



NEWSLETTER # 30

MARCH 1974

THE NATIONAL SCENE

Newsletter

Copy deadline-dates: April 30; June 1; Aug. 31; Oct. 31. Send "feedback," short bibliogs., activity-reports, draft resolutions, data on "things to get," reviews, muckraking tidbits, and anything else worth sharing with SRRT colleagues to Sandy Berman, Editor, 2412 Girard Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55405. Once again, thanks go to Jerrie Anderson, our highly-talented masthead-artist, and Carole Hanson, erstwhile reference librarian, who performs the typing shitwork with both amazing speed and buoyancy. Related kudos, as well, to Dick Gauthier, who operates Ink Printing Co. at Town House Road, Wyoming, RI 02898, for--as Sherrie Friedman aptly puts it--"continued fine service."

Newsletter contents are regularly cited in CALL (Current awareness--library literature) published bi-monthly by Goldstein Associates, 35 Whitmore Road, Framingham, Mass. 01701.

"More North American news of interest to those wishing to change the profession than anything going." That's the unsolicited--and much appreciated--opinion rendered in the February 1974 Emergency Librarian! (p. 19) by those super-charged, free-wheeling Canadians whose own mag--now in its third issue--is a most valuable & welcome newcomer to the booming genre of "alternative library lit."

No apologies for the late-mailing of #29. Copy went to the printer on Feb. 4th. The issue was ready for distribution on the 20th. But mailing labels only arrived from Chicago on March 4th. It's distressing, granted. But nobody's particular fault.

ALA Council: Alternatives

Council is the policy-making body of the American Library Association and too often in its history has played the neuter role of rubber-stamping ALA Headquarters' or Establishment conceptions. There have been exceptions to this mirage: the resolution against the Viet-Nam war; the investigation of Library of Congress' racial bias; myself. And, since 1969, Council itself has been somewhat revamped into a more representative body, e.g., by elimination of ALA past-presidents. Most Councilors are now elected on an at-large basis and each year an official committee nominates a slate of candidates. Officialdom notwithstanding, SRRT annually nominates an alternative slate by petition. Provision of alternatives is always SRRT's aim and this is especially true regarding Council elections. The electorate must have wider choices. An effort must be made to elect people who will offset the silent majority. Establishmentarianism must always be averted. This last point was illustrated at ALA Midwinter 1974 when a majority of Council denied three University of Chicago librarians the right to speak and further prevented a resolution to impeach President Nixon (based upon the Library Bill of Rights) from being moved and discussed on the floor. This same Council did grant speaking privileges to a nonmember--the real estate agent for ALA Headquarters' proposed skyscraper!

Below is a list of SRRT-petitioned candidates for ALA Council plus an alternative slate endorsed by the Black Caucus. SRRT supports both, as does the Black Caucus.

Now it's up to you SRRT'ers to campaign for these people. A responsive Council means a viable ALA. Peace.--Peter M. Doiron, Coordinator, Action Council.

*SRRT nominees

Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger, Hennepin County Library, 7001 York Avenue South, Edina, Minnesota 55435.

Kay Cassel, 4146 Timberlane Drive, Allison Park, Pennsylvania 15101.

Ernest A. Di Mattia Jr., Director, Half Hollow Hills Community Library, 55 Vanderbilt Parkway, Dix

Hilla, New York 11746.

Peter M. Doirion, Apartment 13c, 77 Fulton Street, New York, New York 10038.

Jackie Eubanks, Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, New York 11210.

Elizabeth Futas, Reference Librarian, Queens College Library, Flushing, New York 11367.

E.J. Josey, 12-c Old Hickory Drive, Albany, New York 12204.

Suzanne J. Le Barron, Community Librarian, Minneapolis Public Library, Sumner Branch, 611 Emerson Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411.

Jean K. Marshall, Cataloger, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, New York, 11210.

Samuel F. Morrison, Library Director, Frostproof Living Learning Library, Frostproof, Florida 33843.

Margaret Myers, Assistant Professor, Rutgers Graduate School of Library Science, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903.

Lynne Rhoads, Librarian, University of Washington Libraries, Seattle, Washington 99195.

Betty-Carol Sellen, Librarian, Circulation Division, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, New York 11210.

Diana Lembo Spirt, Associate Professor, Long Island University Graduate Library School, Greenvale, New York 11548.

★Black Caucus nominees ↴

Dr. Mohammed M. Aman, Chairman, Department of Library Science, St. John's University, Jamaica, New York 11432.

Mary Biblo, Librarian, University of Chicago Lab School, 5225 South Blackstone Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60615.

Barbara Coleman, Librarian, U. S. Air Force Library 2541, Hamilton Air Force Base, California 94934.

Robert Ford, Medgar Evers College, Brooklyn, New York 11225.

E. J. Josey, 12-c Old Hickory Drive, Albany, New York 12204.

Doreitha R. Madden, Coordinator, Library Outreach Service to the Disadvantaged, New Jersey State Library, 185 West State Street, Tranton, New Jersey 08625.

Avery W. Williams, Chief, Reference Library, Roosevelt University Library, Chicago, Illinois 60605.

★Newsletter nominees + "bullet"-route ↴

While neither a SRRT nor BC candidate, another person nominated by petition deserves mention here: Gerald Shields, Asst. Prof., State University of New York, School of Library and Information Science, Buffalo, N.Y. 14214. We trust he won't regard this as a "kiss of death," but the plain fact--as we see it--is that Gerry, long-time editor of American Libraries, is an outstanding, outspoken, independent-minded fellow who would bring much intelligence, fair play, & vitality to Council. And since we're this far into the election-gambit, a general word of advice: To make your votes count, follow the "bullet-method." That is, vote exclusively for the candidates you really want to win. If the total number doesn't add up to the magic 25, okay. Your first-choices stand a better chance of winning when you haven't "thrown away" votes on second-bets.

ALA '74: where to crash in NYC ↴

If you can afford to travel to NYC, but can't hack a hotel room--SRRTers in NYC can put you up! The New York City SRRT affiliate has formed a Conference Housing Task Force to assist annual conference attendees. A growing number of librarians living in the city have volunteered to share their living quarters with conference visitors.

If you'd like to find a place to stay with us--or if you'd like to volunteer your New York City residence--write to: Ms. Rose Arbus, 1037 President Street, Brooklyn NY 11225. Please be sure to include your name, mailing address, phone number, and expected arrival date. Our deadline for requests is May 15th. All will be answered (even if they can't be filled) by June 1st. We want to get to know you!--Barbara Winch, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, NY 11210; (212) 780-5333 (2-21).

ALA '74: Task force/affiliate fair <<

There will be a Task Force Fair at the New York Convention on Thursday, July 11, in the evening! All task forces will be represented at separate, large tables (round, naturally). Those interested can learn of the activities of as many task forces as they wish. The purpose is to attract new TF members, to explain the activities of each TF, and to dramatically demonstrate the organization of SRRT: a large group of librarians acting through issue-oriented task forces. This fair is not intended to overlook the many active affiliates in the country. Thought has been given to including one or more tables especially for affiliates. If there are affiliates that would like to be involved, please contact Suzanne LeBaron (238 Irving Ave. N., Mpls, MN 55405) within a month from now. And for more Fair details, see the preconference newsletter issue.

Midwinter travesty/AC reaction <<

On February 8, SRRT Action Council addressed the following memo to "All members of ALA Council," with copies to the ALA Executive Board, Intellectual Freedom Committee, and library press:

Two situations occurred during the Council meeting on Friday, Jan. 25 in Chicago that deeply concern the Social Responsibilities Round Table, and should concern all Council members and all members of ALA. We are speaking to the lack of consent by many members of Council to allow the University of Chicago representatives to speak and the refusal to discuss not only the resolution concerning impeachment of Nixon, but also the content of the Intellectual Freedom Committee's report reacting to that resolution.

Our outraged concern does not involve any individual's personal views as to accepting either the opinion of the UC individuals or the resolution on impeachment, but rather the willingness of so many members of Council to disallow access to information to Council as a whole and to membership.

