

ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter

Jan. 1, 1971

LOS ANGELES

MEETING SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, JAN 17

8:30-10:30 P.M. Action Council

MONDAY, JAN. 18

2-4 P.M. Intellectual Freedom
Task Force

4:30-6 P.M. Minority Recruitment
Task Force

8:30-10:30 P.M. Affiliate Groups

TUESDAY, JAN. 19

10 A.M.-Noon ALA COUNCIL J

2-4 P.M. GENERAL

4:30-6 P.M. MEMBERSHIP

8:30-10:30 P.M. MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 20

8-9:30 A.M. Alternative Books in
Print Task Force

8-9:30 A.M. Cataloging in Source
Task Force

10 A.M.-Noon Gay Liberation Task
Force

2-4 P.M. ALA COUNCIL II

4:30-6 P.M. Library School Students
Task Force

8:30-10:30 P.M. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

THURSDAY, JAN. 21

2-4 P.M. Affiliate Groups

4:30-6 P.M. Action Council

8:30-10:30 P.M. Status of Women
Task Force

FRIDAY, JAN. 22

8-9:30 A.M. Intellectual Freedom
Task Force

10 A.M.-Noon ALA COUNCIL III

SRRT's hospitality suite will be in rooms 5333-34-35 of the Biltmore Hotel. At this writing, there are some vacancies in the suite, and Pat Schuman would like to hear from anyone still looking for Midwinter housing. Contact her at School Library Journal prior to the Conference or at the suite in Los Angeles.

All meetings listed at the left are OPEN.

AFL/CIO-ALA NEWSLETTER GONE

The recent ALA budget cut eliminating "low priority" publications has resulted in the demise of the Library Service to Labor Newsletter, a publication of the AFL/CIO-ALA Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups. The Newsletter had been sent regularly not only to libraries, but to union locals throughout the United States. In addition to providing important bibliographical lists and summaries of labor trends, it has been used as a resource by international unions besieged with requests for information from students preparing theses and dissertations in the labor field.

Out without warning on the grounds that it was not published by a major ALA division, the Newsletter was considered by some members of the Joint Committee to be the single most important reason for the Committee's existence. They are currently fighting to have their funding, in the amount of \$2000, restored.

Anyone interested in library service to labor, or who objects to the severing of a vital link between libraries and unions, can write for a background file of correspondence related to this issue to Gay Detlefsen, Apt. 62, 527 W. 110th, N.Y. 10025.

SRRT ANNUAL ELECTIONS (Notes from Dick Akeroyd)

...We will be electing five new members to Action Council and three to Clearinghouse, to take office at the Dallas Conference. Our procedures depend on VOLUNTEERS. We need at least six names for Action Council and four for Clearinghouse in order to make it somewhat meaningful, add a bit of suspense, and so forth, so VOLUNTEER. ACT. Or something! But be reasonably sure that you are really committed to serving out the full term, with its attendant responsibilities, to which you might be elected. So far this year we have had two resignations from Action Council and two from Clearinghouse. Unforeseen circumstances, of course, must be dealt with as they arise, but much of the discontinuity of purpose and planning caused by this sort of thing could be avoided by careful consideration on the part of those volunteering for office.

This year, as last, the elections are not going in strict accord with the By-laws. This is because we initially envisioned running our elections through 50 East Huron St., but that seemed to be a bit restrictive, so we decided to do it ourselves. A full report of the procedure, along with recommendations for changes in the By-laws, will be presented for discussion and approval at the business meeting in Dallas. Sorry for any confusion.

Last year there was some question about ballots not being counted, volunteer statements not being received, etc. Unfortunately, nothing could be double checked since the envelopes containing the ballots were not retained. To avoid that happening again, all envelopes and ballots will be kept (separately) and turned over to the new Recording Secretary at Dallas. Also, all ballots which arrive after the deadline date, and accordingly not counted, will be kept and turned over. If anonymity, secret ballots, and that sort of thing concern you a great deal, I'd suggest that in lieu of your name and return address you mark either your ballot or envelope or both so that you can identify them should you have some question as to the receipt and counting of your vote. All volunteer statements will also be kept.

Only about one third of the membership voted in the last election. Let's shoot for three thirds this year.

The procedure will be as follows:

Volunteer statements of 150 to 300 words (see topics below), accompanied by name and work address only, must be in to me no later than March 15, 1971.

The statements will be collated and mailed along with a ballot to the entire SRRT membership by April 1, 1971. Voting will be on the basis of the statements only. Ballots must be returned no later than May 15, 1971.

Results will be sent individually to all candidates. They will also be reported in the pre-Dallas Newsletter.

