



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

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SRRT ENDORSES E.J. JOSEY

Having known and followed E.J. Josey's work in the American Library Association for over twelve years, I strongly endorse him for the President of the Association.

He has voted consistently with the socially responsible group, against elites and elitism. He could be counted on to support all people-minded, service-minded causes; and perhaps never expecting to run for President, was the first to speak for them, the person who often offered the critical resolution. He represents our efforts to return control of the organization to its members and to listen sensitively to the need for information expressed through working librarians and the unserved.

I have worked with him to review first drafts on criteria for the international representation of the American Library Association, and in this he did an outstanding job. His look at library work in state politics, published later as a book, involved careful selection of authors to write up the work of the

various legislative committees working on library problems in many states.

In one year, a President does not have much impact, but he can act as the conscience of the Association, and this is a service I believe E.J. will perform. He listens and cares about working librarians. In addition, he is organized enough to begin work on new directions which members propose-- evaluating them, submitting them to the Association and helping to push them along. The information service is so very important to democracy that a concerned and informed President for ALA can help place its value before the nation through support of open access to information, to government financed research, to all the ideas and inventions and facts which have been instrumental in the build-up of both American technological and ethical leadership in the world.

Elizabeth Morrissett

For more election information, see p. 12.

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To: SRRT Members

From: Linda Pierce, SRRT Coordinator

Along with the rest of the American Library Association, SRRT Action Council spent most of its time at the 1983 Mid-winter meeting discussing budgetary matters. For the last few years, SRRT has been fortunate enough to have accumulated reserve funds which had allowed us to spend more money than we were receiving each year. This year we are at the point where our reserves will no longer allow us to spend more money than we receive in membership dues. In the last issue of the SRRT Newsletter, Jeanne Kocsis, SRRT Treasurer, explained what the problem with the budget is and why Action Council imposed a spending moratorium on the task forces this fall. At Midwinter, the moratorium and the state of the budget were the major topics of discussion at Action Council meeting. After much debate the spending moratorium was lifted and task forces were again able to spend their 1982-83 allocations.

Action Council also approved task force budgets for the 1983-84 budget year. The total task force allocations were \$3422. The lifting of the moratorium and the amount budgeted for 1983-84 does not mean that we are in a stable financial situation. Knowing that we could not continue to spend as much money in the future and hoping that task forces would use restraint in spending their allocations, Action Council made a con-

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS APR. 18!

scious decision to approve a fairly high level of spending. The philosophy of hoarding the money we do have was considered to be counter-productive. SRRT cannot grow and attract new members unless they know of and can participate in activities and programs.

One way to increase SRRT income is to increase dues. Currently dues are \$5, and it has been proposed that they be increased to \$7. The increase would take effect in 1984. This proposal will be discussed at the Annual Meeting in Los Angeles but Action Council would appreciate hearing from people about the proposal prior to the meeting.

Dues increase should never be seen as a solution for all monetary problems nor undertaken without adequate discussion. The proposal for ALA headquarters for a personal dues increase for next year met with a great deal of resistance at Midwinter for those exact reasons. But SRRT must consider the feasibility of a dues increase; it is one of the few ways to get additional revenue. Please help Action Council make this decision by providing us with some input on this important matter.

At Midwinter, SRRT sponsored a Presidential Candidates Forum with E.J. Josey and Ella Gaines Yates. The forum was well attended and it provided an indication of how the two candidates would function as ALA President. At the last Action Council meeting we discussed the question of endorsing a candidate and by unanimous decision, endorsed E.J. Josey.

An ad hoc committee of Action Council was also formed to discuss ways of supplementing the SRRT budget. Ideas discussed included a raffle, selling buttons, t-shirts, etc. If you are interested in helping or have any ideas, please contact Jeanne Kocsis.

The Armageddon Syndrome

"Imaging a World Without Weapons"--this was the title of a daylong workshop I attended recently at a local church. After some preliminary exercises, each of the fifteen participants was asked to write down his/her vision of the world as we would like it to be in the year 2022; then working backwards beginning with 2013-2022, we were to list concrete events or historical developments which would have to take place during each decade in order to attain our ideal world. The degree of correlation among our utopias was impressive. Not only did we eliminate agents of violence, we also instituted fundamental changes in human relationships, replacing competition and power with cooperation, trust, and tolerance. Nearly everyone removed national boundaries and provided for some form of world government and international language.

When the time came to share our decade-by-decade prerequisites, we discovered that about half the group could not reach their 2022 image without putting the globe through some sort of catastrophe. This ranged from worldwide economic disaster to a vague "on the brink of a nuclear holocaust" situation to total war. In each case, the catastrophe would serve as a catalyst to effect a sudden, dramatic change in spirit: consciousness raising on a cosmic scale.

