



# Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter

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## TREKING TO SLOVAKIA, FRANKFURT, LONDON AND BELFAST

By Jackie Eubanks

(FRANKFURT, GERMANY) Here I am outside the Frankfurt Book Fair (with some alternative presses and the press, which has been segregated out). The Fair itself is straight out of Weimar in the '20's-'30's (considering the inflation of book prices). The weekend I arrived the Munich folk elected the right-wingers again--and many cheered because the right-wing had lost 2 seats in parliament. At that rate, in 100 years the place could be turned around--and at that rate, inflation here will continue to rise as it does in the states so that it will be ripe for fascism. Much has been learned since the Second World War about civilian control (already each person must carry personal identification, with address noted, for presentation any time requested by police) and so the progressive forces are limited to underground and terrorism to get attention.

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heat soup. Trains and buses in Poland and Czechoslovakia are also inexpensive. People dealing with Americans trying to speak Polish and Czech are very patient (considering the aggravations).

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# LETTERS... problem patrons

**Editor's note:** "Problem Patrons", in the September issue, has generated several letters of criticism. This newsletter has suffered in the past from a lack of response from its readers. So these responses are welcome, and are printed below. We haven't received much in the way of complaint or comment on articles in past issues about other library publications, the White House Conference, the Office of Intellectual Freedom, et. al., though I don't think everyone agreed with the views expressed. Do you agree with everything in this issue? Have you got the time to let us know?

As to Boughourian's "Problem Patrons" and its appearance in these pages, it is hoped that no one would suggest that we print only viewpoints with which we agree. The subject at hand is clearly social responsibility, in the best day-to-day sense. And the means of expression are vivid and approachable. It is a mausoleum theory of librarianship, to be sure.



To the editor:

It is tragic to see the SRRT Newsletter sink into such socially irresponsible Plotnikisms as Gay Frances Boughourian's "Problem Patrons" on page 2 of your September issue. It is further evidence of the death of SRRT's once exalted role as librarianship's conscience. Are we supposed to close the libraries to all but the clean, middle class who can comprehend such obtuse concepts as "librarianship"? Yes, a library is a "mission", and it has a mission for all patrons, those with and without problems. Let's rededicate ourselves to our once humane calling of service to all, instead of abdicating our jobs to the cops, the politicians, or the union leaders who think that they own all of our public institutions. Let's not buy the neurotic hysteria that urges us to bar access to libraries to "...the unwashed...the spaced-out...the disturbed..." The library is a "way station" to a better life, and it cannot be abused by anyone except those professional elites who think it was built for their comfort. A library, "unviolated" or not, is surely not just "a place to work." It is, contrary to Boughourian, a public agency, a public place, and open to the public. Let's not let a gang of scared elitists push our libraries a step further away from the whole public in order to insure that those elitists don't have to deal with those legitimate library patrons who make them uncomfortable. We don't need new kinds of discrimination, particularly those kinds that single out the weakest groups, the groups least able to defend themselves against the Albert Shankers of librarianship.

John N. Berry III  
Librarian, Member of SRRT

To the editor:

The "problem patron" poem published in the September issue left a rancid taste in my mouth (and heart). The poem echoed the sentiment expressed by librarians at the New Jersey Library Association Fall Conference where a seminar was held on the subject. I was appalled that so many librarians of diverse backgrounds, ages, and ethnic groups were so ready to pounce on the first patron to raise his/her voice a decibel. These librarians, as well as your poet, wanted no contact with the very people who might need our help and compassion the most. To them, the best way to deal with the "problem patron" was to incarcerate him, to ban him from our libraries forever. What is going on here? Are we so ready to give up? Do we think of ourselves so useless that our efforts don't matter to anyone? Or do we just want to sit behind our desks, wearing glasses, hair in a bun, ready to silence the first intruder to demand our attention? If we don't want any disturbances, any challenges, if we don't want to be bothered by our famous "problem patron" (would someone please define this animal for me? Wait, don't, I'm afraid you might be talking about me or the high school students coming to my town's library), why don't we just hang a sign on the door saying, "Don't bother to come, this library is for librarians only."

Dan Figueredo

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For further comments on the subject of problem patrons (sic) by John Berry, see the editorial in the November 1, 1978 issue of LJ.