We are perfectly aware of the time situation that was occurring; but this, in the University of Chicago case, surely could not be sufficient reason for passing on the SCAM report, after hearing only the highly editorial commentary by Ms. Frame. Further, to allow the chair to whimsically rule that discussion of the content of a committee's report was closed was the most blatant form of censorship!

We suggest that the action of many Council members effectively destroyed the very policies that have been claimed to be the foundation for libraries and librarians - the Library Bill of Rights. Just as "Libraries should provide books and other materials presenting all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times" so too we contend that all points of view should be heard before action is taken by Council. Just as "Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgement of free expression and free access to ideas" so to we contend that free access to ideas and information should be allowed before action is taken by Council.

Is the policy-making group of the American Library Association exempt from those policies they would have the members of the association apply to their professional lives?

SRRT is sending this letter to all all Council members, with the awareness that several of you did not take the stand to withhold information. We include you in our mailing so that you will be informed as to our outrage and our feelings of shame that such incidents could ever occur in the American Library Association.

By press-time, the AC memo had engendered these replies:

1.
During the weeks that have passed since the Midwinter meeting of ALA, I have been haunted by a number of things that transpired during the course of the week of January 19-25th. However, I shall address myself only to two issues raised by the Action Council in your memorandum of February 8th to all members of Council.

While I am proud to say that I can be counted among those councilors who voted for access to information to Council, nevertheless, I am concerned and disturbed as you are about the conservative attitude of council and the ALA leadership. Never in our history of the American Library Association have we needed humanity and hope as exemplified by the consciousness raising efforts of SRRT. It is imperative that SRRT insist "that free access to ideas and information should be allowed before action is taken by Council." The Council cannot respond intelligently unless it has before it both sides of an issue. The Council will do its best work when every shade of opinion is heard.

It was demeaning for an organization that loudly proclaims intellectual freedom to, at the same time, deny free speech to the former employees of the University of Chicago, which is an abridgement of intellectual freedom. Whether or not individual members of Council espouse the impeachment of Richard M. Nixon, it was certainly the very antithesis of intellectual freedom to deny discussion of this burning issue, which is germane to so many Americans in 1974.

It is my hope that the Intellectual Freedom Committee and the legislative body of the Association, the Council, are not allowing themselves to be guided largely by pragmatic considerations of the Federal trough.

The tasks ahead require the best efforts of all of us to make the American Library Association more responsive. To this end I pledge all of my efforts.--E.J. Jossey, Member of ARRT and Council (2-19).

2.

I have just read the memo from the SRRT Action Council regarding the situations during the Midwinter Council meeting which eliminated what I also considered to be necessary information that might have clarified more thinking and possibly might have led to more positive action.

Personally, I very much regret that it was not suggested that one of the Chicago University Library representatives speak for the three, and I am sorry that I was not quick enough to suggest that myself.

In general, I feel that SRRT members of the Council were poorly organized for functioning during Midwinter. Not having a SRRT suite was a handicap, but in the future I believe there should be more care taken to designate a time and place for a roundup of events and information.

The growing pressure of the crowded agenda did contribute to the atmosphere of rush, and in its wake lessened care and concern.

I hope that you are able to include the memo in as many library periodicals as possible--to lay the basis for some rectification of the situation.--Clara O. Jackson, Assoc. Prof. of Library Science, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242 (2-14).

3.

If you wish to ask me why I voted in a certain way, I shall be ecstatic and consider it my duty to answer, explicitly and thoughtfully, in the same manner in which my vote was expressed in the first place.

In the meantime, however, please develop the grace note to interpret the meaning of my own actions to me.--Peggy Smith, Councilor-at-Large, 1428 Boswell, Crete, Nebraska 68333.

On March 8, AC Coordinator Peter Doiron replied to Ms. Smith:

Many thanks for your response to Action Council's February 8th letter to ALA Council. Speaking for Action Council, I encourage you to express your reasons for voting "in a certain way" at Midwinter 1974 to the Editor of the SRRT Newsletter... I am forwarding your initial comments to him.

I must disagree with you that Action Council, in the ALA Council letter, was interpreting the meaning of individual actions. (Paragraph two: "Our outraged concern does not involve any individual's personal views..." Emphasis mine.) SRRT stands for a completely open forum and we welcome, want, your view.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The cover letter sent to the Chairperson of the Intellectual Freedom Committee, Ms. R. Kathleen Moltz, included this statement: "We believe that the situation discussed in the letter is a very serious one in relation to intellectual freedom. We are asking that your committee consider and act upon this withholding of information to Council and Membership. We anxiously await your decision." By March 8, we had not heard from any members of the IFC. It is significant, too, that the letter-to-Council produced a grand total of only three replies! The possible interpretations of this magnificent silence are innumerable!--Suzanne LeBarron, Action Councilor, 238 Irving Ave. N., Mpls, MN 55405.

ALA Proxy candidates: election statements ↩

The two ALA Presidential candidates were invited by identical letters, dated February 13th, "to make a direct 'campaign pitch' to SRRTers," addressing themselves "particularly to socially-related library issues and concerns." It was understood that submissions would be printed as is and without editorial comment."

As of March 9th, despite a follow-up phone call five days earlier to Ms. Clara S. Jones, Director of the Detroit Public Library, only one response has been received, from Ms. Allie Beth Martin, Director, Tulsa City-County Library (Tulsa, OK 74103):

The following is not a "campaign pitch" since I believe candidates for office in ALA should be judged on experience and demonstrated performance. During the next year or so the best that can be expected of ALA's leadership will be that its management and financial problems be brought under control and progress made in achieving goals recommended by membership.

Instead of a broader statement addressing the various concerns of many of us, I would like to devote this opportunity to one issue, intellectual freedom. Its defense has never been more critical, the problems surrounding it more complex. In spite of our long years of effort in its support, I believe we are losing ground and this freedom, basic to all our other concerns, is being steadily eroded. The full impact of last summer's Supreme Court decision regarding pornography has shifted the front line of the defense of intellectual freedom to each local community and to each library.

It may appear that libraries will not be directly affected since the first flurry of local activity is being leveled against adult book stores and commercial movie houses. There are already evidences of increased difficulties which will lead directly to libraries unless they are challenged; e.g.:

- School libraries are being forced to withdraw magazines because their point of view is too "broad".
- Jurors in book store trials are being challenged because they admit to reading a wide variety of materials whereas to have read nothing is an apparent qualification for service.
- Teachers are being advised by principals to delete words which might be offensive with a magic marker.
- Lists of books which have been banned over a period of history are being used as lists to avoid today.

The best offense in the local battle for intellectual freedom will be forewarned, informed, determined individuals. This is an opportunity for the library community in each locality, state or region to work together in a common cause. ALA-SRRT members and SRRT affiliate groups can serve as catalysts where leadership is needed, helping establish local intellectual freedom organizations, making certain that no threat goes unchallenged.

This is the time for each individual to re-examine his own position. Avoiding paranoia and hysteria, assuming a determined, positive stance is not easy. A good measure of intelligence and courage will be required of all of us.

TASK FORCES

Jobs: Jan. meeting report/employment-related data wanted ☞

On Jan. 21st, in Chicago, Phyllis Baker led a discussion of the National Registry for Librarians in which the following points were made: 1) The Registry uses a computer retrieval system--hence, the allowance to an applicant of only one type of service in one type of library. 2) The Registry is not part of A.L.A., but rather part of the U.S. Employment Service. 3) The applicant cannot use the service by mail. 4) The Registry usually follows up on the requests of employers and applicants to determine if the need still exists. 5) A history of the Registry is needed which will be researched and then published in a journal. Next, one of three video tapes of job interviews was shown so that the TF could evaluate them and explore possibilities for future use. The tapes were made by members of the San Francisco Bay Area JTF. Most of the people involved were role-playing; however, there were also actual administrators used. These ideas emerged from the post-viewing discussion: 1) The tapes could be useful to a large number of students, since they may never have had a professional interview. 2) The TF would need to write suggestions re tape use for library schools to consider. 3) The TF should publicize the tapes, perhaps by a standing ad in American Libraries and LJ. 4) When the tapes are used, a panel could afterwards try to determine which questions and answers were valid, helpful, or detrimental.

