Women's Task Force Questions Candidates

On Tuesday, January 24th, the SRRT Task Force on Women provided a forum for ALA's presidential candidates Thomas Galvin and Gerald Shields. Both candidates gave introductory speeches, and then answered questions that Task Force coordinator, Diane Gordon Kadanoff asked on behalf of the Task Force, as well as several questions put to the candidates from the floor.

Introductory Remarks:

Galvin believes the field should be "open to talent," he wants ALA to begin a dialogue with the information industry, he has a strong commitment to restructuring ALA, sees the "democratizing" of Council as a mistake and believes the effect was the opposite, wants ALA program and staff to be accountable to membership.

Shields says that having worked there he understands the problems and politics of ALA headquarters. He would, if elected president, "emphasize issues, not tinkering with structure." He said the profession needs a unified voice and not the fragmentation that would result from certain restructuring proposals.

Q: What is your position regarding the delayed updating of the Library Bill of Rights, that would make it conform with the sexism and racism awareness resolution?

(Continued on page 2)
Notes from Mid-winter

The President’s Program, presenting a "draft toward a national information policy," received worse than mixed reviews in Chicago.

Shirley Eichelman, President of the Special Libraries Association, found the language "insulting" and commented that libraries are "relatively unimportant in information." She criticized the emphasis in the draft on libraries, labeled the document "nothing but a manifesto for public libraries," and also suggested it be turned over to Edwin Newman for treatment of "linguistic disease."

Other critics included Audrey Dreisch, President of the American Society for Information Science who complained that the draft "over to Edwin Newman for treatment of world problems." Expect to hear more on this one leading up to the annual conference this summer. There is an action station here and the ingredients include the information industry, library funding, and library services, free access and information systems. Big business.

Council...

Several resolutions were passed by Council during mid-winter week with little discussion or debate, and a couple bear noting for commitments of new responsibility on ALA part:

In a resolution on South Africa, Council resolved that "the ALA delegation to the International Federation of Library Associations be instructed to introduce to that organization the South African Library for Violations of Human Rights" in the case of closing dissident newspapers in October 1979.

In another resolution, regarding library services for youth, recognizes that "sexual exploration and pressure (exists) among children and adolescents," Council therefore "affirms the right of youth to comprehensive, sex-related education...and affirms the active role of libraries" in providing such information.

More on "The Speaker"

The "Speaker" occupied center stage for much of the week. The glare of publicity was provided in the form of Dan Rather and a CBS crew for "Sixty Minutes" filming the continuing debate on the film and interviewing, among others, Judy Krug, Clara Dotes, and Eric Noon. What will result on a Sunday night to some we don't know.

For the record, the NBC network's flag-ship 'The Nightly Show' screened the film last summer. While the New York Times accented criticism of "the Speaker" with denying the real Nor-Shooter his right to speak-to-in a glib comment on the editorial page of February 15.

Around the country, many libraries are purchasing and using the "Speaker" in film progress. The Minneapolis Public Library had scheduled the film as part of its calendar of events for Black History Month. Following criticism from the community and a local paper, the library withdrew the film as "inappropriate" as a Black History event. But the Twin Cities Courier was not dissuaded, asking in a subsequent editorial, "One wonders how under the sun a film 'unsuitable' in May could suddenly become acceptable in another month on the calendar...Such insensitivity on the part of local and national libraries would b estrangulating if it were not so quite ordinary in the general course of race relations."

(Continued from page 1)

CANDIDATES FOR COUNCIL ENDORSED BY THE FORCE ON WOMEN

Joy Blake
Sherrill Chada
Marilyn Crawford
Miriam Delgado
Ruth Fleischer
Elizabeth Futas
Penny Jeffrey
E.L. Jones
Shields: I believe that the report on implementation of the resolution is due at the 1978 annual conference. I was a voting member of Council that instructed the IFC to make a bill of rights compatible with the sexism and racism resolution. I am concerned that the IFC has been slow in responding.

Q: How have you implemented the sexism and racism awareness resolution at your library schools? What specific steps have you taken?

