The AFT and the Council on Interracial Books for Children

There must be many library union members among the members of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) who will react with anger as I did to the latest issue of the AFT quarterly, the Spring 1983 issue of American Educator—that is, if they are familiar with the publications of the Council on Interracial Books for Children (CIBC).

If you do not know of CIBC, now is the time to learn of its excellent teaching and review materials which have helped teachers, parents and librarians understand the discriminatory attitudes and answer them in innovative ways. Since its establishment in 1965, the Council has provided one of the few outlets for writers from minority groups to get their view of social relationships into the mainstream of the dominant culture. Its magazine, Interracial Books for Children Bulletin, contains articles, media and book reviews that are sensitive to bias and stereotyping and highly enlightening to white readers.

Recent years have brought more attention to sexist attitudes, to stereotypes of the older population, and to Asian, Hispanic and Native American minorities. The Council has met opposition in the established publishing and library world, because of its support of social change as inextricably tied up with changes in longstanding attitudes, and because some few see its critical approach as implying censorship.

Focusing on "The Propaganda War: Extremism of the Left and Right," the AFT journal presents two key articles, presumably balancing a far right organization against one of the far left. Lyndon LaRouche's neo-Nazi organization, best known in this country as the violence-prone National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) or as the U.S. Labor Party, represents the Right in an article identified as excerpted from a report published by the League for Industrial Democracy.

The much less honestly presented "exposé" on the Left is called "The Hidden Agenda: Extremism and the Council on Interracial Books for Children," written by David Asman. He is identified simply as a New York freelance writer with no indication given of the article's publication in any other form. I am indebted to the editorial in the latest issue of Interracial Books for Children Bulletin (vol. 14, nos. 1 and 2, 1983) for providing the needed documentation of the article which had originally been commissioned and issued by the Heritage Foundation, a well-known right-wing organization, and the substance of it had appeared in a somewhat altered version in the Moral Majority Report.* This origin is important since any tie to Heritage Foundation would probably have caused AFT readers to question the truth of the article and even its appearance in the union journal, considering that the Foundation is known to be funded largely by Joseph Coors, the anti-union beer magnate.

As the aforementioned editorial points out, "Heritage has taken positions on most issues... diametrically opposed to those of the AFT.... Heritage is in favor of slashing federal aid to education, ... dismantling affirmative action and civil rights legislation for women, minorities and the disabled. Like the Moral Majority, Heritage opposes the existence of strong teachers unions and 'humanistic' education. ..."

The venom of Asman's article appears to be aimed as much at the U.S. Department of Education as at the Department's grants to the Council and to some individuals. The Moral Majority Report version of the article is much more explicit in calling for President Reagan to "get serious about his campaign pledge to abolish the Department of Education."

The Guidelines for Selecting Bias-Free Textbooks and Storybooks, published by the Council, incorporates one of its great contributions to the fight against racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination; they point out that it is not just weak or prejudiced individuals who perpetuate these diseases of our society, but that the social structure itself and most of its institutions foster such attitudes and practices. Because the Heritage Foundation, and therefore Asman's article, cannot countenance criticism of the status quo, he can see such criticism only as a "hidden agenda," presumably as propaganda for a socialist system, although he never says this quite so clearly. The article instead becomes a selective ripping apart of the CIBC Guidelines and of elementary reading texts it has spon-

*February 1983.
To: SRRT Members

From: Linda Pierce, SRRT Coordinator

As the summer approaches, it is again time to begin thinking about the annual conference and the activities that will be taking place in Los Angeles. Recently, library publications have expressed the opinion that most librarians do not really get a lot out of ALA; they do not attend conferences, nor do they feel that they are a part of the organization. Obviously, SRRT members have at least a minimum commitment to ALA but it is very important that members who do not have the time, money or psychic energy to attend conferences should nonetheless feel that they receive benefits from their membership in ALA and in SRRT.

SRRT as an organization is committed to responding to people and to aiding them as librarians and as individuals. One way that SRRT can help more librarians is on the state level. I know that many states do have a SRRT component in the state library association and many times that organization is more accessible and beneficial than the national organization. In order to provide more access to local and state groups, I am attempting to compile a list of state organizations and would appreciate help from any member of a state SRRT group.

I would like to encourage all of you who will be at the annual meeting in L.A. to attend the general SRRT membership meeting and Action Council meetings. A schedule of meetings and Task Force Programs are on page 7 of this Newsletter. One of the major issues to be discussed will be the proposed dues increase. I would like to get as much input on this as possible so that it will not be an arbitrary decision on the part of Action Council. Other items will include the need to develop an active, ongoing program to increase membership.