Ever since the workshop, my thoughts have dwelled on the "Armageddon Syndrome"--the belief that cataclysm produces cleansing, that a new order requires a tabula rasa. An extreme version is characterized by a desire to "get it over with," almost worshipping the force of nuclear weapons as a deity of salvation.¹ This not only leads people to accept the notion of a nuclear holocaust, it encourages them to believe in the certainty of their own survival.

An Armageddon tendency is manifest in society at large. The U.S. government has mounted an extensive and expensive civil defense campaign, based on "crisis relocation" plans which call for, for

example, moving the population of Connecticut to Vermont if nuclear attack seems imminent. Although the plan has met with derision from the general public, the government's insistence on continuing it reinforces a feeling of fatalism and helplessness. The March 26, 1982, issue of Publisher's Weekly printed a very useful "Checklist of Nuclear Books;" six of the titles are guides to surviving nuclear war. Even the peace research community is not immune: an article in a recent issue of the Bulletin of Peace Proposals states that "the peace movement seems highly unlikely to bring about nuclear disarmament within the next few years, and hence it should be prepared for the possibility of nuclear war."² The author goes on to advise readers on preparation for survival as well as on strategies for social change during and after a nuclear conflict.

If I believed in the inevitability of nuclear war, I would not have joined the Social Responsibilities Round Table. An implicit element in SRRT's raison d'être is confidence in the ability of human beings to effect social change in a non-violent fashion. Furthermore, SRRT membership implies an acknowledgment of the necessity of hard work; we who reject Armageddon know that policies and events are influenced by constant plugging away, constant attention to detail.

The Armageddon Syndrome represents the easy way out: if there is to be a catastrophe, we might as well remain passive; there is nothing we can do. After the deluge, which will have magically altered human nature, it will be ever so much easier to establish the ideal world.

What can we, as librarians, do to counteract the Armageddon Syndrome? First, we must develop a clear sense of our own conviction and commitment. Human beings got us into this mess; human beings must get us out. Our particular mission is to acquire and make accessible material which

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TASK FORCE NEWS

► Coretta Scott King Task Force Awards

Virginia Hamilton, author of Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush (Philomel) and Peter Magubane, illustrator of Black Child (Knopf) are the recipients of the 1983 Coretta Scott King Awards for outstanding inspirational and educational contributions to literature for children and young adults published in 1982. The awards, administered by SRRT are given each year to a Black author and a Black illustrator to commemorate the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to honor Coretta Scott King for her courage and determination to continue the work for peace and world brotherhood.

With the publication of Margot Zemach's Jake and Honeybunch Go to Heaven, the controversy of stereotyping in children's literature is once again being raised. The Task Force, in presenting the awards this year, wishes to emphasize the positive image of Blacks in the literature.

► Labor Unions Task Force Report

The Task Force held a fairly productive session at Midwinter the evening of January 10th, smaller than needed because of the members who could not afford the cost of travel to San Antonio, but enlarged by a few people who came to hear the information we had advertised on the Carrollton Press anti-union activities at its REMARC project in Berkeley. Joan Goddard and Carol Starr agreed to contact the former employees when they returned to California to put them in touch with the local Women's Law Project for legal assistance. (Further details of that dispute are covered on p. 10 of this issue).

The Task Force endorsed a Council resolution protesting the still threatening OPM revision of federal classification standards for librarians and calling for the investigation of legal preventives if the revisions are not withdrawn.

Task Force activities for Los Angeles were planned, with excellent prospects for two sessions of broad interest and participation. My proposal to the AFL-CIO/ALA Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Unions had resulted in their agreement that we co-sponsor with them a program they were already planning on "Workplace Health and Safety," scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2-4 P.M. Speakers are to be Larry White, a workers' compensation lawyer and author of Human Debris, scheduled for June publication, and Peggy Seminario, a lawyer concerned with occupational health standards, including the hazards of VDT's. This program will be directed to non-librarian union members in the Los Angeles area as well as to librarians concerned with the issues.

A second session is now planned on the issue of pay equity, to be held as a joint membership meeting with the SRRT Feminist Task Force. Unions which have made headway on this issue are invited to contact Joan Goddard, 1171 W. Latimer, Campbell, CA 95008, 408-374-4697 (h) or 408-238-4434 (w) and Billie Connor (address and phone listed below). Under the title, "Up Your Wages: Practical Steps towards Pay Equity," a panel of speakers will highlight their union experiences, successes and failures. We anticipate then splitting into smaller discussion groups, to give members a chance to meet with the speakers. Materials on pay equity for display or distribution are also welcome from any library union.

In addition to this session, we are also scheduling two other membership meetings, to give the Task Force full opportunity to plan future activities and to provide at least one time when each of our members can attend.

On the suggestion of the Librarians' Guild of the Los Angeles Public Library, we agreed to share with them a Hospitality Suite, to give librarians a place to drop in and discuss library union problems and organizing. The suite may

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MEN'S ISSUES TASK FORCE NEWSLETTER NO.3 SPRING 1983

GOOD NEWS FOR LOS ANGELES--MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2:00 TO 4:00 P.M.

