FROM THE COORDINATOR

Well, New Orleans was fun, wasn't it?

For the benefit of those not in New Orleans, the Israeli Censorship issue dominated the meetings. ALA Council revoked its endorsement of the 1992 Resolution on procedural grounds. ALA Membership, after listening to Beverly Lynch and Nancy John (International Relations Committee), Candace Morgan (Intellectual Freedom Committee), and me, voted down the Resolution to Re-affirm the 1992 Resolution. The ALA Executive Board decided to establish a task force to investigate the SRRT Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries - and then reversed itself. I was summoned to a private meeting with ALA President, Marilyn Miller, to discuss the issue. Both David Williams and I were summoned to testify before the Executive Board about SRRT, the Task Force, and David's conduct. (David is pictured in the July/August issue of American Libraries.) Quite a few SRRT'ers attended the meeting to give moral support.

I feel that the Executive Board's decision to call off the "witch-hunt," as it was branded by several ALA Councillors, was largely the result of the resolution (reprinted on p. 6) passed by SRRT Action Council on the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries. The Anti-Defamation League has apparently issued a press release claiming responsibility for bringing ALA to its knees over this issue. Look for articles in the Washington Post and the Village Voice on the issue. The Village Voice article appeared in the 27 July 1993 issue (Vol. 38, no. 3), pp. 33-39 (Robert I. Friedman. "The Jewish Thought Police.")

SRRT-sponsored resolutions did rather poorly at ALA Membership and in ALA Council, in what I can only describe as an anti-SRRT backlash. The Resolution on Domestic Partnership (see p. 9) was a dead issue by the time it reached Membership because the ALA Executive Board has already voted to do what the resolution requested. The Resolution on Council Voting Records (p. 9) was approved. The Resolution on California Library Schools (p. 7) went through the most unbelievable set of parliamentary wrangling, largely at the hands of Beverly Lynch. It took over an hour and a quarter; but the resolution was finally amended, split into two -- one for each school -- and passed.

I have made preliminary contacts with the powers-that-be at the Association for Library Services to Children vis-a-vis the Boy Scouts of America issue. I will keep you all up-to-date on the issue.

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., SRRT Action Council Coordinator
Resolution on Egyptian Censorship:

Whereas, ALA in its Policy #57.3 states that "Threats to the freedom of expression of any person become threats to the freedom of all; therefore ALA adopt as policy the principles of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations' General Assembly. The association will address the grievances of foreign nationals where the infringement of their rights of free expression is clearly a matter in which all free people should show concern," and;

Whereas, Middle East Watch has documented instances of episodic censorship in Egypt, including the removal from circulation of books considered offensive by scholars at al-Azhar, an ancient Islamic religious research and educational institution;

Whereas, Alaa Hamed has been sentenced by the Egyptian courts to prison for writing a novel said to promote heresy and contempt for religion;

Whereas, Amnesty International has recently issued the report, *Egypt: Grave Human Rights Abuses Amid Political Violence* (May 1993);

Whereas, the American Library Association has found it appropriate to act on Policy 57.3 in the past by condemning censorship and the interference with library and archival operations in Grenada (CD 28, Midwinter '84; CD 75, Annual '89); South Africa (CD 21, Midwinter '85; CD 58, Annual '86; CD 97, Annual '90; CD 24, Midwinter '91), the United Kingdom (CD 49, Annual '85, Iraq and Kuwait (CD 18, Midwinter '91), Afghanistan (MD 3, Annual '91), and Israel (CD xx, Annual '92);

Whereas, Egypt considers itself to be a democracy;

Whereas, Egypt is the recipient of the second largest amount of United States foreign aid (*Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1992*, Table 1326, p.792.);

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table make known to all that it condemns these acts of restriction of freedom of individual expression and the right of free dissemination of knowledge;

Be It Further Resolved that SRRT urges that the ALA Council endorse this resolution;

Be It Further Resolved that ALA encourages its members to develop ways to support human rights and freedom of information and expression in Egypt, and that the International Relations Committee (IRC) be asked to develop strategies towards these ends;

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this Resolution be sent to the appropriate persons, including but not limited to the U.S. Secretary of State, the Egyptian Ambassador to the United Nations, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

TASK FORCE AND OTHER REPORTS

CORETTA SCOTT KING AWARD

The Coretta Scott King Award Task Force held its annual breakfast meeting on Sunday, July 27, at the ALA meeting in New Orleans. Over six hundred adults and children attended this, the twenty-fourth annual breakfast. For the fourth year local children were able to attend the breakfast as the guests of attendees who purchased tickets for them, and each child was able to take home two or three of the award winning books as a result of the generosity of the publishers of the award winners - the start, or perhaps the continuation, of a personal library.