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## I.F.L.A. in SLOVAKIA

(continued from p. 1)

IFLA was invitational this year, a working meeting. The American Library Association delegation was large and unorganized. There were no policy positions discussed at meetings with all delegates. Conversations among Americans mostly dwelled on the sufferings occasioned by errors of the Czech travel agency and where and what to eat and drink. The delegation was a group of people on their own.

One of the things which makes IFLA interesting is the large amount of information exchanged, including plans for our own country and association not yet available back in the U.S. Because of the removal from the real seats of power (that is, funding agencies such as home governments and UNESCO) the professionals at IFLA have a lovely, idealistic and optimistic view of world cooperation and the

papers are exciting futurology. Morrissett will be glad to loan Donald Urquhart's paper on universal access which was one of the best papers this year to anyone who would like to read it and promises to return it.

With pleasure, Morrissett found a home for a Working Group on Information on Conflict Resolution and Peace Making in the Social Sciences Section. A big job this year is the location of the international members of this working group and to establish its goals and plans. But it is now on an international agenda. Volunteers to translate questionnaires and letters into German, French and Russian are solicited. The subject will be discussed at midwinter to explore IALA contributions to this group.

Elizabeth Morrissett

# task force news

## GAY

by Barbara Gittings.

The Gay Task Force, active for eight years now, is steaming ahead with more plans to deal with discrimination against gay people in libraries and to get more and better gay materials into libraries and out to users.

Our Gay Book Award Committee is accepting nominations for the 1979 Gay Book Award. Deadline is January 31, 1979. The award is meant to "recognize and honor books of exceptional merit relating to the gay experience." It's given to books that are substantial contributions to the gay literature, whether fiction, non-fiction or biography. Nominees first considered are recent works, but previously unrecognized titles or important reprints are also considered. Anyone may nominate one or more titles; each nomination must include your statement of why you feel this work merits the Gay Book Award.

"Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive?" Our booklet of tips for non-librarians on getting gay materials into libraries is finished, thanks to Stuart Miller and five other Gay Task Force members. Copies should be available by ALA Midwinter meetings in January 1979, tentative price \$1.00.

At ALA's annual conference in June 1978, our task force launched a survey to find out about the concerns of gay library workers, especially concerning job discrimination. By late November 1978, 98 questionnaires have been returned. More than four-fifths of the responses are from men—though the majority of librarians and other library workers are women!—and most of the responses are from people who are at least partly open about being gay. We'd like to hear from more gay women and from more closeted library workers, men and women. So we're holding open the hopper for returned questionnaires until mid-January. To receive a copy, call or write Barbara Gittings (below). There are no names or codes on the questionnaires, and you won't be put on our mailing list unless you ask to be.

Our Gay Film Festival at the 1978 conference showed 18 documentary 16mm films. Comments ranged from "agreat success!" to "I fail to see how the subject of homosexuality is relevant to libraries." Copies of our film list with distributors' names and addresses are free for a stamped reply envelope.

Barbara Gittings, Coordinator  
ALA/SRRT Gay Task Force  
P.O. Box 2383  
Philadelphia PA 19103

(215) 382-3222



by Elizabeth Morrissett

The Task Force on Peace Information is planning meetings focusing on organization during the midwinter meetings in Washington. We hope to get people who are interested in peace information involved in the collection of information on peace collections. A basic peace bibliography which can be used to evaluate general collections of public and university libraries for the quality of peace collections which they contain and the international exchange of materials on conflict resolution are also topics on the agenda.

We also have a commitment from the Mobilization for Survival to speak at ALA's annual conference in June.

## CONSCIOUSNESS RAISING

by Donnarae MacCann

The Tools for Consciousness-raising Task Force had its first meeting on the very morning of the Supreme Court's Bakke decision. This was a shattering moment for many in attendance, but the decision underlines the need for librarians, like everyone else, to re-examine their social role. The task force serves as one channel for such examination—through which library service can be explored in its relationship to history, social justice, legal doctrine (especially free speech theory). In practice this means that the task force will collect materials—films, books, pamphlets—which shed light on the librarian's social role, or those materials which librarians may find useful in building a culturally pluralistic resource center in their communities. At issue, basically, is the age-old effort to bridge the gap between individual and public interests.