Herb Goldberg, psychologist and professor at California State University at Los Angeles, will be the speaker at the MITF program during the A.L.A. conference this summer. Dr. Goldberg is the author of the bestselling HAZARDS OF BEING MALE: SURVIVING THE MYTH OF MASCULINE PRIVILEGE; THE NEW MALE: FROM SELF DESTRUCTION TO SELF CARE; and THE NEW MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIP, the third book of the trilogy to be published in March (see this issue for comments).

Through his writings and his travels around the country leading workshops, Dr. Goldberg has distinguished himself nationally as a best known mentor of the men's movement. In his address, Dr. Goldberg will identify the dynamics of masculinity as a blueprint for self destruction; one which will present a model for a new male-female relationship, one which will not breed the otherwise inevitable rage and suspicion between the sexes. These are the issues which in the main both track and set the course for the men's movement. Through the recognition and understanding of Dr. Goldberg's insight we will surely find guidance for the Men's Issues Task Force agenda and as well for the Association and for library programs. This is your chance! A question and answer session will follow the address.

GOOD NEWS FROM SAN ANTONIO

Two very important events occurred at the midwinter meeting in January. First, the budgets for the SRRF Task Forces, which had been frozen against spending since last fall, were released. Additionally, the MITF budget proposal for FY '84 (July 1, 1983-June 30, 1984), \$422.00, was approved by the SRRF Action Council. This budget: photocopying \$100.00; postage \$100.00; post box rent \$22.00; and conference program support \$200.00 is based on the expectation that the SRRF NEWSLETTER will continue to provide space for the MITF NEWSLETTER for the coming year.

Secondly, the Action Council approved the MITF request to use A.L.A. as the fiscal agent in the funding proposal for the National Information Center for Men's Gender-Based Issues (see elsewhere in this issue for description). This procedure allows A.L.A. to act as the fiscal agent for a grant should the granting agency require one other than the project director. Obviously, there are two sides to the coin of using A.L.A. as a fiscal agent. Funding sources are attracted to proposals which guarantee fiscal responsibility through a large organization. On the other hand, the 21% which A.L.A. charges for this service is a sizeable overhead to place on the grant budget. Fortunately, with this mechanism in place, the Task Force can have a choice of whether or not to use an outside fiscal agent, depending upon the requirements of the prospective funding agency.

INFORMATION PLEASE

A revised draft of the completed proposal for funding for a National Information Center for Men's Gender-Based Issues will be submitted for review by prospective funding agencies. Task Force members or others who have suggestions or questions regarding the Center or the proposal are encouraged to forward them to P.O. Box 740, College Park, Maryland 20740. It would be especially helpful to receive information about other projects, programs or proposals which are similar to this one; other publications which are in progress; information and sources regarding men's groups and organizations (including membership lists); and attorneys or law firms especially qualified (or not qualified) to represent men in divorce or child custody suits or in mediation.

HOW IT WILL BE

Herb Goldberg's new book is set to be released in March. To quote from his introduction, "this book is the last in a trilogy. My first book in these issues, THE HAZARDS OF BEING MALE, explored the psychological underpinnings and self-destructiveness of traditional masculinity. THE NEW MALE, which followed, defined the newly evolving male consciousness and its relationship to the emerging female one. THE NEW MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIP examines the foundations of the traditional relationships that produced anger, frustration, and fear of intimacy. It explores the transitional path away from the past. Finally, the book defines the new male-female relationship, which will be characterized by a rooted playfulness with authentic friendship, companionship and sexuality."

This book, like the other two, will undoubtedly be best selling and is both basic reading for anyone interested in men's issues and a must for almost any library collection. As with the earlier books, Dr. Goldberg strikes an excellent balance between readability and authoritative substance. His message rises not only from his work as a psychologist but as well from his personal growth.

This book will likely renew interest in the earlier two because it provides the missing logical result from them. It also answers without apology the criticism, that the HAZARDS was reactionary and heavy handed towards feminism. The message rises not only from his work as a psychologist but as well from his personal growth.

This book exudes positivism. In addition to the notion that there can be new and better male-female relationships, there will be--and that is the best message of all. There is a striking parallel to this in Betty Friedan's THE SECOND STAGE where she too predicts that as the pendulum swings it will allow men and women to come together on healthy bases.

Even if this is the last of a trilogy, hopefully, it isn't the last of Goldberg's books on the matter. This book describes relationships as they were, as some are and as they will be. It offers a chapter of guidelines, perspectives, and orientation for the transition. It looks and feels soooo good! But, a great deal more on the "how-to" of getting from here to there is in order, for, like putting the bell on the cat, it's so much easier said....

