WHEREAS, information is essential for all persons at all age levels and all economic and social levels, and

WHEREAS, publicly supported libraries are "institutions of education for democratic living" [Library Bill of Rights], and exist to provide information to all persons, and

WHEREAS, increased use of automated bibliographic data bases (many of which have been developed with tax funds) has caused some publicly supported libraries to charge for those services, which practice may set precedent for further fee setting, and

WHEREAS, the charging of fees for information deprives service to those who cannot afford the fees, and thus effectively discriminates against them, and

WHEREAS, ALA has urged the free flow of information and has spoken clearly against all obstacles that stand in the way of an individual's access to ideas and information,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ALA affirm its belief in the concept of access to information, without charge to individuals, in public and other publicly supported libraries, and be it further

continued...
...from page 1

RESOLVED, that the ALA approve the following statement of policy:

It shall be the policy of the American Library Association to assure that the emergence of fee assessments for information services, including those services utilizing the latest information technology, is discriminatory in publicly supported institutions providing library and information services.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the policy of the American Library Association to seek to make it possible for library and information service agencies which receive their major support from public funds to provide service to all people without additional fees and to utilize the latest technological developments to insure the best possible access to information; and that

the Association will, through an active program of information, education, and the formulation of future policy and programming, actively promote its position on equal access to information.

ALSO PASSED....

• ALA membership did approve a few noteworthy resolutions at the Wednesday, June 22 meeting. Besides the free access resolution, a resolution on ethnic groups and the White House Conference was carried. This directs our Executive Director to transmit to the state library agencies our concerns for consideration of ethnic groups.

• Also passed was a resolution commanding BOOKLIST for its efforts on behalf of feminist press materials.

• One of the major resolutions slid through with little debate while many parties were still licking their wounds from the Speaker episode. This being the resolution on the Equal Rights Amendment and conference sites.

With its passage, ALA is now committed to holding future conferences only to states that have ratified the ERA. ALA is committed to future conference sites through 1982, so it will have little immediate affect.

NOTE OF WARNING: Illinois has not yet passed the ERA and you can bet your OCLC terminal that a move will be afoot to reverse this resolution to enable future Chicago conferences.

• A strong gay rights resolution was passed on June 22 by Council. Proposed by the Gay TF and sponsored by Councilor Dorothy Broderick, the resolution expands a gay rights policy adopted by ALA in 1971 and declares that Council reaffirms its support for the principle of free access to info for all. Both Membership and Council overwhelmingly endorsed Membership Document #7 after defeat of a similar motion by Council at Midwinter.

Free access was clearly one of the hotter issues considered shall be Detroit conference; ALTA, MARS, and SRRT all held programs on the subject while both outgoing ALA President Clara Jones in her presidential program and incoming President Eric Moon in his inaugural, "Data bank is two four-letter words," spoke out strongly in favor of free access. Woman Isaacs, a distinguished journalist and editor, was Ms. Jones' guest speaker and he reminded the audience that, "You are toiling in the public interest and the flow of information must remain free."

The SRRT program featured four highly varied and stimulating speakers. Pay Blake of UC Pomona led off with a statement that we fight for freedom for realistic budgets and a shift in government priorities. She urged librarians to engage themselves in economic planning leading to greater taxation of corporate profits, with increased tax revenues being used to develop the public sector.

Economist Rick Hill of Michigan State University traced the origins of the fiscal crisis currently hampering libraries to the financial oligarchy of private enterprise and the recessionary policies of the Nixon years. The solution, he said, was not to turn libraries into "public corporations" but for libraries to provide services based on need, thus serving as a model for other public institutions.

Hill was followed by Bernadine House of the Joint Committee on Printing, who revealed the growing trend among government agencies to demand fees for services despite the questionable legality of double and triple taxation. She emphasized the necessity of closely analyzing cooperative networking arrangements that might lead to user fees and the importance of establishing closer relationships between librarians and government officials and representatives.

Data bases which were once suited to specialists are becoming more comprehensive and can be expected to be of greater importance to the general public over time according to Anne Lipow of UC Berkeley. She stressed that rather than selling our services to patrons we should be aggressively promoting their public utility when library funding is appropriated.

Now it's up to us as to implement the resolution on Free Access in our own back yards. By itself an ALA resolution is little more than a sheet of paper, but with our efforts it can be an effective basis for local library policies and practices, a catalyst for action. The time has come for librarians to take a more activist stance in promoting the concept that our services are to be paid for collectively and distributed widely at no cost to the patron.
ETHNIC MATERIALS INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE!