In other JTF meetings, a decision was made to present a program at the NYC conference employing the tapes. This will consist of a panel--composed of a library school placement director, two library school students, an administrator, a trustee from a board that does some interviewing, and a library personnel director--which will react to three selected tape-interviews. LAD-PAS will co-sponsor. The timing:

- * Introduction of panel and program (5 minutes)
- * Viewing of tapes (30 minutes)
- * Panel's reaction (30 minutes)
- * Audience reaction (20 minutes)
- * Summation (5 minutes)

We've been concerned recently with the fact that SRRT groups are compiling their own statistics and running their own projects that are often only mentioned in the SRRT newsletter, and even more rarely get mentioned by our professional journals. Often it seems only the people in the task force know about the projects they are involved with.

We cannot help with all projects, but we would like to know of any job-related studies that your group may have done or is contemplating.

Ms. Phyllis Baker, last year's TF leader, has approached Scarecrow Press on the matter and they are interested in possibly putting it into book form. We feel that a book on the subject of job-related studies will serve a two-fold purpose. First, it will show many people in the library field that SRRT has a serious and practical side, that it is not just a group of radicals in the profession. Secondly, if any money does accrue from the book, it can be used to help cover increasing SRRT expenses.

If you have any studies that have been done by your group or are considering any such studies that

could be published, please let me know about them or, better yet, send a copy to me or to Ms. Patricia Henderson, Librarian, Valencia Community College, Orlando, Florida 32809. For the same purpose, the TF is also gathering job-placement info from groups like the Black Caucus and LED.-- Terry L. McLaughlin, Coordinator, c/o Portsmouth Public Library, Portsmouth, Ohio 45662 (2-27).

Women: Preconference set (M)

"Women in a Woman's Profession: Strategies" is the title of the 1974 preconference planned & sponsored by the SRRT TF on Women in Librarianship.

The conference is scheduled for July 5 and 6 at Douglas College, Rutgers University, in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

This is a working conference by, for and about women in librarianship. It will focus on the problem of being the majority in a profession in which men hold most of the positions of influence, power and authority. The first session will be devoted to information on problems in librarianship. The second day will consist of workshops to plan future and continuing action.

Advance registration is required and space is limited to 200. The cost is \$60.00 and includes three nights (July 4, 5, 6), lodging and all meals.

For further information and registration, contact Betty-Carol Sellen, Brooklyn College Library, Brooklyn, New York 11210; (212) 780-5335.

People's Librarian: four productive explosions (M)

1) We're all renewed and charged-up as a result of the successful Midwinter meeting pulled together by Nancy Kellum-Rose and many friends of PLTF. 2) Great news! Ruth Blank, our PL at the San Jose Indian Center, has just been put on a half-time, PAID status. 3) Werner Lertz, the PL working with People's Energy/Vocations for Social Change, has completed a directory of social change organizations in the San Francisco East Bay region and is now urging public & academic libraries in the area to establish social change collections & info centers. 4) Barbara Pruett, the UFW-PL, is looking forward to Bay Area SRRT members and other good people spending several work-weekends at the union's La Paz headquarters.--Ed Cavallini, Coordinator (2-26).

Contact data: Update (M)

Jim Sanders, the AC's Task Force Liaison, reports "so many mistakes" in ALA's recently-issued organizational handbook that it's probably safer to rely entirely on the information in newsletters #27-9, with these additions & corrections: David Cohen is now sole co-ordinator of the Ethnic Materials Information Exchange. His home address: 68-71 Bell Boulevard, Bayside, NY 11364... Patrick Sanchez Joint Coordinator of the TF on Library Service to Chicanos, is Director, Graduate Institute of Mexican-American Librarians, California State University, Fullerton, CA 92634... Dr. Ray Barber resigned 6 months ago an Coordinator of the TF on Media Centers in Free Schools. As a result, AC voted to suspend the TF until a new coordinator emerged. It's still inactive... ALA neglected to cite the TF on Sex-Related Media. It has been dormant, largely because Coordinator Gordon McShean underwent a heart operation in Australia, but he has since returned and--according to Jim--"asked that the TF continue to be listed as he is still writing letters." An appropriate opportunity, then, to advertise that the TF's distinctly not defunct--and to wish Gordon a full & quick recovery.

FEEDBACK

1.
Many thanks for #29, and for the plug re OIF's Manual (p. 20).

Some comments on comments: Yes, the Reporters Committee (p. 13) has done an excellent job of keeping track of First Amendment abridgements. And yes, the La Free Press is dead (p. 21), or might just as well be. Lots of shoddy reporting on the great nonissues of the times.--Roger L. Funk, Assistant Director, Office for Intellectual Freedom, A. L. A., 50 East Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611 (3-6)

2.
The notice regarding a "Prison librarian job opening" on p. 12 of Newsletter no. 28 specified that "a black man is preferred." The following statement appears on p. 510 of the Manual of correctional standards prepared by the Amer. Correctional Assn.'s 1959 Manual Revision Committee: "It is recommended that requiring a male librarian in an all male institution be waived. There are more female librarians and experience has proved that women are highly efficient and effective serving as librarians in all male institutions."--Contributed by Prison Librarian Jane Lego, Norfolk, Virginia, via Helen R. Wheeler.

ALTERNATIVES/ACTION

LACUNY Institute on publishing alternatives

"Publishing: Alternatives and Economics" is the subject of the 1974 Institute of the Library Association of the City University of New York. To be held at the Roosevelt Hotel, NYC, on April 10, the Institute, open to librarians, interested students, faculty and administrators, will feature presentations by:

- ▶ John P. Dessauer, Consultant and author of the forthcoming Book Publishing: What it is, What it does (Bowker, December 1974), on the current state of economics re the large press industry.
- ▶ Douglas Mount, marketing consultant to small presses in the western U.S., on the economic picture of the small press industry. (Mr. Mount was former Vice President and Marketing Director of Straight Arrow Books in San Francisco.)
- ▶ Richard Higgins, author and founder of The Something Else Press, on the history, development, and scope of the small press industry.
- ▶ Celeste West, editor of Booklegger Magazine and co-author of Revolting Librarians (Booklegger 1972) on the need for small press materials in libraries and the ways in which librarians can approach the handling of these materials.

For registration (15.00), including morning coffee and luncheon, contact Robb McKenzie, John Jay College Library, 445 W. 59 St., New York, NY 10019; (212) 489-5175. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH: Betty Seifert, City College Library, 135th Street and Convent Avenue, New York, NY 10031; (212) 621-2188.

Guinea-Bissau: Committee begins petition-campaign for U.S. recognition

On September 24, 1973, 120 elected representatives to the National Popular Assembly convened in the Bô Region of what was previously "Portuguese" Guinea, proclaimed the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, and approved a Constitution, national anthem, flag, and various governmental organs. That event culminated a 17-year struggle against Portuguese colonial rule successfully waged by the P.A.I.G.C. (African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde), whose brilliant, widely-respected leader, Amílcar Cabral, was tragically assassinated on Jan. 20, 1973.

The Committee to Support The Republic of Guinea-Bissau, itself founded last October, is asking Americans to express their solidarity with this newly formed West African government by circulating & signing a petition.

At present, 75 nations have already recognized Guinea-Bissau. These include 39 African states, the Soviet Union, China, and other countries in Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia.

Since the U.S. government has been a staunch diplomatic & military ally of Portugal, even supplying "NATO" arms for use against the Guinean freedom-fighters, it's not likely to soon acknowledge, much less "endorse," the new Republic. (In fact, the U.S. was one of only 7 nations--out of 101--which voted against a UN General Assembly resolution condemning Portugal's "illegal occupation.") Therefore, the Committee's goals are: 1) to organize citizen encouragement and aid for the Republic; and 2) to pressure the Nixon Administration to officially recognize the liberated colony. When the petition-campaign is completed, the documents will be presented to delegates from the Republic of Guinea-Bissau during a "People's Recognition Ceremony." Afterwards, the State Department will be informed of this popular demand for recognition.

Says the Committee: "This is your opportunity, as citizens of the United States, to underscore the right of self-determination and independence from colonial rule. We hope you will join the 77 original sponsors in this act of extending recognition to the determined effort of an African people and their historic proclamation."