There are also an incredible number of programs that will be put on by various task forces that should be of interest to a wide variety of people. I would encourage all of you to attend as many of those as you possibly can. Much of the work of the task forces is focused on presenting programs that are informative, interesting and educational. All of them deserve to be well attended and supported by SRRT members.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped me function as Action Council Coordinator this past year. It was an interesting learning experience and I appreciate all the people who spent time talking to me and helping me organize to get the job done. I would also like to thank the officers of the round table and especially Jeanne Kocsis, the Treasurer. She has done an amazing job. Actually just figuring out the budget sheets is an amazing job!

I am looking forward to seeing you in L.A. at Action Council meetings, and I hope that everyone has a positive, enjoyable summer.

SEE ALSO:
To the Editor-on Abortion.................4
Men's Issues Task Force Newsletter........5
SRRT/ALA - Los Angeles 1983............7
CIBC and SRRT.........................8
LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE

Further information on the Hospitality Suite being provided at Los Angeles:

The Task Force will have a place for you to relax, meet other union-minded people and learn what's going on in library unions, to help in organizing, negotiating or dealing with other union problems. We are cooperating with the Librarians Guild of the Los Angeles Public Library in providing a Hospitality Suite at the new Sheraton Grande Hotel (opening May 15) on Figueroa Street right across from the Bonaventure, the ALA Headquarters Hotel. We hope to keep the suite open from Friday, June 24th - Tuesday, June 28th, from 8 P.M. to midnight on Friday, and from 10 A.M. to midnight the other days, but look for flyers in the Convention Center announcing the suite as well as an Open House with refreshments, planned for one evening.

You can help make the Suite a successful effort by volunteering to staff the room (keeping it open) for any 1-2 hour periods you can spare. The suite contains a separate bedroom for 2 persons which can be reserved at the reduced rate of $35 each per day, Friday evening through Tuesday night. Sleeping space will also be available in the living room (less privacy, sleeping bag advisable) for $10 per night. Volunteers for staffing and those interested in the room, etc., please contact Billie Connor, Los Angeles Public Library 213-626-7555, ext. 274 or 213-660-6399 (home).

Please also think about what a Library Unions Task Force should be doing and let me have these and other points for our membership meeting agenda, if possible before you arrive in L.A. (I will be at the Holiday Inn-Downtown in L.A. if you have last minute questions.) One item in the agenda will be the selection of a new coordinator. Volunteers are needed for this useful post - not very time consuming, for the most part, except in planning for conference activity - but best filled by someone with dynamic ideas.

The need is urgent since I am simply pinch-hitting, having agreed in the fall to keep the Task Force functioning until a new coordinator was found by June.

Miriam Crawford
Interim Coordinator

CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE

At the Midwinter Conference in San Antonio, the Tools for Consciousness Raising Task Force and the SRRT Ad Hoc Committee on the KKK were merged into one and renamed the Civil Rights Task Force. In the next issue of the SRRT Newsletter, there will be an article explaining the name change and a statement of purpose.

SOURCES


"An Annual Periodical and Resource Directory," which provides annotated entries for magazines, newspapers, journals, newsletters, sourcebooks, directories and bibliographies. Divided into chapters with subject headings from Animals to Yoga and 34 others in between, it is also thoroughly indexed. Not only functional as a finding aid for alternative publishers and sources, it's also great for browsing. Buy it for your library - give it as a gift.

- For a bibliography, El Salvador--History--Civil War, 1977, compiled by John R. Likins which includes books, magazines, slides, films, etc. write: John R. Likins, Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02181.
In the No.3 (Spring 1983) issue of the Men's Issues Task Force (MITF) Newsletter which was included as an insert to the SRRT Newsletter, No.67 (April 1983), there appeared an article on Men and Abortion written by Dan Logan. I received several responses protesting that article. The MITF Newsletter is autonomous and has a separate editorial policy. One of the letters I received indicated that the writer understood that, but was responding to me rather than to the editor of the MITF Newsletter saying, "I know you're not responsible for the insert. I'm protesting SRRT policy and trying to educate the readers who read Logan's article."

Since she specifically requested that her views be printed in the SRRT Newsletter and since abortion is so vital an issue to so many, I am providing that forum. (The "Serpico case" is cited as In re Pamela P.; NY Sup Ct AppDiv 1st Dept in 8 Family Law Reporter 2529)

To the Editor:

We are appalled and dumbfounded that the extreme right wing of the men's movement is given so much space without at least the information outside of the insert, on where to find the pro-feminist ones, or some indication that not only women are angered by the lies of the Free Men Organization, as well as of the Equal Rights for Fathers.