Over 300 people came to Cobo Arena Sunday, June 19th to hear an inspiring presentation on the important of the survival of ethnic identities through cooperation, resulting in true ethnic pluralism as the American ideal. The program was sponsored by SRRT's Ethnic Materials Information Exchange Task Force (EMIETF). The theme was seconded by the panel of the speakers. Gerald Rivera said that "Our destinies are so interlinked, we really are all smaller families in the context of the large family."

All agreed on the necessity of preserving what Yuri Suhl called "that beautiful and richly embroidered possession called heritage." Anna Arnold Hedgenen stressed the importance of each person building on the past and suffering of his or her group history as a means of building a new kind of world.

David Cohen, moderator, cited Alex Haley's ROOTS as the signal for libraries and librarians to become more alert and active in building ethnic collections and in programming library services for the diverse ethnic groups in the community.

At their business meeting, EMIETF discussed cooperation with Dr. Dorothy Haith from Alabama A&M in presenting a workshop or institute about how to recruit minorities to fill jobs and qualify as students in professional programs.

Genevieve Corea expressed a need for more info on Asian Americans, especially Portuguese Americans. She also supported the possibility of a program on the Hawaiian experience for SRRT.

Also discussed was EMIETF's place in the ACA structure along with the position of the Library Services to the Disadvantaged Minority Concerns Subcommittee. The possibility of these groups joining together to become a Round Table is being investigated.

Jean Baumann is developing a statement giving the pros and cons of establishing a RT.

Some RT advantages would be: 1.) there would be officers who would be responsible for maintenance tasks, 2.) a newsletter could be created for info exchange, 3.) publications could be available to a broader audience if published directly by ALA.

SRRT NEWSLETTER

TASK FORCE ON GAY LIBERATION:

The Gay TF meeting closed with a puppet play written by Kay Tobin and produced by Jim Moyski, "Flaming Fun Fest," which they distributed at the Detroit conference. For copies of the brochure and/or a subscription to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES ($4, individual; $1, unemploy, student, retired; $6, institutional), contact Kay Cassell, 44 Nathanial Blvd., Belmar, NJ 07719.

WINNER OF THE GAY BOOK AWARD FOR 1977 IS FAMILIAR FACES, HIDDEN LIVES: THE STORY OF HOMOSEXUAL MEN IN AMERICA TODAY, by the late Howard Brown, former health services commissioner of New York City. The book was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich ($8.95) in 1975 and will be out in Harvest paperback in October.

At the same meeting, Sol Gordon, well-known family life expert, gave a talk billed as "It's Not Okay to Be Anti-Gay." Dr. Gordon is Professor of Child and Family Studies at Syracuse University and Director of the Institute for Family Research and Education.

He told the rapt audience, "Scratch an anti-gay and you'll find an anti-black, anti-Semite, anti-ZA....If we don't all stand together, we'll hang separately....Civil rights should never be decided at the ballot box." Sol Gordon received a standing ovation for his convictions and his engaging presentation.

The Gay TF meeting closed with a puppet play written by Kay Tobin and produced by Jim Moyiska, "Flaming Fundamentalist meets Football Faggot," in which David Kopay applies for a coaching job at Anita Bryant's school and worlds collide.

WOMEN

The Women's TF accepted a proposal to establish a 9-member steering committee at their business/membership meeting. Elected to serve 2-year terms were: Diane Gordon Kadronoff (coordinator), Cynthia Johanson, Elizabeth Putnas, Donna Eps, Mike Leben, Betty Lowe, Jean Porter, Betty-Carol Sellen, and Karen Jackson.

A variety of issues were discussed including the need for a political action committee. A report was also presented on the history and current status of the job roster.

The program meeting, featuring Gail Sheehy, author of PASSAGES, was an overwhelming success. An overflow crowd heard her discuss the research behind her book. She announced plans for more research and writing about women in their 40's and 50's.

Congrats are in order to the Women's TF for the attractive brochure which they distributed at the Detroit conference. For copies of the brochure and/or a subscription to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES ($4, individual; $1, unemployed, retired, student, institutional), contact Kay Cassell, 44 Nathanial Blvd., Belmar, NJ 07719.

TASK FORCE FOR THE DISADVANTAGED:

Winner of the Gay Book Award for 1977 is FAMILIAR FACES, HIDDEN LIVES: THE STORY OF HOMOSEXUAL MEN IN AMERICA TODAY, by the late Howard Brown, former health services commissioner of New York City. The book was published by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich ($8.95) in 1975 and will be out in Harvest paperback in October.