ALA President Marilyn Miller, Past-President E.J.Josey, and Executive Director Peggy Sullivan, each greeted the attendees, as did Coretta Scott King herself, the namesake of the award. For many in the audience this was a particular surprise, and one person at each table was lucky enough to win a copy of Mrs. King's revised book, *My Life with Martin*.

A moment of silence was held in memory of the late Barbara Rollock, former Supervisor of Children's Services, New York Public Library, and Past-Chair of the Coretta Scott King Task Force.

SRRT Newsletter 2 September 1993
Resolution on the IFLA Conference in Havana, Cuba:

Whereas, the American Library Association has actively supported the International Federation of Library Associations for many years;

Whereas, the ALA Council is on record as supporting the 1994 IFLA Conference in Havana (CD 40, 1986 Annual);

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table urges the American Library Association to reaffirm its earlier stances and cooperate fully with the International Federation of Library Associations in the planning and implementing of the 1994 conference scheduled for Havana.

ENVIRONMENT

Maria Jankowska will serve as the new task force chair, and Carol Barta will continue as secretary. The Task Force is continuing to work on a book on environmental information in cooperation with environmental librarians from the Special Libraries Association. For more information, contact Trish Cruse at Louisiana State University Libraries.

The Task Force will be evaluating vendors at ALA conferences on the environmental impact of their displays. Comments and suggestions should be sent to Maria Jankowska at the University of Idaho Libraries.

Resolution on Haiti:

Whereas, Haiti and the United States have historically had an extremely close relationship;

Whereas, a military coup in 1991 overthrew the democratically elected government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide which had promised a new era of hope and dignity for the long-oppressed and desperately poor Haitian people;

Whereas, the United States has denied refugees the right of asylum;

Whereas, the 2000-member Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association is dedicated to promoting human rights and social justice everywhere;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association urges the American government to immediately grant Temporary Protected Status to all Haitian refugees, including Guantanamo; and

Be It Further Resolved that copies of this Resolution be sent to President Clinton, Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo, the Haiti Communications Project, the Quixote Center/Haiti Rebuild, and the library press.

Patricia and Fred McKissack read from their award winning text, The Dark Thirty. Patricia McKissack also received a certificate of honor for her book Sojourner Truth: An Ain’t I a Woman. Mildred Pitts Walter paid tribute to Fannie Lou Hamer as she accepted a certificate of honor for Mississippi Challenge. Walter Dean Myers accepted honors for Somewhere in the Darkness.

Kathleen Wilson, winner of the award for illustration for The Origin of Life on Earth, spoke about the spirituality of the experience of illustrating the book, which dealt with her African ancestry. Brian Pinkney described how his wife had modelled for the mermaid illustrations in Sukey and the Mermaid, which received a certificate of honor for illustrations. Also receiving certificates were Carole Byard for the illustrations in Working Cotton, and Wil Clay for Little Eight John. Clay introduced the young man who had served as the model for his work to a generous round of applause.

Basil Philips and Marion Sloan, who for each of the twenty-four years of the awards have been present to present the honoraria and sets of Encyclopaedia Britannica, were each presented a plaque in recognition for their support. Henrietta M. Smith, chair of the Task Force, presided at the breakfast. Barbara Jones Clark, chair of the jury, and Carolyn Garnes introduced the winners and honorees. Billy Beal served as the local arrangements chair. The Task Force is looking forward to a gala celebration in Miami to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of honoring outstanding African American authors and illustrators.
The Task Force program in New Orleans was fairly well attended. A team from Louisiana State University presented a study of the changes in the environment of the Mississippi delta using primary sources from as far back as the eighteenth century. Sources are being digitized to preserve them and to allow for new methods of study.