The deadline dates are absolute. Please try to meet them.

(Ed. note: Dick doesn't say so, but I believe volunteer statements should carry an identification of which committee you're after, Action Council or Clearinghouse.)

TOPICS:

1. SRRT and the "new American revolution" (for those wishing to peek a little beyond the four walls of ALA). Relate your concept of future SRRT action to the following "revolutionary collective" concept, discussed by Tom Hayden in the final chapter of his book The Trial (in Ramparts, July 1970, pp. 57-58):

Insurgent, even revolutionary, activity will occur outside as well as inside the Territories. Much of it will be within institutions (workplaces, army bases, schools, even "behind enemy lines" in the government). But the Territories will be like models or beacons to those who struggle within these institutions, and the basic tension will tend always to occur between the authorities and the Territories pulling people out of the mainstream.

The Territories will establish once and for all the polarized nature of the Mother Country. No longer will Americans be able to think comfortably of themselves as a homogeneous society with a few extremists at the fringes. No longer will politicians and administrators be able to feel confident in their power to govern the entire U.S. Beneath the surface of official power, the Territories will be giving birth to new centers of power.

In the foreseeable future, Free Territories will have to operate with a strategy of "dual power"—that is, people would stay within the legal structure of the U.S., involuntarily if for no other reason, while building new forms with which to replace that structure. The thrust of these new forms will be resistance against illegitimate outside authority, and constant attempts at self-government.

Mother Country radicalism will have its unique organizational forms. Revolutionarily movements have turned towards the concept of a centralized, disciplined, nationally-based "vanguard" party which leads a variety of mass organizations representing specific interests (women, labor, students, etc.). This organizational form is logical where people are already disciplined by their situation (as in a large factory) or where the goal is "state power." But it is not so clear that such an organizational form is necessary—at least now—for Mother Country radicalism. Certainly the excessive individualism and egoism which dominate the culture of young people must be overcome if we are going to survive, much less make a revolution. But the organizational form must be consistent with the kind of revolution we are trying to make. For that reason *the collective* in some form should be the basis of revolutionary organization.

A revolutionary collective would not be like the organizations to which we give part-time attachment today, the kind where we attend meetings, "participate" by speaking and voting, and perhaps learn how to use a mimeograph machine. The collectives would be much more about our *total* lives. Instead of developing our talents within schools and other Establishment institutions, we would develop them primarily within our own collectives. In these groups we would learn politics, self-defense, languages, ecology, medical skills, industrial techniques—everything that helps people grow towards independence. Thus the collectives would not be just organizational weapons to use against the Establishment, but organs fostering the development of revolutionary people.

The emphasis in this kind of organization is on power from below. It begins with a distrust of highly centralized or elite-controlled organizations. But we should also recognize that decentralization can degenerate into anarchy and tribalism. Collectives must stress the need for unity and cooperation, especially on projects which require large numbers or when common interests are threatened. We should seek the advantages of coordinated power while avoiding the problem of an established hierarchy. A network of collectives can act as the "revolutionary council" of a given Territory and a network of such councils can unite the Territories across the United States. In addition to such political coordination, the Territories can be united through the underground press and culture, through conferences and constant travel.

2. SRRT and the structure of ALA (for those who dig it, or could dig it, if only ALA would look and act a little different -- with a little help from its friends?). Relate your concept of future SRRT action, potential for influence, ability to love...etc., to the following excerpt from John Gardner's discussion of the "redesign of institutions" in his book The Recovery of Confidence (pp. 29-30):

So the stage is set for the most familiar confrontation of modern life—between people who demand change and institutions that resist it. The institutions alter, but never fast enough, and those who seek change are bitterly disappointed.

In the resulting conflict we find our institutions caught in a savage crossfire between uncritical lovers and unloving critics. On the one side, those who love their institutions tend to smother them in an embrace of death, loving their rigidities more than their promise, shielding them from life-giving criticism. On the other side there

has arisen a breed of critics without love, skilled in demolition but untutored in the arts by which human institutions are nurtured and strengthened and made to flourish.

Where human institutions are concerned, love without criticism brings stagnation, and criticism without love brings destruction. The swifter the pace of change, the more lovingly men must care for and criticize their institutions to keep them intact through the turbulent passages.

Send your statements to Dick Akeroyd, Special Collections Dept., Wilbur Cross Library, Storrs, Connecticut, 06268.

(Ed. note: All members may want to hang on to these excerpts, in case they don't appear again in the Newsletter. You'll need them when you vote.)

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT.....