At the 1978 convention, the task force program included "A Minor Altercation," a film produced and distributed by Tricontinental Films (333 Avenue of the Americas, NY NY 10014). This fictional documentary depicts the daughters in a black family and a white family who quarrel, unaware that the school's placement procedures are the real cause of the trouble. These procedures are ultimately revealed as unjust, biased, and damaging to the aspiration and potential of both young women. The film (30 minutes in length) is notable for its evenhandedness and deft exposure of institutional racism.

Two filmstrips were also shown: "Understanding Institutional Racism", which analyzes how a number of agencies perpetuate racism, and "From Racism to Pluralism," a personal narrative by an educator which traces how racism is fortified in a school setting. Both are effective in defining individual prejudice in contrast to institutional racism, and in pinpointing some of the major inequities in housing, law enforcement, schooling, job opportunity (Produced by the Council on Interracial Books for Children and the Foundation for Change, 1841 Broadway NY NY 10023).

Guest speakers at the meeting were Marva DeLoach, Black Caucus member, and Diane Kadanoff, coordinator of the SRRT Task Force on Women. Ms. DeLoach explained the "high art of misunderstanding blacks" and administered a "Racism Quotient Test," giving everyone a chance to confront some widespread misconceptions. Ms. Kadanoff summarized actions initiated at the 1978 convention: the move to relocate the 1979 midwinter meeting, and other progressive steps in challenging sexism.

A "Basic Reading List" on racism and sexism was distributed and a number of items exhibited.

The Current Agenda

ALA's chief quandary—the film "The Speaker"—creates a continuing problem and a continuing item on the agenda of the task force. As yet a wide range of evidence has not been collected from those knowledgeable in the field of black history. The task force sees the need to involve resource people; for example, historians in Black Studies programs; film scholars who have traced the history of Third World representation in films; legal authorities who specialize in social justice and who agree with Archibald Cox (that audiences should not shout down a lecturer) but who also see how the scenario of "The Speaker" departs from the actual case Cox referred to at Harvard. That departure entails some identifiable instances of racism.

# EUROPE

(continued from p. 1)

At the Book Fair, and in society at large, dissidents have been given their own "sandboxes" to play in--for there are many feminist, Left, and literary presses represented (at huge cost to them in money and time). And South Africa continues, and Rhodesia, and so forth. It reminds me of the academic "sandboxes" of Feminist Studies, Black Studies, and--ha!--Urban Studies, even American Studies and Puerto Rican Studies, which were being set up in the late '60's in response to student demands. These are now all over the U.S. being dismantled, and the folks teaching and learning in them are being thrown out as the money crunch continues. It doesn't take long to sweep away a sandbox.

Today I tested my idea about "sandboxes" with some radical and avant garde presses inside the Buchmesse. The absence of two presses who had paid and yet had not attended supported the view (Daughters, Inc. of New York City and Come Out Verlag, Munchen didn't participate for various reasons). Others inside, however, said that "it's the only game in town" and griped about table and placement about table and booth placement much as we wrangle about ABA and ALA and COSMEP and our Book Fairs! At the big Buchmesse, the alternative presses in general griped about their poor placement (off on the sides, folks). But just watch: in a couple of years--maybe--the place may be fit for more people (they're now paying over two and a quarter dollars to get in).

Today my day was more pleasant because I spent time with the feminists' presses, hearing about the conference held last weekend in Munich (so more was going on than the elections!) Eight countries were represented at the conference, and more than 15 publishers, specifically feminist. A press release from the conference says in part, "we are breaking down the traditional power a publisher has, seeing this as against our political sense and an impediment to the creative process..." According to the crew at Frauen-offensive, the organizers of the conference, other topics discussed included first options of feminist presses on writings soon to be sought by the reality of "big publishing" and the familiar problems of women writers and women-owned presses we have heard about through COSMEP and women's meetings.



Today I went to the ALTERNATIVE Book Fair and it was--whew--OK! Small and cheery, and packed with people--you know, the book fair scene. It's being held on the second floor of a public building next to an elementary school--in one big room, filled with people--many young folk, babies, and music (and no pet dogs--at least not while I was there.) Lots of Third World support groups, of course, were represented and prisoners' support groups as well. Some of the publishers (few) are at the big Buchmesse as well as the Gegenbuchmesse, and it's heartening to see them playing both sides of the street.

Among the alternative presses in general there is a feeling of some apprehension for the future. Money is tight and it costs more to offset 500 copies of a sheet than to photocopy it! Yet the number and extent of the presses and the local action they reflect is encouraging.