GAY AND LESBIAN

Task Force meetings were fairly well attended in New Orleans, but more volunteers/workers are needed to help meet future goals. The GLTF Program, "I Read You Loud and Queer: The New Demand for Gay and Lesbian Literature" was a rousing success with about 300 people attending, as a result, the 1994 program will be an unofficial sequel. After discussion during Membership and Steering Committee meetings, it was decided to follow up with a program on juvenile and young adult literature. Terry Allison will be program chair. Anyone interested in helping with the Miami events should contact Terry or Wendy Thomas, the new female co-chair of the Task Force. Some local folks to help with the social are needed. With the Silver Anniversary of Stonewall and the Gay Games being the same weekend as ALA, expect some changes in the Task Force’s normal schedule.

There was considerable discussion on the Clearinghouse - its function and purpose, how to get materials to those ordering in a timely fashion, and how to keep our publications current. In addition, the "electronic issue" has surfaced. To keep the Clearinghouse going, bodies are needed to provide input, support, and sweat.

New Steering Committee members are: Wendy Thomas, Female Co-Chair; Ellen Greenblatt, Book Awards Committee Chair; Karl Fattig, Newsletter Editor; and

Resolution on "Mother" Jones:

Whereas, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones (1830-1930), an Irish emigrant, tirelessly devoted herself to supporting the American workers and working class families, as well as opposing child labor exploitation;

Whereas, "Mother" Jones has been inducted into the Labor Hall of Fame;

Whereas, Karen Ritter has introduced a resolution into the Pennsylvania House of Representatives to designate May 1 as Mother Jones Day and asks that the U.S. Postal Service depict Mother Jones on a postage stamp;

Whereas, the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association is dedicated to promoting justice, equality, and respect for women and all working people;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table strongly supports the issuance of a postage stamp honoring "Mother" Jones, a true American hero and role model;

And Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, Friends of Mother Jones, the Honorable Karen Ritter, the Labor Heritage Foundation, and the library press.

Resolution on United States Military Surveillance Information:

Whereas, the American Library Association has a policy supporting access to information,

Whereas, coding for restricted access to information on the part of the United States governmental agencies has continued,

Whereas, the United States military establishment is expanding the database of secret satellite information with a forty million dollar budget expenditure building up the Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado system,

Whereas in a time of stringent economic times, there has been limited access to weather and other information by the civilian offices of our government;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Social Responsibilities Round Table asks the American Library Association Council to pass a resolution requesting the Defense Department to share all factual information from the Buckley system and other military satellites including but not limited to climate, weather, environment, navigation, and agricultural resources in order to help our civilian agencies to better serve our country.
Mark Martin, Publicity Committee Chair. Reading our by-laws shows that there has been a "slight goof" over Steering Committee appointments and elections. It should be straight, pardon the expression, now. Formal elections will be held during the 1994 Membership Meeting. To handle these things and get the Task Force back on track, would someone like to be "elections coordinator?" Contact Roland Hansen, if you are interested.

Thanks to the outgoing members for their hard work - Susan Hoffman, Kathy Anderson, and Leon Bey.

International Responsibilities

The International Human Rights Task Force (IHRDF) has been renamed, and its areas of concerns have been expanded in significant ways. Now the International Responsibilities Task Force (IRTF), it will maintain its involvement with human rights issues and will explicitly address a broader international social responsibilities agenda. To facilitate its work, the IRTF will establish a formal liaison with the International Relations Committee (IRC). It is hoped that the new focus for the task force will both rally current members as well as attract many newcomers interested in one of the most important and highly contested areas of social responsibilities work in librarianship. Mark Rosenzweig will serve as the chair of the IRTF.

KANSAS SRRT

Paul Hawkins, Library Consultant at the South Central Kansas Library System, will replace Carol Barta as the Kansas SRRT representative to SRRT Action Council. Carol will be concentrating on more programming within the Kansas SRRT.

LIBRARY EDUCATION ASSEMBLY

Carol Barta, the SRRT liaison to the assembly, reports that the debate on standards for library education continues. The assembly expressed some enthusiasm for the recruitment video that SRRT co-sponsored earlier this year. There was some debate at the summer meetings as to the correct response to make to the closing of the UCLA library school program. No action was taken at the summer conference.
Resolution on Domestic Partnership benefits for ALA staff:

Whereas, many local governments, corporations, colleges, and universities are recognizing the need to cover homosexual couples under benefit packages;

Whereas, the American Library Association has traditionally been in the fore on the promotion of equality for gays and lesbians, most notably with their Policy 54.3 and others;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table urges that a committee be established to review all ALA Headquarters personnel policies and employee benefits to ensure that no discrimination exists and that domestic partnership is recognized;

and

Be it Further Resolved that any necessary arrangements with insurers and others to bring this into effect be implemented by 1 January, 1994.