At the same meeting, Sol Gordon, well-known family life expert, gave a talk billed as "It's Not Okay to Be Anti-Gay." Dr. Gordon is Professor of Child and Family Studies at Syracuse University and Director of the Institute for Family Research and Education.

He told the rapt audience, "Scratch an anti-gay and you'll find an anti-black, anti-Semite, anti-ZA....If we don't all stand together, we'll hang separately....Civil rights should never be decided at the ballot box."

Sol Gordon received a standing ovation for his convictions and his engaging presentation.

The Gay TF meeting closed with a puppet play written by Kay Tobin and produced by Jim Moyiska, "Flaming Fundamentalist meets Football Faggot," in which David Kopay applies for a coaching job at Anita Bryant's school and worlds collide.

WOMEN

The Women's TF accepted a proposal to establish a 9-member steering committee at their business/membership meeting. Elected to serve 2-year terms were: Diane Gordon Kadronoff (coordinator), Cynthia Johanson, Elizabeth Putnas, Donna Eps, Mike Leben, Betty Lowe, Jean Porter, Betty-Carol Sellen, and Karen Jackson.

A variety of issues were discussed including the need for a political action committee. A report was also presented on the history and current status of the job roster.

The program meeting, featuring Gail Sheehy, author of PASSAGES, was an overwhelming success. An overflow crowd heard her discuss the research behind her book. She announced plans for more research and writing about women in their 40's and 50's.

Congrats are in order to the Women's TF for the attractive brochure which they distributed at the Detroit conference. For copies of the brochure and/or a subscription to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES ($4, individual; $1, unemployed, retired, student, institutional), contact Kay Cassell, 44 Nathanial Blvd., Belmar, NJ 07719.
The Speaker: Does it speak for librarians?

by Jim Dwyer

The 1977 American Library Association Conference in Detroit was the site of a major struggle in the field to establish a clear social and intellectual freedom. The focus of debate was "The Speaker," a film co-produced by and bearing the imprint of the Office of Intellectual Freedom of the American Library Association (OIF).

Two years ago OIF and the Association of American Publishers' Freedom to Read Committee (FRC) decided to produce a film concentrating on our rights of free speech under the first amendment. A year later Vision Associates was hired and ALA authority was delegated to an IFIC subcommittee of three members including OIF director Judy Krug. In October of 1976 a script was developed and presented to the IFIC subcommittee. Zola Horn, incoming chairperson of IFIC requested information on the film from Krug, but was not sent the script. It is at this point in time that Association of American Publishers pulled out of the venture for reasons which have yet to be reported to general ALA membership.

The film was shot in January of this year, edited by Vision Associates in consultation with the IFIC subcommittee, and shown to the Executive Board of ALA in late April. The Board first decided to delay release until the film could be evaluated by ALA membership, but reversed that decision on the grounds that delay would be somehow "misinterpreted." Hence the film was released in May and copies sent to advance subscribers in June despite certain misgivings by the Executive Board and before the personal memberships at ALA who learned of the film's release from their contacts costs through their dues had ever seen it.

There were special May screenings for IFC members and a few others. These showings created a major division of the school and community, of school librarian Geraldine Clark, public library about twenty seconds of applause and some "The screening to membership was followed by discussion which have yet to be general ALA membership.

The film was shot in January of this year, edited by Vision Associates in consultation with the IFIC subcommittee, and shown to the Executive Board of ALA in late April. The Board first decided to delay release until the film could be evaluated by ALA membership, but reversed that decision on the grounds that delay would be somehow "misinterpreted." Hence the film was released in May and copies sent to advance subscribers in June despite certain misgivings by the Executive Board and before the personal memberships at ALA who learned of the film's release from their contacts costs through their dues had ever seen it.

There were special May screenings for IFC members and a few others. These showings created some controversy as evidenced by the opposition of IFIC chairperson Zola Horn and by the resolution against May and copies sent to advance subscribers in June despite certain misgivings by the Executive Board and before the personal memberships at ALA who learned of the film's release from their contacts costs through their dues had ever seen it.

There were special May screenings for IFC members and a few others. These showings created some controversy as evidenced by the opposition of IFIC chairperson Zola Horn and by the resolution against May and copies sent to advance subscribers in June despite certain misgivings by the Executive Board and before the personal memberships at ALA who learned of the film's release from their contacts costs through their dues had ever seen it.