Galvin: There are two faculty members strongly concerned with women's issues, and I've deeply concerned about black issues. Additionally, sexism is dealt with in the children's literature courses.

Shields: An extensive effort has been made to implement the resolution; however, no concerted effort has been made. Through an Office of Education funded institute a Women in Library Management Workshop has been held. Also, continuing education courses are offered on such topics as aggressive training in Library Management and upward mobility.

Q: Since the profession is dominated by women, will your committee appointments reflect this fact? What percentage of women will you appoint to committees?

Galvin: I believe that the report on implementation is due at the 1978 annual conference. I was a voting member of Council that instructed the IFC to make a bill of rights compatible with the sexism and racism resolution. I am concerned that the IFC has been slow in responding.

Shields: I am uncomfortable with percentages. I want the involvement of a broader number of people. There is inadequate survey data on women and minorities on ALA committees. It is also important to evaluate what committees need to have better representation from women. Women should be placed into the power structure. Talented people are being appointed to committees without regard to influence ALA policy.

Follow-up question: how to identify the "shakeurs and movers"?

Galvin: There are clearly recognized groups, the "axe黑白" on women is one, that are available for consultation. Ask these groups for recommendations for specific committees. A 'catch-22' exists with regard to conference attendance--many people don't come unless they are on committees, yet it is hard to obtain recognition unless one comes to conferences regularly.

Shields: My answer is very political. First one must assess what is needed, where change is required. Then 'elder' members must move aside to allow 'seven' members to become active. "Political groups" should be consulted about appointments.
NUTRITION:
A Federal Food Program Primer
By Barbara Zang

Affording a nutritionally adequate diet is becoming more and more difficult for low-income Americans. In our "land of plenty", millions of citizens on fixed incomes watch with dread as their buying power shrinks. Middle-income families are "buying down" to cheaper foods. And the poor, who have been buying the cheapest foods all along, find their budgets devastated by soaring prices. They cannot buy down; they can only buy less.

But while food prices soar and the risks of malnutrition increase, federal food programs offering significant nutritional assistance remain woefully under-utilized or under-financed.

Eligible people do not take advantage of federal food programs for a variety of reasons. One frequent cause of non-participation is lack of information. People simply do not know that these food programs exist.

To illustrate the gaps in federal food program assistance here is a summary of December 1977 operations:

* Of the conservatively estimated 38 million persons eligible for food stamps, 17 million use the program—a gap of 21 million.

* The WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program is reaching 1 million of the estimated 3.3 million persons who need its benefits.

* Of the 6 million senior citizens living near or below poverty, only 477,000 (8%) benefit from nutrition programs for the elderly.

* 690,000 needy children are still without school lunch programs.

* 2.2 million children are eating free or reduced price school breakfasts, compared to 12 million needy children participating in the school lunch program.

* Of those 12 million children, 78% are not reached by the summer food program for children.

* Only 537,350 children nationwide benefit from the child care food program.

For the library—and the socially responsible librarian—there is a growing literature on the various food programs. And there are groups at the national, regional, and state levels which are ideal information sources for food program activities. Many of these groups publish guides, fact sheets, and newsletters on food program advocacy. Some have produced non-print information about the federal food programs.

Here is a list of some of the more active anti-hunger groups in the country. The list is by no means complete; it is a selection of national and state groups from the various regions of the map. If you want to begin a collection of federal food program information in your library, write these organizations for a list of their publications and other materials. Many of the materials are free or low cost.

National Groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Child Nutrition Project</td>
<td>46 Bayard Street, New Brunswick, NJ 08902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Research and Action Center</td>
<td>201 Eye Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children's Foundation</td>
<td>1078 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 1112, Washington, D.C. 20036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Nutrition Institute</td>
<td>1145 19th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