(By the time this resolution appeared on the agenda for the ALA membership meeting, the ALA Executive Board had already taken approved this benefits change; the resolution was therefore withdrawn.)

PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The Task Force's program on Central America in the Next Millennium went quite well. Speakers Michael Powelson and Diego Savala painted a sobering picture of the region and the prospects for a peaceful future. Also at the program, Dr. Elizabeth Hostetler, Director of The Lion and The Lamb Peace Arts Center, accepted the fourth SIRS/SRRT Peace Award. Thanks again to Social Issues Resources Series, Inc. for its corporate sponsorship of this award.

The chair of the Task Force is stepping down, and a new chair is needed. If you are interested in serving as chair, a position which includes membership on SRRT Action Council, please get in touch with Stephen Stillwell, current chair at (817) 467-7324.

Resolution on the ALA Council Voting Record:

Whereas, the United States of America is a democracy dedicated to the concepts of democracy and the freedom of information;

Whereas, the American Library Association is a champion of that freedom within this country and the world;

Whereas, the members of any society need to be informed in order to make intelligent decisions at the ballot box;

Whereas, ALA Council went on record in 1982 that the voting records of its sessions should be available to the members of the Association by the easiest and cheapest means possible; and

Whereas, that means was determined to be through publication of these records in American Libraries.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table go on record against the proposal by the Committee on Program Evaluation and Support (COPES) made in Document 4.1 presented at the Midwinter Conference of 1993 to cease the publication and dissemination of these voting records to all ALA members.

Be it Further Resolved that this objection be made known at the ALA Membership Meeting and to the members of ALA Council.

(Passed by ALA membership, 30 June 1993)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUTOMATIC JOINT PROGRAM

As announced in the last newsletter, SRRT has a program with Amnesty International to respond to Urgent Action needs automatically. Members pledge $10 (or $20) per month. This program is geared to educators in urgent need of assistance. A FAX or telegram is sent in a member's name from an office in Colorado within hours of the time Amnesty hears of a case. It is easy to participate - just by sending a check. Participants receive a copy of the telegram or fax sent for further follow-up if desired. For information contact: ALA/SRRT Urgent Action First Appeal Pledge Program, Amnesty International USA, P.O. Box 1270, Nederland CO. 80466-1270.

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Be it Further Resolved that this objection be made known at the ALA Membership Meeting and to the members of ALA Council.

(Passed by ALA membership, 30 June 1993)
**Resolution on the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries:**

Resolved that the SRRT Action Council requests that the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries select a new coordinator; and until such time, that all correspondence from the current coordinator of said Task Force be funneled through the SRRT Action Council Coordinator.

(Note: this resolution was not accompanied by whereas clauses.)

**ISRAELI CENSORSHIP ISSUE REVISITED**

(The following statement was submitted by David Williams, who is the current Chair of the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries Task Force, after the ALA Conference in New Orleans. It is his personal assessment of events related to the Israeli Censorship issue. It is reproduced here as submitted.)

At its 1992 convention in San Francisco, the American Library Association voted its conscience in criticizing Israeli censorship and human rights violations, after the facts of these abuses had been clearly established in documentation compiled by the Article 19 International Centre Against Censorship and other human rights organizations. In keeping with a twenty-year ALA tradition of singling out notable human rights abusers, those who voted for the resolutions apparently agreed with the contention that it was appropriate to criticize Israel because of its special relationship to the U.S., the huge amounts of annual U.S. aid, and the role of such aid in helping to sustain a prolonged military occupation.