Goldberg, Herb. THE NEW MALE-FEMALE RELATIONSHIP New York: Morrow, 1983.

MEN-RELATED SUBJECT HEADINGS

Sandy Berman (Head Cataloger, Hennepin County Library, 12601 Ridgedale Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343) has begun compiling a mini-thesaurus of men-related subject headings. Please send to him:

1. Lists of useable LC descriptors.
2. Needed headings that don't as yet appear in LCSH, e.g., CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT, MEN'S MOVEMENT, DRAFT COUNSELING OR DRAFT RESISTANCE.
3. Suggested LC heading changes to enhance retrievability, e.g., converting MILITARY SERVICE, COMPULSORY TO DRAFT.
4. Recommended cross-references to existing forms, e.g., Prostate gland. See from Prostate gland.
5. Suggested LC heading changes to eliminate gender bias.

Please circulate this notice to your library staffs and post it in your cataloging departments.

MEN AND ABORTION

It's time men stood up for their abortion rights and needs. Abortion is a men's, as well as a women's, issue.

When a woman becomes pregnant, her body contains a potential child, the bone of the man's bone and the flesh of his flesh. Several informal studies and articles, particularly those by sociology professor Arthur Shostak of Drexel University, indicate that abortion represents an enormous emotional strain on a man.

Whether or not he agrees with the abortion, a man may feel intense anger, guilt, conflict, grief, and loss. He may have nightmares. Sitting in the abortion clinic waiting room may be one of the most difficult times in his life.

When he doesn't agree with the woman's decision, a man often feels a sense of profound helplessness. A man's inability to resolve issues surrounding an abortion sometimes leads to profound depression or inability to function sexually or professionally.

A man has nothing to say about an abortion decision because the woman's body carries the child, and her emotional and physical well-being are tied to the pregnancy. A man's involvement--as in the Fritze case in Maryland, where the man went to court to compel his wife to carry the pregnancy to term--would be tantamount to rape. A female's physiology entitles her to one right that a man doesn't have.

Since even statutes which require the woman to notify her partner of an impending abortion are problematic and unenforceable, a man must depend on the woman's good will. In other words, the woman must be sensitive to his emotional needs.

Men's consciousness must be raised about abortion's impact on them--to give them permission to open up about their feelings. Professionals should be trained to help them deal with these feelings--in abortion clinics, sex education courses, hotlines and tel-med courses. Some of these services should be provided specifically for and by men.

Undoubtedly, more must be known about men and abortion--a few informal studies and articles aren't enough. Men's needs can't be served adequately until we know exactly what they are.

There have been no studies of men whose partners decided against abortion--which brings us to choice for men. For a woman, the term has meant, not only the power to control their bodies, but their lives. Men deserve the same option.

In Frank Serpico's paternity case, the women tricked Serpico into fathering the child by telling him she was using birth control. Former National Organization for Women President Karen DeCrow, one of Serpico's attorneys, argued with partial success that Serpico shouldn't be financially responsible for the child--he hadn't had "the right to choose parenthood." DeCrow described this as a feminist position.

The principle can be extended to other men who make clear --in words or action (taking responsibility for birth control)--their desire not to parent. No birth control method is foolproof.

A man should have the opportunity to reiterate his choice not to parent while it's safe for the woman to have an abortion. If he does, he shouldn't be legally considered a parent--and not be held financially responsible.

It's demeaning for a man to be told of his out-of-wedlock child and then be forced to pay the consequences--without parental rights--as though he were a money machine. Even in a marriage, the man whose wife decided not to abort will have equal parental rights--but he may not want the child. To harness a man up like that for twenty years is akin to rape. A woman shouldn't be able to pursue what DeCrow calls "the occupation of motherhood" without the man's consent.

Courts now require unwilling men to pay child support because of the state's interest in not having the child on welfare. The state's interests, and the woman's, have been satisfied. Now that women earn their own livings, and are choosing to conceive children as single parents, the man's interests should be given equal weight.

Our society has provided women with the opportunity to prevent unwanted children by using abortion as a secondary birth control method. We should allow men the opportunity to prevent becoming unwilling parents.

Were the right to choose parenthood made law, women would continue to have choice, but not at a man's expense; men would have choice, but not at the expense of a woman's control of her body. The situation would be fair to both.

choice for men wouldn't be possible without being firmly entrenched abortion rights for women. Although these are constantly under attack, men's rights shouldn't be ignored.

There are numerous parallels between men's and women's liberation. Like women, men don't always fit our stereotype, as our demerol and powerlessness when confronted with abortion demonstrates. Like women, they need compassion, consciousness-raising, and relief from discrimination. And, like women, men deserve choice.

A former Capitol Hill speechwriter, Dan Logan is executive director of Free Men, a pro-equality men's organization.

AND HERE'S TO YOU MICHAEL DORSEY--
HEAVEN HOLDS A PLACE FOR THOSE WHO ...