Following the appearance of the Radical Research Center's Alternative Press Index, several SRRT members felt the library profession should be directly involved in supporting and facilitating access to alternative ideas, life styles, and social concepts. A demand for materials is now being made by students, Third World patrons, and other concerned individuals in all libraries, but acquisitions librarians cannot know all of the possible sources without some guides. Alternatives in Print was compiled to help meet the demand for information about Movement publications by serving as an adjunct to the traditional library tools. Alternatives in Print is scheduled to be available at the Midwinter Conference at Los Angeles, and can also be obtained from the Ohio State University Library Publications Committee, 1858 Neil Ave., Columbus, O., 43210. Price is to be announced.

ACTION COUNCIL.....

has two new members as a result of two resignations. Replacing Jean-Anne South is Marilyn Gill, of the Arlington, Virginia Public Library. Replacing Andrew Armitage is Paul K. Wang, of the San Francisco Public Library.

VOLUNTEERS.....

are needed to serve on the Program Committee for the Dallas Conference. Anyone interested in working, especially those located in the Dallas area, can notify Pat Schuman, School Library Journal.

A NEW TASK FORCE.....

on the American Indian is in process of formation. The group's purpose is to improve the condition of library service to the Native American in the city and on the reservation. Interested librarians, especially Native Americans, are urged to contact the Coordinator, Charles Townley, American Indian Bibliographer, Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, California, 93106.

The Task Force will meet at Midwinter and at the Annual Conference at Dallas. Meeting times and locations will be available at the SRRT hospitality suite.

TASK FORCE REPORTS

GAY LIBERATION.....planning to publish an annotated bibliography in one of the library journals...preparing a folder for national distribution...looking for a lawyer/librarian to advise on legal matters as need arises...

STATUS OF WOMEN....bibliographies being compiled on day care, birth control, and abortion...planning an evaluation of status of women librarians in public libraries...Task Force needs regional coordinators...contributors and/or volunteers in any of these areas contact Kay Cassell, 1060 Stuyvesant Ave., Trenton, N.J. 08618.

MINORITY RECRUITMENT.....deep into planning for a Dallas pre-conference aimed primarily at library administrators...key speakers to be Assistant Secretary of Labor ARTHUR FLETCHER and the REV. LEON SULLIVAN of Philadelphia...

AFFILIATE GROUP REPORTS

CALIFORNIA L.A. Committee on SR of Libraries.....sponsored programs on ethnic groups, community information centers, and correctional institutions at the CLA Annual Conference...highlighted by address from ex-prison inmates...collection taken to provide paperback libraries at two halfway houses...planning "adoption" of other centers, as well as trins by librarians to correctional institutions...

FINGER LAKES.....also into service to prisons as a result of interest in the conviction of Joe Gilchrist (Flower City Conspiracy)...working with Cornell students and local Economic Opportunity Corporation on a bus to tour rural communities with community service information...

MISSOURI.....compiling a list of outreach programs and services to the disadvantaged which have been offered by Missouri libraries...

MARYLAND L.A. JMRT.....produced "Women, a selected bibliography", copies available at 25c from Barbara McKain, 619 Washington Blvd., Baltimore 21230...planning an open meeting on the Obscenity Report in January...submitted lengthy position paper on reorganization of Maryland L.A....

PHILADELPHIA...compiled list of groups dealing with social and political problems, private and government, straight and way-out, with phone numbers...introduced resolution concerning invasion of privacy by governmental search of library records to Pennsylvania L.A. Annual Conference (passed)...sent statements to two major Philadelphia newspapers supporting the Free Library's stand against removal of Rubin's Do It! from open stacks...

OHIO...mounted display on "What Issues are Library Issues?" at OLA Annual Conference...promoted passage by OLA of Librarians' Bill of Rights...

BAY AREA...planning a complete list of all local information and resource centers...Sub-Committee on Book Selection has identified five areas neglected by local libraries: pulp magazines, legal and medical information, alternative political views, religion, and foreign language material...

A SECOND NEW TASK FORCE....on the role of media services in "free schools"...

Free schools are those modeled primarily on Summerhill and characterized by an educational atmosphere in which children become a part of the learning process and curriculum emerges from their interests. Subjects are integrated and teachers encourage and guide but do not direct. The emphasis is on individualizing the program and helping the student develop responsibility and independence.

There are now approximately 600 of these schools in the United States and Canada. Their impact may be felt not so much as an alternative form of school but rather in showing public schools ways to change and become more humane. The Task Force will not only gather information on free schools, but will also render assistance to those wishing to establish media programs.

Interested persons should contact Ray Barber, University School, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, 44242, and/or see Ray at Midwinter (Biltmore Hotel).

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JOIN or START an **SRRT** and get involved