# BELFAST

After a crash course in class struggle at the Royal Cambridge Hotel and a pick-me-up at the Kropotkin's Lighthouse Bookshop in London, it seemed logical to proceed to Belfast before approaching England again.

In Belfast, a pure pleasure of applying what I had learned in Cambridge at the Belfast Europa, amid great employees and behind heavy security. Arriving late, I went for a walk to get out from behind those bars (there were armed soldiers on the street and me). Very peaceful. I asked one soldier the hours of the Linden Library, then walked over and found it was more private than Cambridge University!

Also visited with the folks at "Just Books" a collectively run bookshop cum community center suggested to me at Kropotkin's. Some excellent local publications I found there included the views, not often published, of poor British soldiers separated from their families for no good reason.

Watch for the listings of the Belfast treasure trove in the forthcoming Alternatives in Print! You can order them too (very cheap), or write (and send \$)

Just Books  
7, Winetavern Street  
Belfast, Northern Ireland

Gardner Newsagents  
Botanic Avenue  
Belfast, 7, Northern Ireland



# LONDON

I also attended the London Book Fair, which was held in a hot and stuffy hotel, and which included a few alternative presses and distributors. The London Book Fair was not open to the public, and everybody had tables and not booths as in most "trade" fairs. There was no charge for attendance. The atmosphere was fairly hopeful, as British publishers (mostly small and specialized) looked for deals abroad and several Black-operated presses and bookstores attended. I checked out the story concerning attacks on Black-owned bookstores with Bookshop Joint Action (5A Chignell Place, Ealing, London W13) that appeared in Black Scholar magazine (July-August 1978) and found out the sad extent to which the "National Front", the right-wing group was being tolerated and even encouraged by the benign neglect of official British authorities in prosecuting those racist attacks on intellectual freedom. It continues, and nothing is being done. Organizers of the Bookshop Joint Action (a loose confederation of black-owned stores) are asking for support from us to pressure the Home Secretary to do something to enforce the law to protect their intellectual freedom and rights to assemble. Most of the bookstores also serve as community centers.

If you want to act, please send a letter to encourage the Home Secretary to respond to the Bookshop Joint Action Group:

Mr. Merlyn Rees  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
Whitehall, London S.W.1  
England

# Whose "Community" Librarian?

by Bonnie Isman

No pretense at research or objectivity this time - I'd like to share some purely personal observations with SRRT Newsletter readers.

It strikes me as outrageous self-delusion that white Anglo-Saxon protestants (like myself) go boldly into strange towns and assert themselves as "community" librarians. This outsider within a suspiciously short time will pinpoint the needs of the community and begin a plan of action. The irony is especially appalling when the community itself has few, if any, WASP-ish characteristics with which we might identify. Might not the well-meaning librarian who applies his or her own information values on the

community resemble the equally well-meaning missionary seeking converts to a religious value structure?

I am writing of something more than the feeling of dislocation which comes from leaving one city and moving to another. Culture clash. The juxtaposition of the WASP in the Black American ghetto or the Chicano community or the West Indian island. The question arises: Can you be responsive to the needs of a community which is unlike anything in your personal experience?

Library science training rarely prepares you for coping with different social value structures. It's a shock to find ideas rejected which seemed universal, for example, the attitude that individual hard work will lead to self-improvement and general progress. You may find that your community prefers group activity which is as much party as it is work and which expresses a fatalistic attitude that the future is controlled largely by forces beyond its borders.

For shock #2, you may find out that the community's fatalism is well-founded. Others of your basic concepts will be challenged everyday, even while teaching how to use the card catalog.

In language, too, you may find yourself in the minority. "Standard English" in many parts of the country is used as a second or foreign language in the community. Deprived of the natural familiarity of common ways of speaking, communication difficulties must be conquered in every personal interview and publicity release. Reference service suffers, obviously.

Language barriers and other factors lead to different attitudes toward books, literacy, and information. Your patrons must read well in that second or foreign language called "Standard English" in order to make use of most library materials. Another barrier for your users may be that the library's collection reflects very little of their own culture. Perhaps this is one reason that you may find an underlying mistrust of library-based information, doubts about its usefulness, and equal acceptance of up-to-date and out-of-date facts. Opinions of friends and local big shots, regardless of accuracy, may carry more weight with your patrons than the encyclopedia or other authoritative sources.