TOOTSIE, the film, is cute and funny--and funny--and funny, until it gets to the punch line, when it becomes like watching Rocky Balboa work out in the meat cooler.

It is the laboratory-perfect experiment. Suppose, unbeknownst to anybody, we slip into the person of your otherwise ordinary soap opera head nurse at Southwest General Hospital, all those characteristics thought normally to result from the male privilege. Let's make her threatening--how dare you, you take your hands off me. I'm going to kneel you balls right up through the roof of your mouth! Let's make her assertive--if some poor schmuck wants that cab ahead of you just just him out of the way with a couple of shopping bags -- If I hadn't had a dress on I'd have kicked his ass in. Give her power--shame on you, you macho shethead.

Vest her with total honesty--do you ever wish that a guy could be honest enough just to walk right up to you and say hey, I could do this big line on you, we could do a lot of role playing, but the truth is I find you very interesting and I'd really like to make love with you.

Give her conviction--to tell a woman with no money, two children and a husband that beats her up like this with a broken arm and a bashed in face to move out of her house and into a welfare center in order to get therapy is just a lot of horse shit--I wouldn't do it, would you? Make her always herself--it's not Toots, Tootsie, or Sweetie, or Honey, or Doll. No, it's Dorothy, D-O-R-O-T-H-E-Y !

Results? You are the first woman character who is her own person--who can assert her own personality without robbing someone of theirs. You are a breakthrough lady for us. We're picking up your option. You'll be with us another year. Congratulations.

But Dorothy Michaels isn't a woman vested with the powers of a man. Dorothy Michaels is a man draped in the aura of a woman. From the same experiment, voila!

He feels smarter--I think Dorothy's smarter than I am. He deserves to be pretty--I just wish I looked prettier, you know I look in the mirror, I think I should get softer hair or something! 'cause she deserves it!

He becomes employable--in addition to being a wonderful actor he is no longer too much trouble. He becomes less threatening--even though he threatens unabashedly during the interview to kneel his prospective employer in the groin he walks away with the job anyway? Make him lovable--never did I imagine that I would be the object of so much affection.

Make him sensitive--I don't like the way you treat Julie, I don't like the way you patronize her, deceive her, lie to her. Enable him to listen and to care--don't lie there cringing! and tell me that your husband beat you but you can't move out.

Results? Strength enough to be the woman that was the best part of my manhood, the best part of myself. I miss Dorothy. I was a better man as a woman than I ever was with a woman as a man. I've just got to learn to do it without the dress!

TOOTSIE. Columbia Pictures. Script by Larry Gelbart and Murray Schisgal. Directed by Sydney Pollack.

CORRECTION FROM LAST ISSUE

The second paragraph of Dan Logan's MEN, WOMEN AND POLITICS in the last issue of the NEWSLETTER had a line missing. It should have read as follows: These myths are traditionally called up by the master of ceremonies delivering the standard election-year introduction: "a war hero," "a successful business man," "a man of courage," and so forth. Then, according to one story, he turns to the dais and says, "all right, which one of you guys wants to go first?"

Carl H. Hays, Chair and Action Council Representative
P.O. Box 740, College Park, Maryland 20740

Armageddon (continued from p. 3)

1) presents facts in a non-sensational way, and 2) guides citizens toward taking action--joining peace groups, writing letters to the editor and to policy makers, voting for legislators who support a nuclear freeze, taking part in tax resistance, etc. Avoiding sensationalism is important, for a lurid, doomsday approach can reinforce a sense of futility.

The renewed concern over nuclear war has produced a plethora of books. Information on weapons technology, the politics of arms reduction negotiations, military statistics, the economic effects of militarism, psychic numbing, the European peace movement, etc. is widely available and well-documented in the reviewing literature. It is less easy to find material which encourages readers to make use of their democratic powers in reversing the current danger. Books on nonviolent resistance--by and about Thoreau, Gandhi, King--are obvious; but needed are works dealing specifically with today's threat and today's political climate. One such source is Stop Nuclear War: A Handbook, by David P. Barash and Judith Eve Lipton (Grove, 1982). The authors eschew any political ideology, stressing the common interest of all in preventing nuclear war. Barash and Lipton exhibit a tremendous faith in democracy, in the ability of citizens to learn facts and make decisions. They present a manual which combines information on the politics and technology of nuclear weapons, with guidelines for action. Their message is delivered in wonderfully direct language, typified by this sentence: "We recommend...the ultimate in realism: Look nuclear war straight in the eye, confront your peril, and get busy." This book belongs in every academic and public library. As more and more Americans heed its call, as more gain experience in the new peace movement, perhaps others will share what they have learned in the struggle to prevent Armageddon.

Jeanne Kocsis

¹For a discussion of this phenomenon, see Robert Jay Lifton, "Beyond Nuclear

Numbing," 84 Teachers College Record (1982) 15-29.