Finally, on the evening of Sunday, June 19, "The Speaker" was shown to ALA membership. What then do we make of a film in which a controversial speaker, one with the racist message of White genetic superiority, is invited to speak at a high school assembly. The film portrays the struggle between those in favor allowing the speaker on campus and those who oppose it. After intense student and community pressure and a majority of the school and community, the invitation is finally temporarily withdrawn, this being depicted as a temporary setback of intellectual freedom.

The screening to membership was followed by about twenty seconds of applause and some scattered hissing. A reactor panel consisting of school librarian Geraldine Clark, public library director Ervin Gaines and Professor Gerald Shields was then asked to present its views. All three spoke out strongly against the film. Ervin Gaines, hardly a friend to the dissent of the sixties and early seventies, surprised the audience by his condemnation of Council's position. He said that the film provokes and taunts Blacks. It asks them to choose between intellectual freedom and the rage about their oppressor...It is not too much to say that it was shameful...and can only polarize at a time when amelioration is necessary.

Shields raised a series of questions: "Why a film from the ALA Committee on Intellectual Freedom which does not address itself to the library? Why does it deal with choice in a manner which equates selection with censorship? Is it because we do not understand what we mean by intellectual freedom?" He also accused the film of failing to explore the relationship of freedom of choice to the fabric of library and societal reality.

About forty minutes of discussion followed, with only five speakers supporting the film while over a dozen protested and demanded that ALA remove its name from the film. An unscientific polling of viewpoints revealed that 108 rated the film "excellent," 141 good, "109 fair," 235 poor, with 121 non-respondents. The house was clearly divided on the issue even though the "poor" response was clearly the top vote-getter of the five categories.

"The Speaker" was also shown on ensuing days, and on Wednesday, June 22, members reconvened for further discussion and a vote on two resolutions requesting that ALA dissociate itself from the film.

The Kellum-Rose resolution addressed itself to "the subject matter of the film (which) is, at most, peripheral to the experience of librarians and librarians in the area of intellectual freedom." The Black Caucus resolution was more comprehensive, criticizing the stereotyping, condescension, oversimplification and victimization inherent in "The Speaker." The Caucus also stated that this film does not do justice to either the First Amendment or Intellectual Freedom and objected to the intersection of the issue of race relations which destroys the intent of the film.

A heated two-hour debate ensued. Dozens of members, Black and White, and including such diverse personalities as a survivor of the Nazi Holocaust, a newly returned Peace Corps volunteer, and incoming ALA President Eric Moon registered their opposition. A special guest (and former librarian), the Honorable Major Owens of the New York State Senate, lambasted "the secret agenda of racism" while E.J. Josey called the film "abominable, a travesty of intellectual freedom.

The vote to dissociate ALA's name from the film was extremely close and marred by confusion. It was first announced that 372 had voted for the motion and 326 against, but an "error in arithmetic" was announced and a re-addition revealed a 322 to 326 vote, a loss by only four votes. What had been an atmosphere of relief became one of tension and a re-vote was immediately requested. A few votes changed and the final tally was 318 for dissociation, 314 against.

That afternoon the debate moved to Council, the policy-making body in ALA. Because Councilors are theoretically present at Membership meetings and because the debate there had been so lengthy, a time limit was placed on debate. Given the relatively conservative nature of Council, it was not surprising that the motion to dissociate failed by a larger margin than in Membership.

Following this vote, Black Caucus member Fillie Gaines Yates introduced the following motion which was eventually approved:

The Speaker
THE CHILDREN, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, Bulletin to "The Speaker." We regret devoted a good portion of its latest from the CIBC Bulletin. That due to lack of space in this newsletter, we could not reprint excerpts of the Study Guide for "The Speaker." This Guide will be printed in a forthcoming Bulletin. For copies of the feature stories on this controversial ALA film, or for a copy of the Study Guide, please contact the Council at the above address.

Ideally, such measures will help focus audience attention on the racist content of the film and raise sexism-racism awareness in doing so. One has to wonder, whether these disclaimers will do little more than relieve liberal guilt.

After adoption of the Yates resolution, outgoing ALA President Clara Jones stepped down from the podium and expressed her view of the situation:

"A battle has taken place this week...When the smoke clears I think we will see that ALA has lost a great deal...This (the Yates resolution) might be a salve, but it does not solve the problem of the Speaker. The problem has convulsed this country since 1619 when the first slave was brought to America and it is now convulsing the world...This is a film about school programming, not one about free speech...There is now renewed distrust because the black members of the association feel their humanity has been questioned. We have taken a backward step among ourselves regarding trust across lines of race."