All of which may add up to a low estimate of library services in the community. Why should people be alienated from their library? Perhaps its source of funding comes from outside the community, resulting in a lack of local control or involvement over time. The professional staff may have been recruited from the outside, resulting in leadership foreign to the community. Your professional commitment to the importance of library services will run up against skepticism at best and rejection at worst.

Not every situation reaches the extreme of outright rejection of the librarian or the library. However, when taking a position in a non-WASP community, the WASP librarian should be aware that library science will only solve part of the problems that lie ahead. For the clash between cultures, you will need mutual respect, the ability to compromise and to accommodate their real needs with your own.

A healthy sense of humor will prove the best tool for the job. You've got to be able to laugh at yourself and your mistakes rather than mucking around in guilty feelings. And no library school that I ever heard of was well known for its commitment to humor.

## Ethnic Materials Task Force

by David Cohen

Two hundred ALA members jammed the Wabash Parlor at Palmer House last June to participate in the workshop on "Tracking Community Ethnicity" chaired by Beth J. Shapiro (Urban Policy and Planning Librarian, Michigan State University) and Prof. Clara C. Jackson, Kent State University School of Library Science. Participants included Prof. Joe T. Darden, Geographer of Michigan State University; "Effective Research on Urban Neighborhoods"; Natalia G. Davis, Director of El Centro Hispanico de Informacion de the Brooklyn (NY) Public Library; and Ronald Washington, Community Services Specialist of the Chicago office of the U.S. Census Bureau. Complete tape of the workshop is available from ALA publishing, and a bibliography compiled by Beth Shapiro on tracking community ethnicity is available from the task force coordinator David Cohen.

The business meetings of the task force produced two important decisions. One was to publish a newsletter three times a year with the help of a \$2 subscription price, to report on programming, ethnic publications, research, curriculum, community relations and outreach. Also decided was a focus on reaching the adults in the community through the use of local archives and oral history. A program in Dallas in June is tentatively titled "Archives and Outreach". Dr. James Geary, Director of Archives at Kent State University is in charge of planning for the program.

A request for help from Prof. Karen Anderson of the Library Training Institute of the University of North Dakota for involvement in the recruitment of native Americans for the Library Technician Program was considered at some length. An article by Prof. Anderson will appear in a future issue of the task force newsletter.

We were all disappointed at the outcome of the petition for an ethnicity round table signed by well over 100 distinguished members of ALA. The committee on organization, rather than discuss the substantive rationale for the round table, decided to reject the petition because several caucuses objected to the round table. The plea that the round table would deal with the commonality of minority problems was not apparently convincing. The task force will be examining the logic and rationale of a round table once again this year.

And now some good news: Marjie Jorano (Hennepin County Library and SRRT Action Council Coordinator) a long-time member of the Ethnic Materials task force has completed her editing and revision of the Directory of Ethnic Publishers and Other Resource Organizations.

This publication was formerly produced by OLSB; we are now asking ALA Publishing to produce the directory. The price will of course be higher, but the distribution will be much wider in scope.

David Cohen  
Ethnic Materials Information Exchange T.F.  
68-71 Bell Blvd.  
Bayside, NY 11364

# N.O.W. National Action Center:

## INFORMATION FOR THE REVOLUTION

by Sheila Hess

It is an axiom that, when searching for a job, one should try to dovetail one's interest, training, and skills. For this reason, I walked into the National Action Center of the National Organization for Women in Washington, D. C., last fall and offered my services. I saw this gesture as the culmination of my professional training (in library work since 1963, M.L.S. in 1966) and my activism - having developed and expanded my feminist commitment during the previous six years I had lived in New Jersey. As the officers of N.O.W. were looking, at the same time, for someone to bring order to the mass of materials accumulating in the office, I was hired as a part-time consultant to develop a system for organizing these materials. However, once on the job, I convinced the officers and members of the National Board of the need for a true library/resource center at the Action Center (the national office of the organization). This was not so difficult a task as you may believe; what amazed me was how N.O.W. had achieved so much through the years with no detectable system for locating information when needed.