The significance of ALA's breaking with the public taboo on criticizing Israel was taken very seriously by the Anti-Defamation League and other Israel lobby groups whose role is to censor, intimidate, and otherwise stifle public criticism of Israel in the United States. It is precisely because of the importance of U.S. aid that they could not afford to let Israel be criticized in such fashion by a mainstream professional organization. This highly-organized and well-financed political lobby swung into gear after the 1992 ALA convention to angrily demand revocation of the offending resolution. With the active complicity of the ALA leadership, pressure was brought to bear on librarians at all levels of the Association to go along with revoking the resolution. Willfully distorting the facts and context of Israel's repressive practices, the organizers of this campaign also engaged in the most vicious personal vilification of me as the originator of the resolution, repeatedly equating legitimate criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

**Resolution on the Closure of California Library Schools:**

WHEREAS, in February, 1993, the University of California-Berkeley announced the suspension of admissions to its School of Library and Information Studies;

WHEREAS, in June, 1993, the University of California-Los Angeles proposed the imminent closure of its Graduate School of Library and Information Science;

WHEREAS, the American Library Association, in a 1990 resolution, affirmed its support and respect for professional library education in American research universities;

WHEREAS libraries and librarians are essential to democracy, to education, and to the quality of life;

WHEREAS libraries, now and as they evolve, require professional librarians to help fulfill the public's right to know;

WHEREAS the actions taken against library schools at Berkeley and Los Angeles jeopardize the future of librarians, library service and the public interest in California and in the western United States;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) of the American Library Association supports the continued existence of degree programs in library and information studies at U.C. Berkeley and U.C.L.A.;

And Be It Further Resolved that, within these ongoing programs of library and information studies, SRRT encourages a strong commitment to educating library professionals in the public interest and the public's right to know, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the governor and state legislators of California, to U.C. officials, to the U.C. Regents, and to the California and library press.

(At the ALA Membership meeting, this resolution was divided in two and each passed in a revised form)
Primed by months of lobbying - in which it was made clear that this was an ALA leadership priority - the majority of the ALA's governing Council was led early in the convention to revoke the Israeli censorship resolution, with no debate and at variance with ALA's normal parliamentary procedures. A functionary of the Zionist women's federation, Hadassah, was brought in to instruct Jewish librarians on how to prevent future criticism of Israel in the ALA, while Hadassah and the Anti-Defamation League provided them with suitable written propaganda. To back-up Council's revocation, hundreds of Jewish librarians were mobilized from the New York City area and elsewhere to pack the annual Membership meeting and vote down our effort to reaffirm the 1992 resolution. In this atmosphere of intimidation and cynical acceptance of Israel's human rights violation, it was difficult for all but the staunchest advocates of human rights and freedom of information and expression to withstand the onslaught. Our defeat was pre-ordained.

While engineering revocation of the 1992 resolution, the ALA leadership also announced the appointment of a special task force of three former ALA presidents to "review" charges that I engaged in "censorship, personal harassment, and suppression of freedom of expression" in the conduct of meetings and programs pertaining to this issue. This is ironic and outrageous not only in view of the amount of vilification directed against me with the complicity of the ALA leadership, but also in light of the organized physical disruption by pro-Israel hard-liners of my Task Force program in San Francisco last year. The aim of such an announcement was to further defame me and pave the way for abolition of the Social Responsibilities Round Table Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries.

Bowing to this atmosphere of intimidation, the Chair of SRRT [sic] and a majority of its Action Council members still in New Orleans at the end of the convention passed a resolution ordering my Task Force to find a new chair, until which all of my correspondence must be approved by the SRRT Chair [sic]. This censorship edict is aimed at hampering the Task Force until such time that it can be buried more discreetly. Upset with the Israeli censorship controversy and the obstacle it poses to harmonious relations with the ALA leadership, they have heaped a disproportionate amount of blame on me for the

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Resolution on Israeli Censorship:

Whereas, ALA Membership and Council extensively debated and ultimately approved resolutions during the 1992 Annual Conference at San Francisco that

a) called upon the Government of Israel "to end all censorship and human rights violations in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza, and in Israel itself;"

b) encouraged Israeli and Palestinian representatives "in the quest for a peaceful and just solution of their conflict;"

c) encouraged ALA members "to develop ways to support librarians, journalists, educators, and others working for peace, human rights, and freedom of information and expression in the Middle East;" and

d) expressly asked the International Relations Committee (IRC) to "develop strategies" towards those ends;

And Whereas, ALA Council at its sessions during the 1993 Midwinter Conference in Denver amended the original resolution by referring it to the International Relations Committee for further study and notifying all recipients of the original resolutions that such action had been taken;

Therefore Be It Resolved that ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table now fully reaffirms the earlier actions of ALA Membership and ALA Council and urges that those two bodies do likewise, and further requests that ALA Council direct the IRC to proceed immediately with implementation of the earlier actions;

And Be It Further Resolved that copies of this resolution be sent to all parties sent either of the 1992 resolutions (Membership and Council) and the 1993 Council resolution.