State Groups:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRAXIS</td>
<td>1620 South 37th, Kansas City, Kansas 66101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California Nutrition Action Committee</td>
<td>Forum Building, Room 1026, 1107 9th Street, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Food Services Project</td>
<td>2 Park Square, Room 608, Boston, MA 02111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia Citizens Coalition on Hunger</td>
<td>201 Washington Street, SW, Atlanta, GA 30303</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Law Project</td>
<td>c/o GALS, 335 Broadway, New York, NY 10013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana Nutrition Campaign</td>
<td>38 North Pennsylvania, Suite 312, Indianapolis, IN 46204</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, the Community Food and Nutrition Program operated by the Community Services Administration funds a variety of local groups in every state. To find out which organizations in your area have been funded to work on food program issues, contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Food and Nutrition Program</td>
<td>Room 318, Community Services Administration, 1200 19th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20506</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The other side of collection of information is its dissemination. The federal agency responsible for the majority of these food programs is the US Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. FNS produces mountains of material to be distributed to the masses. To claim your share contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and Nutrition Service Public Information Office</td>
<td>USB, 500 11th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ideally, a collection would include information about eligibility requirements for each program, the days and hours of operation of local programs as well as their addresses and phone numbers, and a summary of fair hearing procedures for each case.

Ignorance about available food resources means poor people have fewer choices about how to meet their food needs. We should not contribute to that situation.
On Equal Terms Is On Target

By Jim Dwyer

On equal terms is the latest and most comprehensive attempt to remove sexual and other social biases from the Library of Congress (LC) subject headings (LCSH) and other subject analysis tools. Since its able compiler, Joan Marshall, draws upon the efforts of Elizabeth Dickinson, Sanford Berman and SRRT's Committee on Sexism in Subject Headings, this publication might be viewed as the fruition of years of work by concerned librarians.

The thesaurus contains thousands of subject headings and cross references relating to people and peoples. It is an arrangement tending to ANSI specifications, incorporating narrower, broader and related terms as well as use (see) references. The format provides slightly more flexibility than that incorporated by LC but is similar enough to allow adoption of suggested changes by LC with relatively little additional effort. Scope notes and marginal comments explaining and criticizing current LC practice are used to great advantage.

While LC has shown some reaction to previous feminist/humanist critiques, changes in LCSH have taken place slowly and in piecemeal fashion until recently. This is at least partially because previous modifications have responded to specific complaints rather than the result of a systematic review of existing practices.

The aforementioned Committee on Sexism in Subject Headings did conduct such a review in 1974, however, and identified five problem areas:

1. The Man/Woman generic problem, subsuming terminology, the modifier tactic, separate and unequal treatment, and omissions. (p.6. All quotations from On equal terms)

2. Interestingly enough, this reviewer is a white, heterosexual male from an American Christian home who has been blithely unaware of the harm caused by existing terminology which impedes effective subject retrieval and is sometimes personally repugnant. The current LC biases give credence to old misconceptions by maintaining the linguistic status quo.

3. While LCSH contains many subjects defending God (the right-wing, Christian variety), Motherhood (as the only "natural" role for women) and Apple Pie (we take your apply and sell you the pie), there are few if any terms connecting the desirability or even the possibility of positive social change.

4. LC's attempt to serve a mysterious, hypothetical reader is clearly an unrealistic intellectual exercise. Marshall suggests a more pluralistic approach because "we must keep all our readers in focus." (p.7)

5. This implies both a greater number of access points in the subject catalog as well as the use of neutral terms. But what if people go to the library expecting to find material on a given subject under a heading that is or was in fairly widespread use such as "Yellow part??" The obvious solution is cross referencing, and Marshall suggests: "Libraries are also educational institutions. We do not impress our readers if, in not meeting their expectations concerning access, we instruct them (and ourselves) in unbiased terminology." (p.7)

In his forward, Sanford Berman points out the value of On equal terms:

"It represents not merely 'another' subject-heading list, nor a sterile, irrelevancy, but rather a practical, truly authoritative, long-needed tool for making women-related books, pamphlets, magazines, films, tapes, kits, and records genuinely and immediately accessible to the people who want them." (p.v)

This immediate, practical value may be overshadowed, however, by its potential long-term impact on the larger social world.

Critics of the women's and civil rights movement who accuse activists of semantic quibbling and "library pragmatism" who consider only budgetary expenses rather than the great social costs of racism and sexism are unlikely to greet this volume with open arms. They would do well to read Marshall's essay on sexism and language included in the introduction.