Presently, I am in the process of creating a functioning library for the officers and staff at the Action Center. From the beginning, I recognized the uniqueness of this position - and the possibilities it presented. As N.O.W. is different from many other women's organizations in that it is committed to political activism on a wide range of issues important to women, the library had to be more comprehensive than the libraries of other, more specialized women's organizations. Furthermore, N.O.W.'s library had to be different from other feminist libraries; most of those libraries acquire and disseminate the records of our times while N.O.W. is creating these records. Therefore, it was obvious that the collection had to be developed with two major orientations: feminist and political. It is as important to locate a quote of Susan B. Anthony's as it is to find the provisions of a bill introduced into Congress yesterday.

Not only was the library situation obviously exceptional, but my job was different from any I had held previously in fourteen years of working in libraries. In addition to establishing the usual routines of acquisitions, cataloging, periodical subscriptions, record keeping, etc., I had the opportunity to conceive, plan, and fulfill a position unique in the N.O.W. organization. Everyone recognized the need for controlling the chaos; in fact, I was overwhelmed by the expectation that I could wave a wand and create instant organization. It did not happen.



At first, I spent my time trying to organize all materials (reports, articles, newspaper clippings, testimony, books, etc.) that somehow had found their way to one room in the office (the proverbial "library"). I recognized the need for classifying everything into some system that could be easily understood and used by the staff - a scheme that reflected N.O.W.'s organizational structure and activist orientation. Therefore, I developed a decimal classification system based on N.O.W.'s internal structure and issue areas, adding headings and subheadings where appropriate. This system is now into its fourth revision and, along with its index, has provided the means for the staff to access information that at one time was dependent on someone's ability to remember.

Now that this system exists, I have a guide as to what materials are needed. Currently, most of the Action Center staff is oriented to the E.R.A. extension/ratification effort. Aside from a few people in specialized areas, no one is able to stay on top of all the issues affecting women. Notwithstanding this, N.O.W. is always being called upon to make a statement, take a stand, respond to some issue or event. Background information is needed - data are required - and it is my job to provide them. What I do not have in the library (and sometimes what I do not have is everything I need), I research myself. Thus, for instance, I wrote a memo on the use of filibusters to block controversial issues in the history of the Senate and of the success of cloture votes to end the filibusters (to provide background information for our drive for the E.R.A. extension in the Senate).

A part of my job is to be aware of on-going events that could impact women in some significant way. Therefore, although there are other organizations that have more in-depth material on one specific topic, such as Title IX compliance, I try to collect enough information that we can do research for our own purposes. And, of course, I try to collect anything on the E.R.A. that would help N.O.W. in its advocacy. Right now, the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment is the cornerstone of N.O.W.'s efforts, and anything I can do to advance the cause is part of my job. This includes such non-standard library activities as attending House and Senate committee hearings, and such exhilarating moments as the House and Senate passage of the bill extending the time limit for ratification.

My plans for the future of the library at N.O.W. are to continue implementing the procedures I have developed, refining and changing them as the need occurs. When one is living the revolution, there is too little time for reflection, but at some point I intend to go through all the files and send those materials that give historical perspective to the N.O.W. archives at the Schlesinger Library at Radcliffe. When the time comes to write a history of the second wave of feminism in this country, N.O.W.'s records will be in an accessible form.

Meanwhile, on with the revolution!

(SRRT readers who would like more information on the ERA ratification campaign may contact Sheila Hess at the N.O.W. Action Center, 425 13th St., N. W., Suite, 1048, Washington, D. C. 20004.)

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# Gay Task Force

DEC 11 1978  
LIBRARY

For issue # 51 (December 1978) of SRRT NEWSLETTER (Social Responsibilities Round Table, American Library Association)

The Gay Task Force, active for eight years now, is steaming ahead with more plans to deal with discrimination against gay people in libraries and to get more and better gay materials into libraries and out to users.

\*\*\* Our Gay Book Award Committee is accepting nominations for the 1979 Gay Book Award. Deadline January 31, 1979. The award is meant "to recognize and honor books of exceptional merit relating to the gay experience." It's given to books that are substantial contributions to the gay literature, whether fiction, non-fiction, or biography. Nominees first considered are recent works, but previously unrecognized titles or important reprints are also considered. Anyone may nominate one or more titles; each nomination must include your statement of why you feel this work merits the Gay Book Award.

\*\*\* "Censored, Ignored, Overlooked, Too Expensive?" Our booklet of tips for non-librarians on getting gay materials into libraries is finished, thanks to Stuart Miller and five other Gay Task Force members. Copies should be available by ALA Midwinter Meeting in early January 1979, tentative price \$1.00.