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SRRT Newsletter 8 September 1993
Resolution on New Statesman and Society Defense:

Whereas the British socialist journal New Statesman and Society, UNSO presently celebrating its eightieth year of publication since its founding by C.B. Shaw and Sidney and Beatrice Webb and today one of the most internationally esteemed journals of Left opinion and analysis, has been sued for libel by Prime Minister John Major and Ms. Clare Latimer in an action whose settlement threatens the continued existence of the magazine and is an attack on freedom of information;

Whereas the offending article was a report in the January 29 issue on the widespread media rumor campaign concerning Mr. Major's association with a woman alleged to be his "mistress," a campaign which the NSS, by openly discussing the assorted allegations in some detail and "naming names," showed to be unfounded;

Whereas Major and Latimer pursued their campaign against NSS despite the fact that the article unambiguously states the rumors are unfounded and false, and despite the fact that the editors, through their solicitors, issued a letter of regret for any personal distress caused by the publication of the article and agreed to, if necessary, help vindicate Major's and Latimer's reputations;

Whereas the Prime Minister and Ms. Latimer, taking advantage of Britain's archaic libel laws, had the issue containing the article withdrawn from circulation and sued the printers, distributors and wholesalers of the magazine, who are indemnified against this kind of action by NSS, for over 150,000 pounds;

Whereas British libraries also are under apparent threat of legal action for the display of the January 29, 1993 issue, a threat under which many are acceding to censorship;

Whereas the attack on NSS is aimed at the radical press as a whole and is, while legal, an unconscionable assault on free access to information, opinion and argument;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the ALA condemn British Prime Minister John Major for pursuing a libel suit against the radical magazine New Statesman and Society, an effort which has constituted a serious attack on freedom of the press;

And Be It Further Resolved that ALA supports the New Statesman and Society Defence Fund set up to pay legal fees and the indemnities on damages won by Major and his co-litigant Clare Latimer, and which is fighting to change the British libel laws so that the threat of lawsuits is not used to squelch the free press and stamp out what little dissidence and diversity there is in the media;

And Be It Further Resolved that ALA opposes reported British library censorship of the January 29, 1993 issue of New Statesman and Society even if done in anticipation of possible legal action;

And Be It Further Resolved that ALA membership, Council, and appropriate committees endorse the above resolution express solidarity with New Statesman and Society on this their eightieth anniversary, in their campaign to protect the rights to free press and dissent.

virulence of the debate and our defeat at the hands of the combined forces of the Israeli lobby and the ALA leadership. In taking this unprecedented action, they have betrayed the best traditions of SRRT, whose role in the ALA has often been to advance controversial and initially unpopular positions. And so - ironically and tragically - the failure of the ALA to stand by its criticism of Israeli censorship is now leading to the censoring of such criticism within a professional association professing dedication to the principles of freedom of information and expression.

Although we were overpowered in New Orleans, this may well turn out to be a Pyrrhic victory for the Israel lobby. In the course of this long struggle, thousands of librarians were made aware of Israeli human rights abuses, and the ALA officially criticized them - causing great embarrassment for defenders of Israel in the United States. The subsequent spectacle of the ALA leadership going down on their knees before the Israel lobby to exempt Israel from criticism will not go unnoticed by all those who sincerely believe in the consistent application of human rights principles. This issue will continue to haunt the ALA and the Israel lobby, until the time comes when America is fed-up with supporting an apartheid state in the Middle East.

To those who stood-up to the end against such pressures, I give my heartfelt thanks. To those who went part of the way and then faltered, I thank you for what you were willing to do - and hope you will have more courage next time! To those who defended or otherwise excused censorship and injustice, history will judge you.
BROWN COUNTY (WI) LIBRARY RECOGNIZED FOR RECYCLING PROGRAM

The Recycling Hotline operated by Brown County Library of Green Bay, Wisconsin, in cooperation with the county's Solid Waste Department, has earned a 1993 National Achievement Citation from the Public Library Association. The achievement citations were established in 1991, "to give national recognition to significant innovative activities that improve the organization, management, or services of public libraries." Brown County Library was cited for its team effort with the Solid Waste Department to provide the hotline service as a cost-effective way to handle the flood of questions which started when new local recycling programs began in 1990. For details on the program, contact Sandy Kallunki of the Brown County Library, 515 Pine Street, Green Bay WI 54301 or phone (414) 448-4358.