²Brian Martin, "How the Peace Movement Should be Preparing for Nuclear War," 13 Bulletin of Peace Proposals (1982) 149.

TASK FORCE NOTES (continued from p. 4)

provide sleeping space for conference attendees willing to share and perhaps to provide some supervision of the room. If interested in such sleeping space or in helping to cover the room at other times, please contact Billie Connor, Los Angeles Public Library, Science and Technology Dept., 603 W. Fifth, Los Angeles 90071, 213-626-7555 x274.

The Directory of library unions and active unionists, proposed last year, is to be compiled by Kathleen Prendergast. (See Announcement Below!) She will present a progress report on this to the members in June.

Miriam Crawford
Interim Coordinator

DIRECTORY OF LIBRARY UNIONS

For a directory of library unions, the Library Union Task Force (LUTF) is looking for the names and addresses of unions representing library employees. LUTF is interested in all library employees - professional, clerical, white and blue collar, etc., and both independent and AFL-CIO affiliated unions. Please send information to:

Kathleen Prendergast
Chicago Public Library
425 N. Michigan Avenue
11th floor,
Chicago, Illinois 60611

NEW INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION ORDER

The origins of what is today described as the New International Information Order (NIIO) go back to various resolutions passed by the non-aligned movement in the early seventies. In this connection, the 4th Conference of Government Leaders of the non-aligned countries, which took place in Algiers in September 1973, is of particular importance. Here the conference, in its final document, demanded a "reorganization of the present streams of communication which are a legacy of the colonial past, and which have hitherto stood in the way of the development of free, direct and fast communication."

A similar conclusion was drawn in the political declaration published by the 5th Conference of the non-aligned movement in Colombo in 1976 about the news agencies' pool: "A new international order as regards information and mass media is just as important as a new international economic order. The non-aligned countries point with concern to the ever-deepening rift between the communication possibilities in the non-aligned countries and in the industrial states; this being an inheritance from their colonial past."

The formulation, "New International Information Order," founded by the non-aligned movement and the extracts from the resolutions of the conference summarize the predominant characteristics of a NIIO:

-If a "new" order is concerned, then logically speaking, the "old," that is to say, the current order, must be changed. It can be shown that the flow of information from North to South is one-way; that the mass media produced in the industrial countries do not, in the majority of cases, meet the needs of the majority of the Third World population; that the principal actors in the North-South media business are the large multinational mixed media concerns such as ITT, ATT, Phillips, Siemens, Xerox or the oligopolitical news agencies such as AP, UPI, Reuter and AFP; and finally that the alienation of the Third World by Western mass media also applies to all media (television, press, films, books and computers), even though in varying manner

and quality.

-The non-aligned movement has from the very start maintained that, with the word "information," in the NIIO formulation, this debate is not only concerned with the press and news agencies, but with all news-exchange relationships between North and South.

-The very word "order," indicates that the present system is in "disorder;" or somewhat more loosely expressed, that the present system of world-wide news-exchange relationships is to be understood as being the result of unregulated market relationships in which the stronger (capital, technology, know-how) basically dominates at the expense of the weaker - the Third World. The NIIO wants to restructure this uncontrolled global market mechanism, but there are differences of opinion within the Third World as to the nature of restructuring desirable.

-The word "international" in the NIIO title indicates the lowest consensus in the strategy of the non-aligned movement for the achievement of a new order. Acknowledging that any alteration of the current system of sovereign states must be of an aggressive nature, they demand inter-national, that is, inter-state agreements. The opposing concept held by many Western countries manifests itself in the formulation "world information order" which upholds that there is a common world in which "everybody is in the same boat."

-Finally, the NIIO formulation deliberately resembles that of the NIEO (New International Economic Order). In other words, the non-aligned movement is very conscious that a change in the information order can only be achieved in parallel with an alteration of the economic order.

The most frequent and important discussions on this subject were carried out before the UNESCO forum within the last few years. In a preliminary formulation for a mass media declaration in 1976, the Western and Eastern World and the
(continued on next page)

NIIO (Continued from previous page)

Third World got stuck in discussions as to the meaning of the concept of "freedom of the press." This discussion also characterized the 1978 UNESCO General Assembly, although the formulation "greater reciprocity in the flow of information" and "wider and more balanced dissemination of information," as opposed to the liberalistic concept of "free flow of information" indicates a compromise on the part of all those concerned.

With the publication of the so-called MacBride Report, "Many Voices - One World, 1980" on the present conflicts regarding international information and media policies by UNESCO, the discussion relating to a New International Information Order has taken a decisive step forward. Its demands for horizontal-type communications, mutual information flow, demolition of trends of concentration, involvement of the recipient in the production and dissemination of information, de-commercialization and democratization of the information systems, all these demands are to be understood as being an indication of success of the activities on the part of the non-aligned Third World Movement, critical Third World groups and communications researchers in the Western industrial countries. The MacBride Report with its comprehensive aim towards democratization, has rightly been able to overcome the narrow concept of freedom of the press on one hand, and press censorship on the other, as it then still governed the 1976 UNESCO discussion.