To secure petitions, an illustrated background-brochure, and checklist of available print & A/V resources--posters, buttons, bumper-stickers, tapes, films, books, & pamphlets--write the Committee at 164 Madison Avenue (2d Floor), New York, NY 10016. Chairperson: William H. Booth. Secretary: Robert Maurer. Phone: 532-3700.

And in the meantime, to better appreciate that momentous Sept. 24th event, take a look at two authoritative, highly-readable paperback: Cabral's Revolution in Guinea (Monthly Review Press, c1969) and Basil Davidson's Liberation of Guinea (Penguin, 1969).

Institute of Race Relations Library: Profile & Prospects

The library has developed from having a fairly generalized educational function -- to correct prejudice and misinformation in the minds of individuals--to (as racism became more and more institution-

aised, and this type of approach less relevant) attempting to place its resources and expertise directly at the service of the black community, for their use. Since it moved to Pentonville, it has begun to build up a section of books for black children, parents, teachers in supplementary schools, black educationalists--and we are hoping to get funds to activate this collection by employing someone to develop it, take it round to schools, community groups, self-help projects, etc. At the same time, we are also building up a section of books on the black experience and trying to get people involved in keeping the library open late and during weekends to make it more accessible.

That brings you (very briefly) up to date on what we are doing at present, and that of course must continue and grow.

In terms of the library's international perspective, its whole policy must be rethought. It has always had an international coverage, but its orientation under the original Institute is very different from what it would be under the projected Third World Institute.

Practically, this means that it must cut back even further on providing the standard academic type of stuff, simply because its subject is race relations, which has nothing new or worthwhile to say. Straight academic journals like American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Cross Cultural Psychology, Journal of Human Relations, etc. have already been dropped, and our whole periodicals collection revised.

But even as we are cutting down in these areas, we will have to build up the library's store of basic information on Third World countries. (At present the library is particularly weak on Asian and Latin American material.) At some point, too, when staffing and funds permit, it must build up sections on China, Korea, Vietnam etc. - areas not covered under the library's former brief of 'race relations'. We must concentrate on factual information on the whole machinery and network of exploitation - who controls what, how, investments, the operations of international corporations, financiers, etc. Instead of producing a 'Register of Research', maybe it should produce a radical how-to-do-research guide. And of course, as well as providing historical and contemporary analyses of their own societies by Third World writers themselves, it must provide information from and on the agents and tacticians of the status quo - the Kitsons and Clutterbucks of the world. For example, a recent book by a South African journalist, A.J. Venter, entitled 'Portugal's guerilla war: the campaign for Africa' gives a whole lot of information on the strategy of the Portuguese campaign in Guine Bissau. The library must, in fact, become a Third World information centre, backing up and substantiating the Institute's basic work. --Hazel Waters, IRR Library, 247/249 Pentonville Road, London, N. 1, U.K. (2-5). NOTE: Copies of a working paper, "From the Institute of Race Relations to the Third World Institute," are available from the Newsletter editor on request.

API: Update <<

Art & Kathy on Jan. 17th addressed the following message to their many "friends":

* When we resolved last month to put out newsletters more frequently, we did not expect to be writing you so soon. Unfortunately, this letter does not bring such a cheery message as the last.
* After considerable discussion and reflection, the three of us have made the difficult decision to leave the Centre and move on to other interests. Marti intends to seek other employment and Art and Kathy expect to be moving to a farm this spring, something that they have put off for two years to keep the Centre operating. Art and Kathy will see that Vol. 3, No. 2, is published and distributed.
* Since the Centre is not an ordinary business--you and we are the Centre and things cannot go on "business-as-usual" when the entire office staff departs--decisions must be made now concerning the Index: is it to continue, and if so, how. We have been trying to find more people to work full-time with the Centre through Vocations For Social Change and we plan to do this once more, as well as sending a letter to the placement offices at all library schools in the US and Canada. We hope to find some people through this--but if we do not, the Centre will have to cease operations. We have actively sought outside support from librarians and library groups, but have never received help except for volunteer indexers. Financially, our position is about the same as always--not a lot, but there is enough to continue operating on the same basis that the Centre has operated in the past. We are open to suggestions regarding people/organizations who might want to take over the Index and also disposition of the unsold Indexes and the computerized indexing system. We are incorporated in Ontario but the Radical Research Center still legally exists in the US, so operations could continue in either place. If it does become necessary to close the Centre, we will sell our present collection of periodicals to cover the legal costs of closing-down operations.
* All of us have done indexing for volumes which we now realize may never be published--hopefully the knowledge gained while reading the papers will avert a feeling of wasted time. If you have indexing you have done and/or papers loaned to you from the Centre's collection, we would appreciate receiving them now so that we can consolidate the Centre's assets and try to figure out exactly where things stand. Thanks so much for your help in the past. We have enjoyed working with you and hope to be able to work with you again in the future.--Alternative Press Centre, Bag Service 2500, Postal Station E, Toronto 4, Ontario, Canada.

LA of DPRK Seeks materials on American Librarianship 

In a letter dated 1-3-74, the Library Association of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea extends New Year's greetings to U.S. librarians and wishes them "further development in your...work," as well as "greater successes in the guidance activities to the libraries of your country." Our Korean colleagues then indicate that they'd like to receive, "as donations, materials on the experiences in your Association and libraries' work of your country, including...materials on your Association, yearbook of libraries in your country, lists of all the publications (books, magazines, newspapers) issued in your country, materials about scale, construction designs and equipment, fixtures and automation and mechanization of libraries, and so on."

SRRT will respond by sending its Newsletter. Other groups, libraries, and individuals may also wish to strengthen Korean-American bonds and perhaps establish mutually-fruitful exchanges by contacting the Association, c/o The State Central Library, Pyongyang, DPRK.

TLA minority-librarian roster: Update 

The Texas Library Association Recruitment Committee is compiling names of and statistics on minority librarians in the work force, as an aid to libraries with affirmative action programs which have had difficulty locating this information. Librarians from minority groups who would be interested in having their names included in this compilation are invited to submit a brief (100 word) biographical sketch to Grace Martinez, Reference Dept., Fondren Library, Rice University, Houston, Texas 77001. Although we will have the first compilation finished by March 25, we will accept names through May 1, 1974, since it's likely that we will prepare a supplement prior to June let.--Nancy L. Eaton, Chairperson, TLA Recruitment Committee, 2207-B West 12th St., Austin, Texas 78703.

Hidden grab for Indian lands: Emergency action needed to oppose H.R. 11748 

Now in the U.S. Congress is a bill which provides a new way to violate Indian reservation land and sovereignty rights. Everyone who supports these rights should oppose this bill. H.R. 11748 was introduced Dec. 3 by Congressman Lujan (R, New Mex.). It is written in vague, tricky language, the way some of the worst land-grab legislation has been written. People can't understand what it means until too late.

What this bill does is make individuals or corporations who lease Indian land "subject to the jurisdiction of the State and political subdivision in which the land subject to the lease is located." That means that land (and "improvements" on it) leased by corporations or individuals are removed from tribal jurisdiction. Who does get jurisdiction? The state, but also counties or municipalities; and any other "political subdivisions" the land is in.

The likely results of this are very bad. Where tribes have managed to keep control of their reservations' development through their own tribally-chartered corporations, their efforts are likely to be wiped out by taxes and state, county, or municipal regulations. Where non-Indians have invaded reservation land with leases, local jurisdiction most likely means the kind of local control that favors their interests at Indian expense. Through local governments, powerful corporate or individual lessees can have almost total reservation land use control through zoning and other ordinances in areas where much land is under lease.

The Standing Rock Sioux, in a unanimous tribal council resolution, call this bill "COMPLETELY AND WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE." They find it to be "IN VIOLATION OF THE PRESENT UNDERSTANDING BASED ON TREATY AND OTHER AGREEMENTS THAT THIS TRIBE HAS REGARDING JURISDICTION OF TRIBAL LANDS." (Resolution of Feb. 13)

At their meeting in Seattle, Feb. 15, the Governors' Interstate Indian Council joined the Standing Rock Tribal Council and AIM in opposition to this bill.

