not let those who revile our way of life trick us into diminishing our great gift or even take a chance of diminishing our freedoms,” Glenn said.

Glenn’s complete testimony can be found on ACLU’s Web site at <http://www.aclu.org/congress/lg042899b.html>.

For more information on the flag amendment, see the People for the American Way’s Web site at <http://www.FlagAmendment.org/>.

If you wish to voice your opposition to a flag amendment, various means to contact your representatives and Senators can be found at <http://www.ala.org/alaorg/oif/news_inf.html>.

“If there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, can prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein.”—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson

“We all believe in [free speech] for ourselves, for those who agree with us, and some of us, even for those who don’t disagree too much. But we are generally not eager to defend the rights of those whose views trouble us, or frighten us, or threaten us.”—Donald Kagan, Hillhouse professor of history and classics at Yale University
Nominations Sought for Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards

The Playboy Foundation is accepting nominations for the 20th anniversary of the Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Awards. The deadline for nominations is July 9, 1999.

Established by Playboy Enterprises, Inc. Chairman and CEO Christie Hefner and sponsored by the Playboy Foundation, the Awards program honors individuals who have made significant contributions to protect and enhance First Amendment rights of Americans.

Eligibility is not restricted by profession, but Awards have traditionally been given in the areas of print and broadcast journalism, education, publishing, arts and entertainment, law, government and individual conscience.

Former recipients include Joycelyn Chadwick-Joshua, who upheld the right of teachers and students to study the works of Mark Twain in the classroom; the American Civil Liberties Union and American Library Association for their successful challenge to the Communications Decency Act, which extended free speech protection to the Internet; and Lee Brawner, the executive director of the Metropolitan Library System serving Oklahoma County, for his successful launch of an educational campaign to defeat attempts by religious conservatives to remove the Academy Award-winning film The Tin Drum and assorted reading materials from Oklahoma County libraries.

Each 1999 Hugh M. Hefner First Amendment Award winner will receive a cash award of $5,000 as well as a specially designed plaque at a ceremony on November 4, 1999, in New York City. The deadline for submitting nominations is July 9, 1999. Winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges and announced in September.

For more information or for nomination forms, contact the Playboy Foundation, 680 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611, or phone 312-373-2438.

“Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others.”—William Allen White

“If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other it is the principle of free thought—not free thought for those who agree with us but freedom for the thought that we hate”—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes

“[F]reedom to differ is not limited to things that do not matter much. That would be a mere shadow of freedom. The test of its substance is the right to differ as to things that touch the heart of the existing order.”—U.S. Supreme Court Justice Robert Jackson

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