On Equal Terms A Thesaurus for Not-Racist Indexing and Cataloging, by Joan K. Marshall. $14.95 cloth, $9.50 paper; order direct from Neal-Schuman Publishers, Box 1889, FOR Station, NY, 10022 (add $1 for handling).

Will individual libraries adopt this new scheme, or will it depend more on commercial and independent indexing firms? Will it be adopted by the libraries themselves?

Exception in rare instances, social change does not and cannot happen by itself; commitment to long-term effort is the order of the day. The obstacles to instituting the reforms delineated in (On equal terms) are huge (including bureaucratic inertia, tight money and institutional sexism), but the opportunities are nonetheless promising. We have a workable plan, the thesaurus itself, and the rising consciousness of librarians and readers in our favor. Here are some suggested tactics:

1. Pressure your own library, network, and LC to adopt the new terminology, if not as established headings, at least as cross references.

2. Establish a system of reader-generated cross references in your own library. By demonstrating that LC's average patron is in a mythical creature, LCSH becomes less of a sacred cow and more vulnerable to modification.

3. Apply for a grant for a demonstration project instituting On equal terms in your library or library system.

4. Get political. (Who, me?) Lobby for library funding and change. A former library trustee and a self-professed "feminist" have moved into the white house and more women are being elected to public offices. Make library services more visible and valuable to the community. Present your case to women's and civil rights groups for their support and for inclusion of library issues into their lists of priorities.

5. Write your representative in Congress urging her/his support of the Transfer Amendment which would cut excessive military spending and transfer the funds to educational and social programs, creating additional employment opportunities in the process.
CODES OF JUSTICE?

By Steve Seward

An item in the January issue of the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom reports on the proposed federal criminal code revisions presently before the Congress. Let's be polite and call the item in the newsletter error by omission.

The paper we're presented is that the bill now includes "last-minute changes" designed to compromise with civil libertarians who have been strongly critical of the bill's impact on First Amendment freedoms. Senate Judiciary Committee revisions are described by relating three issues: Improvements in distribution of sexually explicit materials, repeal of the Smith Act, and new protections for reporters covering legal proceedings. All true, and no small accomplishment in the face of a bill critics have dubbed "Son of S.I."

But there's no hint in the article that the criminal code is still rampant with provisions that Hentoff calls "dangerously in contempt of the Bill of Rights." And the bill is now out of committee and has passed the Senate, 72-15. In February volume in the Village Voice (2/13,20,27), Hentoff has outlined the most flagrant abuses which warrant very much a part of the bill. There are many, and we present a few low points as an antidote to the coverage the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom. Consider these, and the journalistic effort it requires to unearth 'progress' in such horrendous legislative efforts.

MEANWHILE, AT THE COUNCIL

INTERRACIAL BOOKS...

In a recent issue of their Bulletin, the Council on Interracial Books for Children writes that "we hope it is understood that our function is not that of censors but to raise awareness of realities all too often ignored." We hope so, too. On the basis of the record some of the Council's problems are self-inflicted. But when they're good, they're awfully good. It's not difficult—but it may be scary—to imagine what would be without them. In a future issue, the SRRT Newsletter will probe some of the issues concerning the CIBC and its racial effort it requires to unearth the 'progress' in such horrendous legislative efforts.

CIBC devoted a double issue to handicaps—coverage of media and book portrayals of disabled people, the disability rights movement, classroom consciousness raisers, and a useful compilation of facts and figures. A must for the veritable file—and this one's good enough to use often. It's available from the CIBC, 1061 Broadway, New York, NY 10023 for $3. Subs are $15 a year.

And (in Number 6 they're under), ours arrived in the middle of January. (Continued on page 6)

press watch

An eye on the professional journals of librarianship and related items--an eye on the library press for the information of SRRT members.

Last second accuser pangswatch or handing down an unneutral opinion: send for these issues, but don't let your awareness relax.