We urge everyone to oppose this bill very quickly. Otherwise, it might be passed as so many other violations of Indian rights have been, without anyone even knowing about it. We don't want to lose track of it--have the bill "disappear" and turn up as a rider to some other bill. We want the bill to disappear by being killed for good.

Write, phone, or wire your Congressman, and Rep. Lloyd Meeds (D, Wash.), chairman of the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee, where the bill now rests. Tell your Tribal Council to oppose this harmful-to-Indians bill.--Reprinted from an A.I.M. leaflet; for further details, contact American Indian Movement, 553 Aurora, St. Paul, MN 55103; (612) 224-4395.

Things to get 

APS's Ron Lichty lately forwarded a copy of SOLO SOL, an attractive, all-in-Spanish underground tabloid from Argentina. Judging from this issue--replete with poetry, essays, & cartoons (can you dig Mr. Natural hablando español?)--Solo appears a good choice alike for Spanish-language & Alternative Press collections. "Objetivos? Comunicarnos y comunicar. Solo sol está abierto a todos y a todo, no tiene forma ni esquema, o estructura que no se modifique de acuerdo al estado de ánimo del bolsillo o del universo." Ron estimates the yearly sub @ about \$6. Address: Uruguay 705 8° C, Capital Federal, Argentina....

"The Liberation Support Movement Information Center is a radical, non-profit political organization whose prime aim is to contribute to the anti-imperialist and international socialist struggle through research, publication and educational work in North America combined with various forms of concrete support activities for genuine revolutionary liberation movements in the 'underdeveloped' and super-exploited colonies and neocolonies of the imperialist system." What's the significance of the LSM to libraries? Well, it's a fair guess that most of our holdings on still-colonial and European-governed Africa--e.g., Mozambique, Rhodesia, South Africa, and Angola--are either laughably skimpy or neutrally weighted toward the White-Man's-Burden-Drumbeating-Natives-Leaping-Antelope type of stuff. LSM offers a definite corrective, another viewpoint. Its 1974 catalog--available gratis from P.O. Box 94338, Richmond, B.C., Canada, W5Y 2A8--lists and briefly describes an impressive array of pamphlets, books, & A/V materials, including interviews with liberation movement leaders, autobiographies of African guerillas and peasants, reprints of movement magazines, posters, African revolutionary music on LP's, and filmstrips. For \$40-subscriptions, libraries and institutions can automatically receive all 1974 LSM-published literature: books, pams, posters, and an upcoming 1975 Africa Liberation calendar. It's a bargain...

A new series of the Women's History Library's Herstory Microfilms is now available. The 40-reel, 35mm double-set encompasses journals, newspapers and newsletters from women's organizations. One set, the Herstory 1 Update, covers the period October 1, 1971 to June 30, 1975. The second, Herstory 2, covers the same period, including titles which began after October 1, 1971. Herstory 1, marketed by Bell and Howell, is now used in over 100 libraries around the country. The Herstory Collection of microfilms is an invaluable addition to any library or women's resource collection. Herstory 1 Update and Herstory 2 can be ordered directly from the Women's History Research Center, 2325 Oak Street Berkeley, California 94708. Package-price: \$800.

Catalogers need it. So do reference librarians, administrators, and everyone else. Compiled by The Feminist Writers Workshop (Chicago-Quebec-London), with commentaries by Ruth Todasco, Jessie Sheridan, Ellen Morgan, & Kathryn Starr, it's the first volume of THE FEMINIST ENGLISH DICTIONARY: AN INTELLIGENT WOMEN'S GUIDE TO DIRTY WORDS. Subtitled "English words and phrases reflecting sexist attitudes toward women in patriarchal society," the 76-page guide, including bibliography, is available @ \$1.50 from Loop Center YWCA, 39 S. Wabash Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60603. Intended to demonstrate "how language operates against women," the work "wrenches the English language from centuries-old degrading complacencies about women, exposes the sexist bias of English-language dictionaries, biblical in their scholarly expression of prejudice against women, is a basis for understanding patriarchy's hostility and resistance to linguistic equality, shows how prejudice inherent in the language skews women's self-perception, is a study of language as a mechanism for the castration of women, presents the categories of lady and whore as equally debasing to woman's sexuality, and sees through the linguistic myths of patriarchy."

What has your library got on the Wounded Knee Trial that began in St. Paul on Jan. 8th? More specifically: What have you got that reflects the position of defendants Dennis Banks and Russell Means, the two A.I.M. leaders? Chances are it isn't much. No excuse for that, though, because the Wounded Knee Legal Defense/Offense Committee since early February has been issuing a weekly TRIAL NEWSLETTER. Dedicated to "defeat this attempt to suppress the national liberation of Indian Peoples and win a victory that will help to free us all," the NEWSLETTER covers in-depth "what's happening in the courts and in support of the Wounded Knee defendants." It's free, but they'd appreciate contributions. Contact WKLD/OC at 333 Sibley St., Suite 605, St. Paul, MN 55101. The phone: 224-5631.

They're "gettin' it together" Down under, too. Latest evidence is a quarterly mag, IDENTITY, described as a "forum for aboriginal opinion and a means of expression for the literary and artistic talents of indigenous people of Australia." They produce it themselves at the Aboriginal Publications Foundation, 252 George Street, Sydney, NSW 2000...

To secure justice for Native Americans means--among other things--knowing & using the law. Now there's a vehicle for doing exactly that: THE AMERICAN INDIAN LAW REVIEW. Launched by Indian law students at the Univ. of Oklahoma, the annual mag's first issue included essays on "Blue Lake: a struggle for Indian rights," "The Cheyenne-Arapahoe and alcohoholism: does the tribe have a legal right to a medical remedy?" and "Hunting and fishing rights." To be managed and edited by students, the REVIEW costs \$5 p.s. (\$3.50 for verified law students). Order from the College of Law, 630 Farrington Oval, Norman, Oklahoma 73069...

Now that Women Studies are firmly underway, it's logical & proper that something similar should happen vis-a-vis men. As a tangible step in that direction, Joseph H. Pleck (1319 Forest Ct., Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106) has compiled a thoroughgoing RESOURCE GUIDE FOR THE STUDY OF MEN. The 8-page 4th ed., dated Jan. 1974, cites theses, books, films, & articles under such rubrics as "Socialization and development," "Relationships and attitudes toward women," "Power and violence," "Fatherhood and relationships with children," "Sexuality," "Black male sex role," and "Men's liberation." The bibliography seems based on the idea announced by Jack Sawyer in his Aug./Sept./Oct. 1970 Liberation essay, "On male liberation": "Freedom requires that there not be dominance and submission, but that all individuals be free to determine their own lives as equals." In a Feb. 5th note, compiler Pleck adds that "There is a men's studies collection at the M.I.T. Humanities Library, containing all the stuff I list, plus much new and unpublished material. I've been trying to encourage them to publicize it more--the contact person is David Ferriero." Pleck, incidentally, found it "really exciting to know about SRRT."

Noel Peattie covered TITLE VARIES so damn well on p. 16-17 of the January '74 Sipapu that much more verbiage here would be superfluous. Suffice it to say, then, that this "Serial to end all serial title changes" somehow manages to combine both wit & seriousness in a perfect blend. Its aim--as every cataloger will aver--is altogether admirable. And the style is, quite simply, delightful. Among the coming features: "Serial numbering aberrations, Oddities of a subscription agent's day, Publishers who considered changing titles and didn't, if we can find any, and of course, More Awful Title Changes and newly-elevated members of the Title Change Hall of Fame." To "Join the fight" (and have a helluva lotta fun in the process), send \$2 (for 4 issues) to LUTWFCSTUC, P.O. Box 197, Okemos, Michigan 48864...