Logan's article carefully omits the fact that the Serpico* decision was overturned on appeal because the child must not be deprived of support from both parents simply because Serpico did not want the child, and the woman allegedly tricked him. Men like Free Men not only are contemptuous of women but treat children as inanimate objects which can just be sent back to the store if you don't want them.

The only way men can have absolute choice is by not having intercourse, because, as Logan says, no birth control is foolproof. But they do have that choice already, and the Serpico Appellate decision reminded him that he didn't have to go to bed with her, and when he did he took that risk.

There are many people in this country who are beginning to believe that most of the people on this earth are children of rape in marriage, because men legally have the right to say no or yes, and women do not in 36 states plus D.C. Logan asks for a choice which he says we women have, but which has been theirs, not ours! See the movement for voluntary motherhood in the 19th century.

We also do not really have the right to abortions, not only because poor women no longer have that right except in a tiny handful of state funded programs, but also because we did not win the right to control our own bodies in 1973 at the Supreme Court. The Court arrogated unto itself the right to decide which abortions are legal during which months, and defined the right to privacy not as to the woman, but as between the woman and her doctor.

Even on these meager privacy grounds, however, two state statutes have been overturned as unconstitutional when the woman was required to notify her partner of an impending abortion. It is simply not his decision because only she can bear the child, thereby risking death or other serious consequences. Has everyone forgotten the concept of involuntary servitude in the 13th amendment which the anti-draft movement reclaimed as its own, but which also applies to women who must not be used as breeding machines?

Laura X, Executive Director
National Clearinghouse on Marital Rape
Berkeley, CA 94708

* For this letter, I researched the facts of this case through the New York State Attorney General's Office, and deliberately consulted a male constitutional attorney on our Board on the other issues as well, so as to put off any gender bias charge.
FILMS FOR MEN'S ISSUES

Kay Cooper, "Media Coordinator at the Audio Visual Library Service and the Women's Issues Task Force" has compiled a list of films relating to men's issues. The list is arranged into broad subjects such as aging, careers/motivation, chemical dependency, family life, parenting, health issues, interpersonal relationships, lifestyle changes, sex roles, sexual issues and war. The list is thorough and well-edited, providing title, catalog number, color, length, rental price, source and generous, well-edited annotations. The concept of this bibliography is the recognition of the male as individual and not as a sex issue in itself. The concept of the list is one more indication that the men's issues agenda is becoming more clearly defined.

FILMS are one of the most effective and efficient resources for topical program planning. This excellent list is a must for any library, group or individual responsible for planning programs on men's issues. Copies of this list will be made available at the SRRT booth at ALA, Los Angeles, or you may write for a free copy from: Audio Visual Library Service, 3100 University Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COIN, By Roy U. Schenk

This book should be a basic text in any course of men's studies. Dr. Schenk, a 20-year veteran of social change activities, has devoted a dozen of those years to "studying and working to develop a male perspective on gender roles and human relations." He has, among other things, attended men's conferences, studied humanistic psychology, and successfully argued a marital discrimination case before the Madison EOC. And he has developed a theory of male inferiorism that can accommodate the various existing perspectives.

Men, he maintains, are held to be spiritually superior to women who, burdened with feelings of guilt for their "inferiority," compensate through the exaggerated macho ideal and superiority as providers. Thus he has convincingly considered manifested inferiority, compensate via the feminine role for their feelings of incompetence by manipulating men sexually and emotionally into supporting them.

Why, if women's personalities are also distorted, is this vicious cycle a male dilemma? Because women benefit enormously from it and few men at all, while persons who will sacrifice security and ease for personal growth are very rare. Although men, for example, live in a sexual desert where only the exceptional male gets abundant sex and few get enough without sacrifice, women are surrounded by willing partners ready to do anything for their favors.

Cut into Dr. Schenk's cycle at any point and studies already exist of that aspect of men's problems. Herb Goldberg, author of The Hazards of Being Male, has written on male role guilt and its effects. The basic theory of Cinderella Complex is that such a burden to men. Dick Doyle, myself, and several others have written on how the law exploits men through their role as "naturally superior" providers. Vilar's The Manipulated Man shows how women control men through sex--a subject that men, because they really believe women to be superior, couldn't acknowledge until recently.

Schenk, Roy U., The Other Side of the Coin. Bloomerger Press P.O. Box 9141, Madison, Wisconsin 53705. $5.00 ($6.00 outside U.S.). Reviewed by David C. Morrow, Arlington, Texas. Reprinted by permission from TRANSACTIONS: the newsletter of the Coalition of Free Men, P.O. Box 129, Menahasset, New York 11030.