Now is it that an association which adopted a strong resolution on racism/sexism awareness only last summer can release such a racist film under its aegis? How is it that the same people who can separate the issues of free speech and black/poor fail to separate the issues of free speech and program selection? How is it that the same assembly can affirm the principle of free access to all materials 100 years after the first slave was brought to America while simulta­neously releasing a film which is patently offensive to certain racial classes?

Perhaps Gerald Shields was right when he argued that we don’t really know what intellectual freedom consists of. "The Speaker...a film about freedom" is really a film about the subtleties of oppression. It does not speak for all librarians, only for the bigots in our midst.

THE COUNCIL ON INTERRACIAL BOOKS FOR CHILDREN, 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023, devoted a good portion of its latest newsletter to "The Speaker." In regret that due to lack of space in this newsletter, we could not reprint excerpts from the CIBC Bulletin.

The Council has also developed a Study Guide for "The Speaker." This Guide will be printed in a forthcoming Bulletin. For copies of the feature stories on this controversial ALA film, or for a copy of the Study Guide, please contact the Council at the above address.

The following are brief reviews of journals, books, and other materials. Examples are scattered throughout this newsletter.
 FOOD FOR THOT

by Eric Moon

 excerpt from his Presidential inaugural address, "Data Bank is two four-letter Words," ALA Detroit, June 21.

"I would hate to see librarians, of all people, becoming fogged or bedazzled by words like information and data, to the point where they fail to emphasize with pride the broader things for which libraries stand and have always stood: knowledge, ideas, art, creativity, understanding, pleasure, awareness of self and the world around us--even, by God, wisdom. Or, as Hamil so beautifully puts it, a way of becoming human.

All of that may be perhaps a rather high-flying way of saying that if we are to carve out a niche for ourselves in the formation of a national information policy, those are the kind of values we must accommodate, not the values of the searchers for material advantage in this pursuit. It is not that tech and business and other areas are not important, but, that they will not be overlooked in any case, they are too profitable to be important for economic and political reasons to be ignored. But who, if not us, will remember the information needs of that poor kid in Brooklyn?"

"The arrival of compulsory education provided one escape route for those children whose parents were determined to establish a dynasty of ignorance. Some parents still struggle to protect their children from education but, by and large, society has come to accept education as among the rights of the young. ....

The question for us, though, is do we then accept that the child's or young adult's right of access to knowledge stops when the school doors close at three, or four? Do we believe that education happens only in school, that libraries are not educational, that they are less important, less relevant than schools?"

"It is also specious, I think, to claim that we can for long operate, side by side in public institutions, fee-based and "free" services. How long do you think that can last? When any fiscal crunch comes along, where will governing bodies press for cuts--in services that produce a return they can see, or in those whose return, while perhaps of equal value, is nothing so obvious or concrete? ....

There is little doubt that we shall build in the next few years the most impressive network of bibliographic apparatus the world has ever known. But if the cost of doing that (and of maintaining it), and if the intensity of effort to achieve that goal is so hindered that it leads to a paradoxical decline in information available locally, and access to the rest filtered through a more seek to fewer and fewer people, what shall we have achieved with our technology other than an Orwellian spectre?"
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION: 1977

To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon—with payment—to:
***ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE, 60 REMSEN STREET, #10E, BROOKLYN, NY 11201.***
Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE. THANKS!

Name:______________________________________________________________________________
Street:_____________________________City:_________State:_____Zip:_____
Is this a new subscription?______ A renewal?______ Amount enclosed:_________
____ $5(ALA Personal Member)____ $3(Affiliate, non-ALA Member)____ $20(Institution. Back issues are available at $1 each. $____(numbers___________________)

SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE

Rick Speer, Editor, 245 Highland, New Kensington, PA 15068
Bonnie Isman, Williams Public Library, 49-50 King Street, Christiansted, St. Croix, VI 00820
Steve Seward, Union City Public Library, 324 43rd Street, Union City, New Jersey 07087
Michael R. O’Brien, 1497 West 38th Street, Cleveland, OH 44113
Jim Dwyer, 1943 1/2 Onyx Street, Eugene, OR 97403
Barbara Zang, 5 High Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901

ALA/SRRT CLEARINGHOUSE
60 Remsen Street, #10E
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Flora D. Colton
ALA Hqs. Library
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, Ill 60611