FLASHPOINTS

Liz Dickinson, cataloger at Hennepin County Library & Coordinator of the Women's TF Job Roster, stunningly analyzes subject-heading bias--especially the sexist & ageist varieties--in the Feb. '74 Emergency Librarian! Perceiving that "language shapes the way we think about people and the way we view ourselves," Ms. Dickinson finds that "women, children, the mentally and physically handicapped, and racial and ethnic minorities...fall outside the assumed norm and therefore qualify for separate and unequal categorization" in most library subject-schemes. Such "linguistic discrimination," she holds, as surely "breeds ill effects as do its social and political counterparts." Titled "The word game," this probing, humanistic essay appears on p. 2-7... July conference-goers may enjoy a side-trip to the vibrant & probably unique Liberation Library at Brooklyn College. Located in Room 225, the LL functions on two highly unorthodox premises: that it "belongs to the people" and "is run by the people." Its user-built collection includes material on Black America, Women's Liberation, Conservatism, Indochina, the Middle East, Workers, Socialism, Gay Liberation, Rebel culture, and the Underground Press. For info, phone 780-5652... Friends of Books & Comics--East expects a heavy barrage of plugs for its July 7-9 New York Book Fair. ALIA and WU guest spots are already in the works... In addition, publicity releases will be sent to a variety of newspapers and magazines. The official conference program of the A.L.A. will include information about the Book Fair under the sponsorship of the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Alternatives In Print. LI is to include a short RF article in their preconference issue, while other library media are also expected to highlight the event. During the conference, Cable TV will provide on-site coverage." Anyone with further contacts or ideas is asked to contact Joe Barabato, Publicity Director, at 505 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, N.J. 07203; phone: 598-2727 (days), 426-3555 (eves)... Some librarians manage to "reach out" of their Carnegie Castles in other than the commonly talked-about ways. For instance, Sherrill Cheda, Librarian at Seneca C.A.A.T. in Willowdale, Ontario, just connected with the "real world" by contributing an article on "How to raise liberated children" to the March 1974 Chatelaine, a Canadian women's mag. Notable for lucid, sage, stereotype-mashing advice derived from actual experience, it starts on p. 33.

According to the March '74 McCall's, a new sort of library service is emerging--at least in Erie, Pa., & Warwick, Rhode Island: animal-lending. "The animals," writes Julia Kagan, "are generally small and come in their own cages, equipped with food and instructions for care. That's because libraries and humane societies agree that lending out caged animals for a week or two is good for the kids and not harmful to pets. Gerbils and hamsters," she adds, "don't form the sort of attachments to humans that cats and dogs do." Yes, folks, there is a "socially relevant" aspect to this. In Erie, for example, families "expecting a new baby" often make special requests for pregnant animals. And the Warwick P.L.'s children's librarian believes that "many children at some time or other need an animal more than a book. They can learn a lot about kindness. And it does lead the children to books about animals..." Sara S. Whaley, editor of Women studies abstracts, advises that WSA requires more contributors, "especially in the fields of law, economics, psychology and sexuality." She asks that anyone who "can devote at least ten hours a year in exchange for a subscription at the end of that time, send a resume and list of the periodicals you would like to do" to WSA at P.O. Box 1, Rush, N.Y. 14543. Or simply ask for the latest info-sheet on what's involved. This is one of the worthier means to apply professional skills beyond the workplace. Ms. Whaley, incidentally, can also be reached by phoning (716) 533-1376...

In her Univ. of Denver MSIS thesis, Margaret Wood, librarian at Navajo Community College, Tsaile Lake, Arizona, recommends "a more extensive use of bookmobiles with the possibilities of using four-wheel drive vehicles to reach isolated areas; mobile learning labs; the improvement of existing libraries on or near the reservation; and the establishment of a totally new facility at Kayenta, Arizona." Ms. Wood, herself a Navajo, also believes that "more Navajo people should be hired as professionals and para-professionals in the library field."

MACSA (Madison Area Committee on Southern Africa) is campaigning for funds to aid the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Money is sought both for refugee relief and direct liberation support through the Zimbabwe African National Union & Zimbabwe African People's Union, the two groups struggling jointly to free their country from oppressive minority rule. Send whatever you can to MACSA at 731 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703. In "return," they'll furnish a fact-sheet, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe--1973. For that matter, why not request one copy for the Pam File & several more to distribute among friends

Sipapu "scooped" us on this one. To its credit. On p. 19-21 of the Jan. '74 number, editor Peattie ran the full "Minority publishers list" compiled by SRRT's TF on Ethnic Materials Information & R-

change. Containing 46 entries, it covers the gamut of Third World presses coast-to-coast. But that's hardly the end of the line. Next step--for each of us--is to write for catalogs & checklists. Then buy.

John A. Armendariz announces formation of Chicano Library and Education Researchers (1300 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60605). In part, the new organization intends to "assist and initiate action that will rectify unjust rules, regulations, laws and all other forms of discrimination in all professions, fields and other structures of society that are detrimental to Latin Americans and others." Also, it wants to ensure "an adequate amount of print and non-print bilingual materials" for Latin American communities, as well as helping individuals & groups "to establish research/information departments and libraries." CLER's phone: (312) 427-7080...

A proposal to SRRT Action Council: To promptly adopt a resolution endorsing the earlier-mentioned petition which begins, "We recognize the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau..." Forwarding copies to the originating Committee, State Dept., Portuguese Embassy, and library press could add some useful momentum to the recognition-campaign...

Ideas (altogether gratuitous) for creating two more SRRT Task Forces: 1) to index the vital, typically under-financed professional mags that Library literature misses (e.g., Sinamu, Emergency Librarian, Interracial books for children, Title varies, YAAN newsletter, CALL, HCL's Cataloging bulletin, & our own bi-monthly organ); and 2) to monitor socially-significant developments in technical services (e.g., ISBD, media-cataloging, & subject analysis). All that's needed to start such TFs are desire & energy. If you've got 'em, let's hear from you...

This year three vacancies must be filled on SRRT Action Council. If you'd like to volunteer as a candidate or recommend someone else, contact Peter Dolron posthaste at 77 Fulton Street (Apt. 13-C), New York, N.Y. 10038...

Suzanne LeBaron expands upon this later, but it's a trifle remarkable that although the Jan. '74 WLB explicitly cites "Complaints over card services," "Attacks on subject headings," & "Charges of cataloging 'tyranny'" among recent LC woes under LQM" (p. 392), Art Plotnik--in his longish, almost fawning interview with Mr. Mumford in the same issue--posed no queries on those topics to the LC chief. And while he did raise the matter of possibly "bigoted" LC Leadership, he neglected to pursue LQM's we're-good-guys-who've-been-unjustly-accused brush-off by citing even a little of the bounteous, tangible evidence of discriminatory personnel & cataloging practices...

System-sh^aking, etc.

ALA/LC "sweetheart pact"? <<

An item of extreme importance to many SRRTers, and of foreboding significance to those concerned with our present organizational leadership, appeared in the Hennepin County Library's Cataloging bulletin no. 5, dated 1-21-74 & edited by S. Berman. It began:

|| The inexorable transition from "Negroes" to "Afro-Americans" or "Blacks" has been relatively swift
|| on the street and in much of the mass media, but woefully slow in library cataloging practice. In
|| the unabashed hope of speeding-up our hitherto laggardly response to a real need, here is a pertinent
|| exchange on the topic, laudably initiated by an "outsider," Dr. Paul M. Smith, Jr., Professor-
|| in-Charge, Dept. of Afro-American Studies, University of Cincinnati (112 Old Commons, Cincinnati,
|| Ohio 45221), who on Nov. 12, 1973, directed the following query to Mr. Robert Wedgeworth, Executive
|| Director of the ALA:

: Dear Mr. Wedgeworth:

: Will you explain why your organization, as well as the Library of Congress, continue to use the
: subject heading "Negro"? It is absurd to use such a non-people term today. What is being done
: to change this insult to Black Americans other than the usual money argument?

|| According to Prof. Smith, Mr. Wedgeworth replied in late November to the effect that no serious
|| objection to the term had arisen within ALA itself...

The article continues with an exchange of letters between Prof. Smith, E.J. Josey, and Sanford Berman, revealing that there have been many serious objections to the term "Negroes," including Berman's own Prejudices and antipathies (which, incidentally, ALA itself originally commissioned but subsequently refused to publish), much critical material in the library press, actual abandonment of "Negroes" by a number of libraries, & formal Black Caucus disapproval of such debasing, outmoded nomenclature. Indeed, Dr. Josey, co-founder & past-President of the Black Caucus declared:

|| Since 1971 we have been at war with the Library of Congress not only because of its racist cataloging
|| practices, but also because of its continued discrimination in employment of blacks and in
|| the promotion of blacks to higher level positions.