OLA AND WLA PASS RESOLUTIONS ON OREGON CITIZENS ALLIANCE

This information arrived from the Pacific Northwest too late for the last newsletter, but its importance to SRRT warrants inclusion this time even if it is a little late. On April 2, the Oregon Library Association unanimously approved a resolution declaring "fundamental opposition to the Oregon Citizens Alliance initiative" on the prohibition of gay and lesbian rights ordinances. About three weeks later, the Washington Library Association followed suit, opposing similar initiatives in their state. This resolution passed unanimously as well. Copies of the resolutions are available from the OLA and WLA. The SRRT regional affiliates in those two states are to be commended for the roles that they played in these actions.

FEMINIST TASK FORCE STILL SEEKING MENTORS

As announced in the March newsletter, the Feminist Task Force has begun a mentoring program aimed particularly at women of color to promote diversity in librarianship. Mentors are still needed for the program, and interested persons should contact Debra Gilchrist, Pierce College, 9401 Farwest Drive SW, Tacoma WA 98498, or call (206) 964-6553.

CALL FOR LIAISONS

Do you belong to an ALA group other than SRRT? If so, perhaps you could do both groups a favor and act as a liaison between the two. Keep them informed of what SRRT is doing and help us find out about the rest of the Association. There are natural alliances between and among all ALA Round Tables, as well as divisional committees, sections, and task forces that deal with cultural diversity issues, intellectual freedom, and the like -- here is a perfect tie in with SRRT. All you need do is go to the meeting that you would be attending any way and write a paragraph long report on matters of

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Effective September 1, 1993, the Editor of the SRRT Newsletter will be leaving his current address. Please note the following new address and phone number information:

Thomas L. Wilding
UTA Libraries
P.O. Box 19497
Arlington TX 76019-0497
Phone: (817) 273-3390
Fax: (817) 273-3390
Internet: wilding@library.uta.edu

Also effective September 1, 1993, the Action Council Coordinator will be leaving his current address. Please note the following new address and phone number information:

Stephen J. Stillwell, Jr.
3550 S. Fleder Road, #60
Arlington TX 76015
Phone: (817) 467-7324

(The editor can also be reached at that address)
intersecting interest. Real easy. Contact the SRRT Action Council Coordinator if you are interested in this project (address in box on p. 10). Even if you are interested in a slot that is already filled, let the Coordinator know.

FROM THE EDITOR’S INBOX

* Spinsters Ink Spring 1993 catalogue is available. It features three new feminist titles from the Spring: Final Rest by Mary Morell, The Solitary Twist by Elizabeth Pincus, and As You Desire by Madeline Moore.

* The first issue of Alternative Press Review is dated Fall 1993. The editors see the review as "assisting the alternative press to make itself more visible." Subscriptions are $16.00/year. Contact C.A.L. Press, POB 1446, Columbia MO 65205-1446.

* The National Center for Immigrant Students, a part of the National Coalition of Advocates for Students, publishes a newsletter, New Voices. The newsletter is free and not copyrighted. Order it from NCAS, 100 Boylston Street, Suite 737, Boston MA 02116-4610.

* The Rubbers Brothers Comics is an AIDS education and prevention publication series. It is geared toward middle and high school students but is useful for other groups as well. Information can be obtained from P.O. Box 431, Wilbraham MA 01095-0431; telephone 1-800-745-1057.

* Environmental Poisons in Our Food, a new book written by Dr. J. Gordon Millichap, answers questions and fears concerning the potential health risks of food and water toxins and provides some simple tips to help consumers recognize and avoid their harmful effects. Millichap is Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics and Neurology of the Northwestern University Medical School and a former consultant to the Mayo Clinic. The book is available from PNB Publishers, Box 11391, Chicago IL 60611, and is priced at $29.95 hardcover or $14.95 softcover.

* CRIESES Press has begun the publication of Librarians at Liberty, an Interactive Newsletter, with Vol. 1, no. 1 appearing in June 1993. According to a flyer from CRIESES Press, the newsletter is "looking for editors, book reviewers, poets and cartoonists to help rebut the pretentious prose of official library and publishing literature..." For more information or subscriptions, write to: CRIESES Press, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville FL 32608.