\*\*\* At ALA's annual conference in June 1978, our task force launched a survey to find out about the concerns of gay library workers, especially re job discrimination. By late November 1978, 98 questionnaires have been returned. More than four-fifths of the responses are from men--though the majority of librarians and other library workers are women!--and most of the responses are from people who are at least partly open about being gay. We'd like to hear from more gay women and from more closeted library workers, men and women. So we're holding open the hopper for returned questionnaires until mid-January. To get a questionnaire, call or write Barbara Gittings at address/phone below. There are no names or codes on the questionnaires, and you won't be put on our mailing list unless you ask to be.

\*\*\* Our Gay Film Festival at the 1978 conference showed eighteen documentary 16mm films. Comments ranged from "A great success!" to "I fail to see how the subject of homosexuality is relevant to libraries." Copies of our film list with distributors' names and addresses are free for a stamped reply envelope.

\*\*\* We're working on the 6th edition of our famous GAY BIBLIOGRAPHY, a non-fiction list of books, periodicals, articles, pamphlets, audiovisuals, and directories and bibliographies. Should be available Spring 1979, tentative price 60¢. The new edition will group books, articles and pamphlets under topical headings such as Law and Civil Rights, Social Sciences (or Human Sciences), Religion and Ethics, Gay Liberation Movement, Biography and History, Literature and the Arts.

We welcome suggestions--so send us your list of those books, articles and pamphlets you feel should be included in which sections of the

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bibliography. Tips: Please give complete citation information on each item, including addresses of pamphlet publishers (but not book publishers). Include all relevant lesbian items. Articles can be book chapters as well as articles from non-gay periodicals (if we tried to list articles from gay periodicals the job would be unmanageable). Pamphlets include special gay issues of non-gay periodicals. Keep in mind that our GAY BIBLIOGRAPHY serves a huge audience--over 33,000 copies of the 5th edition have been distributed --an audience that's diverse in interests, reading ability, etc.

We'll also be grateful for suggestions about audiovisuals, periodicals, and directories/bibliographies to list in their separate sections. We'd rather hear about an item ten times than miss hearing about it because everyone assumed we knew.

\*\*\* Recently we issued two short specialized lists, GAY RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS STUDY and GAY AIDS FOR COUNSELORS. One or two copies of either list are free for a stamped reply envelope; bulk rates, 5¢ each counseling list, 8¢ each religion list. We're also preparing short lists on gay health and on gay civil rights.

\*\*\* Gay Task Force members Frances Hanckel and John Cunningham now have a contract with a major trade publisher's YA division for their book for teenagers about the gay experience. In their text, they're using anecdotes and reminiscences, with the names changed, and they'd be grateful to get more of them. If you have a story to tell, or something to say, about being a gay adolescent (or knowing one), please send it along to the Gay Task Force for the authors.

\*\*\* Our list of GAY BOOKS IN FORMAT FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, first issued in 1976, will soon be revised. As before, copies will be free for a stamped reply envelope.

\*\*\* We've helped the Gay Teachers Association of New York City to prepare a list of gay materials for use in schools by teachers, counselors, and students. The list will appear soon in the GTA Newsletter. (For a copy, send a donation with your request to cover costs, to Gay Teachers Association, 204 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, NY 11217.)

\*\*\* We're collecting suggestions for our program event at ALA's 1979 conference in Dallas. The program should be clearly relevant to librarians' professional interests--and should also be entertaining and fresh. What's your idea for what we might do?

\*\*\* Our GAY MATERIALS CORE COLLECTION LIST is a buying guide for small and medium size public libraries. It lists twelve basic gay books, six pamphlets, and Gayellow Pages. (Copies of list are free for a stamped reply envelope.) We were spurred to do this list when we found out that H. W. Wilson's PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG, even in 1977, recommends only two books on homosexuality: Merle Miller's ON BEING DIFFERENT, and the Wyden's very anti-gay GROWING UP STRAIGHT! No matter how widely we distribute our core collection list, it can never be as influential as Wilson's buying guide. So how can we get the PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG to serve up a better selection of gay materials? When we contacted PLC about this two years ago, we learned there's a complicated sort of jury of librarians who pass on all suggested titles--so just sending in our recommended titles, which we did, doesn't help much. We'd like to recruit someone who knows what more can be done and who's willing to do it. If you're the one, please call or write!

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