Further statements by Prof. Smith and Dr. Josey grant permission to publish their letters in the Bulletin. Then comes the shock! "Mr. Wedgeworth," the editor relates, "did not wish that his letter be published." And the piece concludes:

The question still before the house: How much longer will ALA and LC allow "this insult to Black Americans" to continue?

I, too, am concerned with the question before the house. I am additionally concerned that Mr. Wedgeworth denied "serious professional concern" and then asked that his missive to Prof. Smith not be printed. Can we condone "leadership" that seems amazingly uninformed? Can we continue to allow the Library of Congress to dictate their standards to all libraries--when those standards are unacceptable to so many? Has the Library of Congress an untoward influence on our organization?

I ask this final question not only because of the problems LC has caused people through its subject headings, but also because of the fantastic success they had with SCAM1. The "Report on the Library of Congress" presented to Council at Midwinter admitted several areas of LC's failure and weakness to respond effectively to the concerns of its employees. Yet it was recommended that LC not be censured, but continue to be monitored by ALA & "requested" (not required) to send its affirmative action plans to Chicago. That report and its ready acceptance by Council was an appalling display! I cannot help believing that passages in the report like the following were the primary motivators for the action (or, better, lack of action) that took place:

Throughout the course of the two visits and subsequent deliberations the ALA group was cognizant not only of the Library's role in national and world librarianship and the importance of its services, products and standards, but of its responsibilities as an employer as well.

The structure of the sentence is indeed interesting! The need for it in the report is questionable.

I read the report as saying: The Library of Congress is great. We cannot do without it. So we will not bother them unduly about such minor matters as racism and sexism.

Come on! If the Association cannot move certain "great" institutions into the 20th century, then individuals must still put their energies, jobs, and reputations on the sacrificial altars of these institutions. As long as that continues, the Association will be weakened and ultimately may become meaningless to librarians with a conscience.--Suzanne LeBarron, 258 Irving Ave. N., Minneapolis, MN 55405.

WASH-SRRT joins in assailing Merriam's "Jap" definition

The following letter was directed, on 2-28-74, to Mr. David Hoplegle, President, G. and C. Merriam Co., (4747 Federal Street, Springfield, Mass. 01101), with copies sent to the ALA Executive Director, AF, Japanese American Citizen's League, LJ, N.Y. review of books, N.Y. times, SRRT newsletter, Washington (State) Library Assn. Executive Board, & WLB:

We, the members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Washington (State) Library Association, support the position of the Japanese American Citizen's League, Seattle Chapter, in urging you to add a notation to the effect that the word "Jap" as found in your collegiate editions is considered derogatory.

This is their statement:

The Japanese have been a major thorn in the egos of those who want to believe that the white peoples are mentally and morally superior to all other races. Among the latter, the Japanese are recognized as the only ones who have thus far rapidly mastered the material and scientific techniques of the West and learned to equal or surpass the white nations at their own game. As a result, persons of the Japanese race have repeatedly been singled out for various kinds of heartless cruelty, ill treatment, and insults by certain types of people. The Japanese are the only minority group in America which has suffered imprisonment in concentration camps solely for the reasons of race. The people of Japan are the only people on earth who were subjected to mass murder by atom bombs. And the Japanese are the only people whom some Americans continue to refer to by a derogatory epithet.

When the abbreviation "Jap." first began to be used by Americans in the 19th century, the Japanese made no objections. Starting around the beginning of the 20th century, however, with the use of the term "Jap" by certain Pacific Coast newspapers in their anti-Japanese hate campaigns and with continued usage by most of the American press through the middle of this century, the term acquired exactly the same significance to the Japanese as words such as "Kike," "Wop," and "Nigger" have for Jews, Italians, or Blacks. The use of atom bombs and concentration camps against the Japanese is not likely to be repeated, but there have been disturbing indications in the past three years that there are persons in this country who desire a revival of ill-will and hatred between the peoples of the United States and Japan. For such a deplorable goal, a widespread revival in this country of the use of the term "Jap." would be highly effective.

American of Japanese descent have recently been shocked to discover that the G. & C. Merriam Co., in their Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, have decided to lend their seeming approval to the use of the term "Jap." by defining it simply as an abbreviation of Japan or Japanese. All protests have been brushed off with the specious excuse that G. & C. Merriam Co. has defined it as an abbreviation and not as a noun and that the definition, therefore, is correct as it stands and needs no change. They state that their unabridged dictionary carries it as a noun with the qualification that it is often used disparagingly, but that the lack of sufficiently

frequent usage warrants the exclusion of such definition from the Collegiate edition. They choose to ignore the fact that most people do not bother to consult an unabridged dictionary if a seemingly adequate definition of a word appears in a "collegiate" type dictionary.

It is important to note that, in the Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary's definitions of other derogatory epithets, appropriate warnings to users of such terms have been attached. The definitions of "kike" and "nigger" are followed by the phrase "usu. taken to be offensive". The definitions of "wop" and "gook" are followed by the phrase "usu. used disparagingly", and even the definition of "Chinaman" is followed by the phrase "often taken to be offensive". Only the term "Jap." is defined as an abbreviation for Japan or Japanese with not the slightest hint to the dictionary user that the word is highly offensive to the Japanese.

The definition as it now stands in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary and also in Webster's Intermediate Dictionary will serve to mislead countless Americans into innocently using the term and unintentionally creating resentment and ill-will among the Japanese. The definition will, of course, delight the racists who know that the term is offensive and who are eager to see the term used wherever possible. If the Japanese were politically and economically unimportant, the editors of G. & C. Merriam Co. might be allowed to rest harmlessly in their complacent attitude toward their defective definition of the term "Jap." Unfortunately for such an attitude, the Japanese have become a major industrial power and a major customer for American products. Many parts of the American economy depend on purchases by the Japanese for their prosperity. Americans can no longer afford the luxury of needlessly insulting them. The publishers of Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary by seemingly sanctioning the use of the term "Jap." are in effect promoting the use of an offensive epithet even by those who would never use it if they knew the truth. The possible resulting harm to the interest of the people relying on the dictionary's definitions and to the interests of the United States as a whole are too serious to allow the matter to go unchallenged.

The reactions of the editors of G. & C. Merriam Co. are those of a bureaucrat who can follow only his narrow interpretation of what he thinks are the "rules". Their attitude is not that of conscientious editors of a truly trustworthy guide to correct word meanings and usage. Indications of disapproval by educators, librarians and others by withholding the purchase and use of Merriam-Webster dictionaries appears to be the only way to bring about the correction of misleading definitions. Fortunately, there are at least three other good dictionaries of similar size which clearly indicate the offensive nature of the term "Jap." They are the Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary, The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, and the Random House College Dictionary. We urge their selection over the Merriam Webster dictionaries wherever possible.

The above message was signed by Bob Polishuk, Coordinator, Social Responsibilities Round Table, Washington (State) Library Association, c/o King County Library System, 300 Eighth Ave. N., Seattle Washington 98109.