The struggle for a New International Information Order is taking place within the framework of the newly founded "International Program for Development Communication" (IPDC) within UNESCO. Whereas the major Western industrial countries - with the exception of socialist France - have hitherto hesitated to grant financial support to this multilateral body, it has, however, subsequently been able to take up its work. The first concrete aid projects for the improvement and development of the infrastructure of the media in the Third World, in particular in Black Africa, have already started up. More important, however, than the disputes taking place within the IPDC

will be the conflicts within the field of modern communications technology (satellites and computers). Here the Third World demands an equal distribution of radio frequencies, lower fees for satellite transmissions, demilitarization of space communications and an agreement on the hitherto uninhibited transborder data flow from computer to computer. It will be important that the appropriate committees of the highly technical conferences taking place during the next few years (International Telecommunication Union, International Bureau for Informatics, UN Committee for the Peaceful Use of the Outer Space) should be lobbied in the interests of the Third World and the non-aligned movement.

Jörg Becker, Ph.D.
Professor for
Political Science
Marburg University
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Further Reading

Many Voices - One World. Communication and Society Today and Tomorrow. Report by the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems, New York: Unipub 1980.

Armand Mattelart: Multinational Corporations & the Control of Culture. The ideological apparatuses of imperialism, Atlantic Highlands, NJ: Humanities Press 1979.

Thomas L. McPhail: Electronic Colonialism. The Future of International Broadcasting and Communication, Beverly Hills, CA: Sage 1981.

National Sovereignty and International Communication, ed. by Kaarle Nordenstreng and Herbert I. Schiller, Norwood, NJ: Ablex 1979.

New Information Technologies and the International Order, ed. by Jörg Becker, Springfield, VA: Transnational Data Reporting Service 1982.

Herbert I. Schiller: Communication and Cultural Domination, White Plains, NY: Int. Arts and Sciences Press 1976.

NEWS AND NOTES

UNION-BUSTING TACTICS IN CARROLLTON PRESS CLOSING OF BERKELEY REMARC OPERATION?

Information received at the ALA Midwinter meeting in San Antonio alerted the Library Unions Task Force and other ALA members to what appears to be not only an anti-union effort by Carrollton Press, but one which will result also in the deterioration of the quality of the REMARC project.

Carrollton Press had contracted to reproduce all non-MARC Library of Congress records and to sell copies to other libraries. When it was discovered that the LC records required editing to achieve a better "hit" record for matching with the orders from other libraries, Carrollton started the Berkeley operation in the fall of 1981. The approximately 53 editors working there by late 1982 found that their promised wage increases had not materialized, that their part-time hours were more limited than had been outlined, that there were no health or other benefits, and that the speedup and other working conditions problems were intensifying. They chose to unionize with the Communications Workers of America.

After first stalling, the company recognized the union on December 6, 1982. On December 28, in spite of previous statements that the operation would run through Spring 1983 and contrary to initial hiring statements of 2 to 5 years' likely employment, Carrollton Press announced that they were closing the operation on January 8th. That closing is now a fact and the employees are left without jobs and with very little legal recourse, although they are pursuing NLRB remedies.

In addition to the union-busting implications of this action, the employees contend that the failure to continue the editing operation will greatly impede the effectiveness of the REMARC project by slowing down the automation process, increasing the costs to libraries through problems in matching records and

achieving fewer "hits" in such matching.

The above information was discussed at the SRRT Library Unions Task Force meeting at Midwinter resulting in a resolution presented by Joan Goddard and Elizabeth Talbot to ALA Council. Council tabled that resolution, but requested the Chapter Councilor of the California Library Association to investigate the alleged employment practices and their effect and to inform the Council of the findings at the June Conference.

Miriam Crawford
LUTF Interim
Coordinator

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Librarians in the New York City area willing to assist in the nitty-gritty work of preparing bibliography cards for "An Annotated Gay/Lesbian Studies Bibliography of Resources Selected from Non-Homosexual Periodical Publications, with Subject Headings and Cross-References." The project requires that the group work together once every two months for about two hours, and meet twice a year to prepare the final draft of the Gay Books Bulletin - an effort that involves a few hours of time and the typing of about ten pages worth of bibliographic materials each. If you are interested in volunteering, write:

Edward C. Paoletta,
Bibliography Editor
Gay Books Bulletin
PO Box 480
Lenox Hill Station
New York, New York 10021

SOURCES

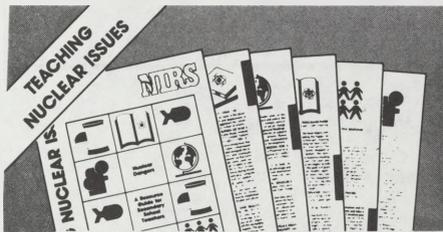
► From the Southern Poverty Law Center:

The Ku Klux Klan: A History of Racism and Violence. by John Turner, Bill Stanton, Mike Vahala, Randall Williams. Ed. by Randall Williams, Photo Research by Bill Stanton. A report in magazine format of the Klan, yesterday and today. Includes essays by Julian Bond and Leon

Jaworski and photographs. \$1.50 each (bulk order information on request) from Special Report, KLANWATCH Project, P. O. Box 548, Montgomery AL 36195-5101.