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

SEE YOU AT ALA LOS ANGELES

MEN'S ISSUES TASK FORCE

NO. 4 SUMMER 1983

The Executive Board of the National Congress for Men gathered in Washington, D.C., Saturday, March 26, 1983. Some 20 Board members, most of them representatives of state, regional or local groups debated non-stop through two meals and more over topics ranging from the legitimacy of proxy votes at Board meetings to whether or not NCM should hold its third annual conference this summer. Somewhere in between those, your chair was invited to present information about the Men's Issues Task Force and to discuss the proposed National Information Center for Men's Gender-Based Issues.

The NCM was formed in 1981 in Houston, Texas as a three-day conference of leaders and activists from hundreds of local and state men's and father's rights organizations.

The first Congress had as its purpose to clarify, define, and submit policy statements with recommendations for the common issues men and fathers in our culture face and sought to aid the various state and local men's organizations to present the male perspective on the issue of equality to the public and to governmen­tal bodies. Frederick Hayward, Director of Men's Rights, Inc., gave the keynote address which the NEW YORK TIMES said was "widely taken as a manifesto." The themes were to accelerate, not reverse, the progress of women; to extend, not curtail, the doctrine of sex equality; and to end, not win, the battle of the sexes.

The second Congress met in Detroit in August of 1982 including delegates from 23 states and Canada. Karen DeCrow, former president of the National Organization for Women (NOW) was the keynote speaker. From that address, "There should be no men's movement...or women's movement. What is really needed is a joint effort of men and women to eliminate sex role stereotypes." The session that imposes a compulsory military registration for males...is the same sexism that implicates fathers are disposable after divorce... Favoritism to mothers in custody is doing women no favors. Maternal favoritism may well be one of the leading factors that causes hindering women's economic growth. The reason that is used to favor mothers in custody is the same sexism that is used to favor men in the job market."

The third Congress will convene, "somewhere in southern California sometime in August, 1983," according to the deliberations of the recent NCM Board meeting. The Men's Issues Task Force has as one of its purposes to establish a network of resources, a liaison with the men's movement. NCM is a major contact for us. Specific information about the 1983 Congress will be distributed to MITF members and, hopefully, we can be well represented there.
sored, concentrating on what Asman sees as the Council's anti-capitalist intent, and ignoring the very positive assistance to teachers provided in imaginative projects that open up new insights for their students.

Of particular interest to AFT readers should be the additions and deletions made to the American Educator article as compared with the earlier version in the Heritage Foundation's Institutional Analysis of June 10, 1982. All of these changes appear to be aimed at making the article more acceptable to union readers and also to target extraneous interests of the AFT and its president, Albert Shanker.

One of the early points made in "The Hidden Agenda" is that the Council has been strongly supported by the National Education Association, a point not raised in the original Heritage report. That fact appears to have been added in order to throw a barb at the NEA, the major union rival of the AFT in the last decade. If the reader accepts the twisted view of CIBC that Asman presents, those criticisms would presumably reflect also on the NEA. The Interracial Books editorial refers to that "guilt by association" intention as one of the likely purposes of the article's publication. For myself, often an AFT supporter though not a member, I prefer to steer clear of such a judgment. But perhaps we should ask that AFT members deal with the question it raises of whether one group has been smeared in order to bait another.

A very pointed addition and deletion focuses on the issue of unionism itself. The original Heritage report, of course, was directed to its anti-union supporters. An example cited from the CIBC Guidelines to prove its anti-capitalist bias is a writing project suggested to students to "write and deliver a speech to co-workers telling them the advantages of joining a union." This does not appear in the AFT article, but instead there is a comment by Asman, not in the original report, that "No one should try to romanticize existence in a sweatshop or play down the role unions played in creating better working conditions." Obviously, the writer is playing both sides of the street, and tailored the article specifically to make it acceptable to an AFT audience.

But to what more subtle purpose? One wonders whether American Educator, particularly as it may be utilized by President Shanker, has joined the current wave of attacks, that amount to red baiting, on all programs that are critical of our present social structure, as those programs aim toward greater equity for the American people. Much of this issue of the AFT magazine reflects that resurgence of hysteria that characterized the cold war period of the 1950s. I hope those who read American Educator will find a better answer to my question by obtaining CIBC publications to judge for themselves. The editorial in Interracial Books for Children is particularly worth reading for the substantive clarification it gives of the Guidelines and their purposes, omitted here in order to concentrate on the contradictions presented by American Educator. (The Council address is 1841 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.)

[Editor's Note: A free copy of a catalog describing the Council's anti-racist, anti-sexist materials is available on request.]