Review

As a complement to Mike Mc Connell's piece in the last issue, here's another rundown on Booklegger magazine, issued bi-monthly at 72 Ord Street, S an Francisco, CA 94114 (regular tab: \$1.50 per issue or \$8 p.a.; price to SRRTERS: \$1.25 each, \$7 p.a.):

- ★ Renewed & regenerated & uncensored, BOOKLEGGER MAGAZINE has risen like a phoenix from the ashes of
- ★ SYNERGY to continue spreading the word about "The Great Unreviewed ... For the Great Unwashed."
- ★ Celeste West, former editor of SYNERGY and co-editor of REVOLTING LIBRARIANS, explains the reason
- ★ for publishing this independent periodical for librarians: "When you figure about 80% of what's
- ★ published in this country is never reviewed anywhere, that's a lot of good stuff librarians are
- ★ missing - and probably would love to buy instead of what's available on the mass-market circuit."
- ★ The first issue features articles and annotated bibliographies on such "hot" topics as the Star
- ★ Trek cult, deschooling guides, decriminalizing prostitution, transvestism and scatology. Columns
- ★ on Video, Y.A. and Kids are also included and will appear regularly. Contributors make no pre-
- ★ tence at "objectivity," but are up-front about values and point-of-view. The writing is personal,
- ★ earnest, witty - alive. One review warns against being ripped off by buying an over-stuffed, over-
- ★ priced book on librarianship. There are two (differing) reviews of one title, and the reactions
- ★ of three feminist librarians to transvestism as discussed by Dr. Prince at the 1973 ALA Convention.
- ★ Besides all this (and more), BOOKLEGGER is fun to read! Editors West, Wheat and Critchfield,
- ★ assisted by a merry cast of "alternative" librarians, are growing a magazine that's as verdant as
- ★ the names of the staff sound. If you're interested (and want libraries to be) in social change,
- ★ creative life styles, exploring, questioning, this is for you.--Melinda Schroeder, Brooklyn Public
- ★ Library, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Late stuff

ALA Proxy election statements: Clara S. Jones ☞

Due to the pressure of important legislative hearings, Ms. Jones was unable to submit a written statement in time for back-to-back publication with Ms. Martin's (p. 4-5). However, on March 13th she telephoned the following message on behalf of her candidacy:

Every age feels that its problems are unique and crucial; certainly our generation is grappling with heavy historic assignments. In a very short space I can only touch briefly on a few of my concerns regarding the American Library Association. Naturally, every member is motivated by a desire to see ALA play an increasingly vital and effective role in giving leadership to the profession.

If librarians ever accepted the image of librarianship as benign and unrelated to reality, that illusion has vanished under the impact of the profession's present involvements. Strong links to vital issues of our times have been forged by our vigorous fostering of library legislation, defense of intellectual freedom, community outreach, interlibrary cooperation for improved service, special library service, information and referral service, etc. It is necessary for librarians to fully appreciate their importance and to act upon the potential effectiveness of their position at the heart of civilization. There is danger that we will retreat into the safety of mere custodianship of physical materials. Such a danger is ever-present with librarians, just as much as the recurring threat of violation of intellectual freedom. This means that genuine problems tormenting society should be considered and discussed in our professional writings and meetings. Certainly, all issues do not require an official or public stand, and there is no room for political partisanship, but there is need for librarians to examine pertinent current events to determine whether or not the weight of the profession should be brought to bear.

Library schools have been encouraged by librarians in the field to experiment with new approaches that would meet changing public needs, but such graduates have difficulty locating libraries that are prepared to use their skills. It might be feasible for ALA to seek a way to help libraries utilize this special training, thus supplying the factor of experience in the search for improved preparation and service.

I am very much interested in exploring the ideas set forth in President Holley's paper on federation of professional library organizations that are presently separated from ALA. The attraction of affiliation with the professional organization whose subject area relates to individual ALA divisions (e.g., school librarians with the National Education Association) needs analyzing, as does the question of independent status, as maintained by the Music Library Association or Special Libraries Association. Librarians are examining these alternatives and also the benefits of a solid front of librarianship (with individual autonomy) under the expanded umbrella of ALA federation. The rumblings of dissatisfaction from ALA divisions should receive open consideration.

Treasurer's plea ☞

Because it was necessary to pay "new postage rates" and issue #29 was longer (heavier!) than anticipated, and because the mailing list was gloriously larger than had been anticipated, the cost of distributing Newsletter #39 was more than anticipated. To some degree, the funding of future issues will also have to be shared by other parts of our budget! Please, Task Force coordinators & everyone: Be extremely careful to stay within/under your budgets! To make the situation more difficult, I have not yet received a financial statement from ALA, although I was today assured of one soon!—Helen R. Wheeler, SRRT Treasurer, 7940 Jefferson Highway (#215), Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (3-10).

Flashpoints: Continued ☞

Another SRRT petition-nominee for ALA Council, inadvertently omitted from the list on p. 2: Patrick S. Sanchez, 861 Linden Street, Ontario, CA 91761... Since Kathy & Art submitted the rather grim API "Update" on p. 8, the operation's outlook seems—if anything—to have become even grimmer. Writing on March 5th, Ms. Martin asked that the Newsletter emphasize "the fact that we need more people to work here and if we don't find more people, there is a possibility that we will shut down." She enclosed a January flyer, "Looking for an alternative?," which SRRTers who really value the ALTERNATIVE PRESS INDEX & want it to survive could helpfully distribute. The leaflet outlines the Centre's history & present situation, explains API's mechanics, & appeals for new persons to join & continue the Collective. A few tantalizing excerpts: "The work is interesting and challenging, with an absence of hierarchies and bureaucracies which tend to stifle creativity. Much of the actual work is indexing, but there is also correspondence...and orders to be filled... All of the computer programs are already written...so there are no problems with them. We also have computer access close to our office. Layout...is very simple...and we have a printer in Toronto... We have put together one of the largest collections of alternative publications, and have made it available in our office & through a reprint service... The work is demanding, but also rewarding for people who have the energy and ability...and enjoy seeing real results of their labor." In short, this isn't the death-knell of the Centre nor API. And so, dear Acquisitions colleagues & subscrip-

tion agents, there's no cause for either demanding refunds or making hungry overtures to haul-off the APC's mag-collection. What our friends urgently require now is HELP, not vulturism... A short, rhetorical query prompted by Terry McLaughlin's page-5 remark about SRRTers proving themselves--through "serious and practical" endeavors--to be "not just a group of radicals in the profession": Are the two categories incompatible? Can't "radicals" be "serious and practical"? If not, maybe we oughta fold up our tents. Almost appears that Brother Terry has fallen for the media-popularized image of "radicals" as wild-eyed, ravingly incoherent lunatics. However, the solid accomplishments recorded by SRRTers in many realms should finally devastate that stereotype... Two or three quick glosses on the Guinea-Bissau item (p. 7): That Sept. 24th independence-assembly, attended by 1,000 observers, installed Luiz Cabral-Amilcar's brother--as 1st President of the new Republic. Over the past years of arduous self-liberation, PAIGC has steadily established clinics, schools, People's Shops, courts, & other vital institutions. Under Portuguese dominion, no such infrastructure existed. In sum, the liberation struggle has meant an entirely new future for over 800,000 people. And Feminists will be pleased to learn that women now enjoy new possibilities for social mobility, particularly in the health & education services, while many are also trained to use weapons. Moreover, in elected village communities, the basic political unit, at least 2 of the 5 members must be women. Incidentally, among the initial petition-signers were Shirley Chisholm, Angela Davis, Sue Thrasher, Ron Dellums, Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Louis Stokes, & Andrew J. Young... Back to Midwinter '74 & the "LC Affair": Karl Nyren reported in the 2-5 Hotline re the SCAMI report & later discussion that "Eugene Walton, LC's man in charge of the affirmative action effort, wound up the matter with a pointed invitation to all the other libraries represented to bring their AA plans to the next meeting, as LC has done." That's true. And C. Sumner Spalding added, in the 3-8 LC info. bulletin, that Mr. Walton's "observations drew warm applause." That's equally true. Clearly, Mr. Walton's presentation & the Council's joyfully loud response proved most satisfying to Messrs. Nyren & Spalding. Understandable, among "sweethearts." But to many other onlookers the event was less satisfying. A quite different interpretation is that the Councillors "warmly applauded" because a Black man (who also just happened to be an LC administrator) at last took them off the goddam hook. "Well, if he says everything's groovy & that LC's been unfairly victimized, who are we to contradict him?" Straight down the memory-hole went the testimony, only a few minutes earlier, of Howard Cook, the BEIC representative, who declared on behalf of rank-and-file Black workers at LC that every thing was far from groovy at that venerable, respected institution. Little wonder, then, that neither Hotline nor the info. bull. figure among the "Library Free Press" titles cited in BookLeeper #2... SRRT's "where it's happenin'." Persons who already belong to ALA may join as voting members @ \$5 p.a. Membership-td for non-ALAs --without a vote--is \$3, while institutions can subscribe to the Newsletter by paying \$10 yearly. To join or subscribe, send your name & address, plus remittance, to Sherrie at the address below.

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