Under the headline "Chase Manhattan Has A Friend at ALA", the CIBC criticizes cooperation with the Advertising Council's campaign boosting the American economic system.

The CIBC asks "What was the Library Bill of Rights amended to permit ALA's fornicating with Madison Avenue?" That kind of question helps to know what is planned, as 10,000 libraries in participating in the campaign with all three major TV networks running public service announcements "urging viewers to descend on their local libraries to devour the enlightening materials." Now nobody believes that horde will descend on their libraries in search of the materials as a result of some psa's at 2 in the morning and 10 am on Sundays. But the CIBC is upset at the prospect of library participation and I'm not.

(Continued on page 6)
illiteracy, censorship, and bolivian libraries

by Bonnie Isman

American Libraries editor Art Plotnik would have us believe that all is rosy for the future of Bolivian libraries in his "What I did on my vacation" report entitled "Born Again in the Andes" (AL 8:8, 409-12, Sept.'77). He makes no pretense at expertise in Latin American affairs. His description relates the impressions of a gringo tourist swept into the current, visiting dignitary. Plotnik may have been an innocent abroad, but his misleading, uncritical report ignores two of the crucial problems facing Third World libraries, namely illiteracy in multi-lingual cultures and government censorship of information.

Plotnik mentions that the national ministry of culture is reaching out to the two-thirds of Bolivians who are non-readers with their Banco del Libro program, but the situation is infinitely more complex. Three spoken languages represent the country's mixed heritage: Quechua, Aymara, and Spanish. Nearly half of the country's population speaks the two Indian languages, and sixty per cent of Bolivia has been estimated to be illiterate in any language. Access to information automatically becomes an elite privilege. Libraries as information centers face tremendous human problems in what Plotnik calls "llamaland." The government of President and Supreme Military Commander Hugo Banzer Suarez is known to watch all information activity very closely. Banzer was named to power after a coup in 1971 by the military. Since that time he has repeatedly banned elections, suppressed political movements, expelled "undesirables" and journalists, and recently decreed a ban to all political activity until 1980. In May 1977, the Union of Bolivian journalists again demanded an amnesty for exiled writers and protested the continuing detention and disappearance of journalists. Newspapers, radio stations, publications houses may be abruptly shut down for real or imagined subversive activities.

under these conditions, what chance is there for professional library service? Freedom of information becomes a joke in an atmosphere of censorship. Plotnik rated the U.S. Information Agency library in La Paz as having the best trained staff locally, with a nicely balanced and well organized collection. In my experience, USIA libraries are part of the US propaganda program, whose collections are heavily censored to represent in a positive manner the mainstream of US culture and politics.

another point hiding between the lines of Plotnik's travelogue is the adversary relationship which has existed between the government and the universities. No mention is made of a research library at the University of San Andres in La Paz. In fact, the new Bolivian research documentation center for science and technology will be organized as a separate national information agency (easier to control that way?). Anad military relations got so bad after a campaign for increased university democracy in 1976 that the police occupied the university of San Andres wounding 300 students and arresting 275 others. Academic libraries and researchers cannot survive or function in such a battlefield, and the military government seems unlikely to allow a strong research center outside its grasp.

next time Plotnik goes traveling I hope he reports a more thoughtful library tour.
SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:

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

Steve Seward, Editor, 324 Seventh Street, Union City NJ 07087
Jim Dwyer, 1943½ Onyx Street, Eugene OR 97403
Bonnie Isman, Williams Public Library, 49-50 King Street,
Christiansted, St. Croix VI 00820
Michael R. O’Brien, 1497 West 38th Street, Cleveland OH 44113
Rick Speer, Warren Library Association, Box 489, Warren PA 16365
Barbara Zang, 5 High Street, New Brunswick NJ 08901

SRRT ACTION COUNCIL CO-ORDINATORS

Elizabeth Morrissett, Auraria Libraries, University of Colorado-
Denver, Lawrence and 11th, Denver CO 80204
Mary Biblo, 5225 South Blackstone, Chicago IL 60615
Nancy D’Amico, SRRT Treasurer, Roger Williams College Library,
Old Ferry Road, Bristol RI 02809

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