Miriam Crawford
Temple University Library, Library Union Task Force Coordinator, Social Responsibilities Round Table, American Library Association

TF Business meetings (Cont. from p. 7)
Sunday, June 26
Alternatives in Print TF follows 9:30 A.M. program
Civil Rights TF
4:30 - 5:30 P.M.
International Human Rights TF
8 - 9 A.M.
Library Union TF
9:30 - 11 A.M.
Peace Information Exchange TF
8 - 9 A.M. and 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Monday, June 27
Feminist TF
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
Gay TF
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
International Human Rights TF
8 - 9 A.M.
Library Union TF
9:30 - 11 A.M.
SRRT/ALA - LOS ANGELES 1983

ACTION COUNCIL MEETINGS
Saturday, June 25, 9:30 - 11 A.M.
Sunday, June 26, 8 - 10 P.M.
Tuesday, June 28, 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

SRRT MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Monday, June 27, 2 - 5:30 P.M.

PROGRAMS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE will sponsor a program featuring Carl Jensen, Coordinator of Communication Studies at Sonoma State University and Director of Project Censored entitled, "Censorship and Junk Food Journalism."

Sunday, June 26, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

CIVIL RIGHTS TASK FORCE (formerly Tools for Consciousness Raising TF) will present C.T. Vivian, Chairman of the National Anti-Klan Network who will speak on "The Ku Klux Klan, Human Rights and the Library as Information Agency."
Cosponsors are: Black Caucus, California Library Association Black Caucus, SRRT International Human Rights Task Force.

Tuesday, June 28, 8 - 10 P.M.

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD TASK FORCE Breakfast will honor recipients of the 14th annual SRRT Coretta Scott King Book Awards.

Virginia Hamilton. Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush (Philomel); Peter Magubane, Black Child (Knopf).

Tickets $12 by advance reservation not later than June 15; no refunds after June 27. Send check or money order, payable to ALA/SRRT-CSK award to SRRT Liaison Office, ALA Headquarters, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Tuesday, June 28, 1983, 7:30 - 9 A.M.

Cosponsors: Status of Women in Librarianship, SRRT Peace Information Exchange TF

GAY TASK FORCE will present a program on Tuesday, June 28, 2 - 4 P.M.
Program information not yet available.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE will cosponsor a panel discussion to be held by the Asian and African Section of ACRL and the International Relations Round Table on the theme, "Intellectual Freedom in Asia and Africa."

Monday, June 27, 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE and the FEMINIST TASK FORCE will present "Up Your Wages: Practical Steps Toward Pay Equity."

Saturday, June 25, 2 - 4 P.M.

LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE is also cosponsoring, with the AFL/CIO-ALA Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups, "Staying Alive: Workplace Health and Safety." Speakers are Lawrence White, Lawyer and Author and Margaret M. Seminario, Industrial Hygienist, AFL-CIO Dept. of Occupational Safety and Health.

Tuesday, June 28, 2 - 4 P.M.

MEN'S ISSUES TASK FORCE will present Herb Goldberg, author. For further information see Men's Issues Task Force Newsletter insert, p.5)

PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE (See program under FEMINIST TASK FORCE)

TASK FORCE BUSINESS MEETINGS
Saturday, June 25
Men's Issues TF
11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

(Continued on p. 6)
In her excellent analysis of the American Educator article on page 1 of this issue, Miriam Crawford encourages the reader to examine the materials published by the Council on Interracial Books for Children (CIBC). SRRT members who are not familiar with its work should certainly do so. CIBC and SRRT, although not associated, share many common concerns.

A recent issue of the Interracial Books for Children Bulletin (V.13 #6&7, 1982), for example, had as its major emphasis, Militarism and Education. The links between militarism, and racism and sexism; and the threat of nuclear warfare discussed in that issue are themes that most Task Force members would recognize as relating directly to their own programs.

In continuing to work for social change, especially at a time when conservatism is once again becoming a powerful force in this country, SRRT members need to support CIBC and similar organizations which are also trying to achieve social equality and legal justice for all people.

PROTEST THE ATTACK ON CIBC!

SRRT MEMBERSHIP/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION:
To join, subscribe, or renew, please send this coupon - with payment - to:

SRRT Clearinghouse
American Library Association
50 E. Huron Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Please make checks payable to ALA/SRRT Clearinghouse.

Name________________________________________________________________________________
Street ___________________ City__________________ State _________ Zip________

$ 5 (ALA Personal Member) _____$ 5 (Affiliate, non-ALA Member)
____$20 (Institutions) Back issues are available at $2 each (#s____)

Please request back issues from: SRRT/ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.