Poverty Law Report. Published 6 times per year. Discusses issues related to legal rights of the poor including the Klan, mental health, prisons, "brown lung" disease. Southern Poverty Law Center, 1001 S. Hull St. Montgomery AL 36104.

➤ Resource Guide for Librarians and Teachers



The Nuclear Information and Resource Service has just published several new publications designed to help educators teach about nuclear weapons and nuclear power: "Growing Up in a Nuclear Age: A Resource Guide for Elementary School Teachers" and "Nuclear Dangers: A Resource Guide for Secondary School Teachers" are 32-page annotated guides to nuclear-related background reading, classroom materials, relevant organizations, and audio-visual resources. (\$5 each plus 85¢ postage, \$4.50 each for more than 10, \$3.50 each for more than 25. Add 5% postage on bulk orders.) The "Teaching Nuclear Issues" Kit includes the secondary Guide plus a packet of teaching materials including maps, charts, four spirit masters, fact sheets and other background reading for secondary teachers. (\$10 each plus \$1.25 postage, \$8.00 each for 10 or more copies, plus 5% postage.) Order from NIRS, 1346 Conn. Ave. NW, 4th Floor, Washington DC 20036. Allow 4 weeks for delivery.

➤ Gay Materials for Young People
A Look at Gayness: An annotated bibliography of gay materials for young people, by Christine Jenkins and Julie Morris. Drawings by Hala. 2nd edition, 1982. Materials included span the range of young adult interests and reading levels from middle school to senior high. Authors have starred those books they consider to be part of a basic collection on the subject. Also included are records, journals and materials suitable for pamphlet files. Available at \$1.50 (bulk rates on request) from: Kindred Spirit Press, P.O. Box 7281, Liberty Station, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

HEALTH PROBLEMS RELATED TO VDT USE IN LIBRARIES

The potential health problems related to VDT (Video Display Terminal) use have only come to our attention in the last few years. Few studies have been done and little hard data exists to document the magnitude of the present problems and potential future problems. NIOSH estimates that between five and ten million video display terminals are currently in use in the United States, and the number is expected to double in the next ten years. Librarians are only one group that will be using the technology increasingly in the future. The English group, Librarians for Social Change, noticed some problems as early as 1980. Peter Kidder of the Library of Congress Professional Association raised some of these same issues in the March-April 1981 issue of the LCPA Newsletter. He wrote that LC's MARC Editorial Dept. commissioned the MITRE Corporation to study terminal use, identify human factors and make recommendations for terminal design.

When the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Science and Technology held hearings on May 12, 1981 (Potential Health Effects of Video Display Terminals..., SuDocs. Y4.Sci2: 97/13), one of the main topics discussed was the possible formation of cataracts from the radiation emitted by the terminals.

For more information on VDT use and health problems, particularly as it relates to the library profession, write to- Alfred Kagan, 710 Atwater St. Apartment 2, Bloomington, IN 47401.

Alfred Kagan

Health Hazards of CRTs: A Comprehensive Bibliography on a Critical Issue of Workplace Health and Safety. Chico, CA: Ryan Research International, 1982. \$4.95 prepaid and \$5.95 billed. 1593 Filbert Ave., Chico, CA 95926.

Matula, Richard A. "Effects of Visual Display Units on the Eyes: A Bibliography (1972-1980)." Human Factors 23 (Oct. 1981): 581-586.

MEMBERS OF SRRT WHO ARE RUNNING FOR COUNCIL ARE:

Robert B. Croneberger, Director, Memphis & Shelby County Public Library & Information Center, Memphis, TN;
Cynthia J. Johanson, Head, Shelving Section, Subject Catalog, The Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.;
Suzanne J. LeBarron, Kentucky Department of Library & Archives, Frankfort, KY;
Stefan Moses, Executive Director, California Library Association, Sacramento, CA; Herbert F. Mutschler, King County Library, Seattle, WA;
Barbara J. Pruett, Librarian, U.S. International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C.;

Ernest Siegel, Contra Costa County Library, Pleasant Hill, CA;
Patricia Glass Schuman, President, Neal-Schuman Publishers, New York, NY;
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V O T E !

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