* Neal-Schuman Publishers has published Serving Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students: Strategies for the School Library Media Specialist, by Melvina Azar Dame. Part one examines the need for specialized materials and services. The second part recommends ways of providing appropriate services, as well as suggestions on integrating them into classroom curriculum and library literacy programs. The volume sells for $29.95 plus $2.50 postage and handling. Orders should be sent to Resource Associate, 83 Glenham Road, Cranston RI 02921.

* The Greek Family Heritage Committee, established in 1989, has as its goal providing assistance to people of Greek origin who are interested in family history. The committee has recently published Tracing Your Greek Ancestry, the only publication devoted entirely to Greek genealogical research. It is available at $6.50 plus $1.50 shipping and handling, from Antonia Mattheou, Director, Greek Family Heritage Committee, 75-21 177 Street, Flushing NY 11366; telephone: (718) 591-9342.


* Two recent catalogs from The Book Publishing Company are Books for Our Times (Summer-Fall 1993), which contains books on vegetarian cooking; health and nutrition; environment, lifestyles, and gardening; and Native Americans, and Native American Books. For information, write to them at P.O. Box 99, 156 Drake Lane, Summertown TN 38483, or telephone: (800) 695-2241 or (617) 964-3571.
* Hunter House, named the Quality Books Inc. Small Press Publisher of the Year for 1993, has issued a catalog of their offerings for Spring 1993, which includes new books on women’s health, men’s issues and violence, computers and disabilities, and numerology. For a catalog, write to Hunter House Inc., P.O. Box 2914, Alameda CA 94501-2914.

* For a catalog of publications from the Human Rights Watch, write to their Publications Dept., 485 Fifth Ave., New York NY 10017-6104.

--Mike Lutes, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

**Steven R. Harris, Book Review Editor**


During the early part of the Twentieth Century gay culture flourished in Germany. Literary publications and scholarly discussions regarding gay issues were at their zenith. One of the first and most prominent gay journals of that era was Der Eigene, under the editorial leadership of Adolph Brand. With the translation of Der Eigene by Oosterhuis and Kennedy, researchers may now begin to comprehend fully the historical antecedents of the Twentieth Century gay and lesbian liberation movement.

Brand through his radical politics and editorship of Der Eigene strove for the hellenic ideal in male bonding, homosexuality, and bisexuality in Germany. Throughout, Brand separates his movement from the earthiness and banality of German gay subculture, with strong undertones of an Aryan philosophy of race and manhood. Brand criticized Magnus Hirschfield who headed the Scientific Humanitarian Committee (Wissenschaftlich-humanitäre Komitee) for his views on the gay psyche as an intermediate sex with personality traits lying somewhere between those of man and woman. Brand believed Hirschfield’s theory too simplistic and filled with foible.

Three topical sections are outlined in the text. The psychology of same sex love (lieblingminne) is discussed in the opening chapters captioned “opposing the doctors”, followed by the aesthetics of the male body, and eros and male bonding. A recurring issue discussed in this work was the repeal of Paragraph 175 of the German Imperial Penal Code. Paragraph 175, which was added to the penal code in 1871, criminalized male homosexual behavior. Both Brand and Hirschfield were vehement opponents of the paragraph. They opposed the issue from different perspectives, and there was philosophical conflict between Brand’s Gemeinschaft der Eigenen and Hirschfield’s Wissenschaftlich-humanitäre Komitee. Oosterhuis and Kennedy clearly define and effectively draw the distinctions between these two men throughout the book.

Until recently issues of Der Eigene were widely dispersed and unavailable in English for scholarly research. This translation was begun by Donald Mader and Joseph Geraci under the auspices of Southernwood Press (Amsterdam). With their cooperation the project was completed by the Journal of Homosexuality. As editor, Oosterhuis selected only non-fiction articles and a handful of photographs for inclusion in the text, while the full spectrum of Der Eigene also included works of art, personal correspondence, community news, and literature.

Oosterhuis and Kennedy’s work along with Lauristen and Thorstad’s Early Homosexual Rights Movement (1864-1935) and Steakley’s Homosexual Emancipation Movement in Germany serve as core collection items for any library developing a history of the gay and lesbian liberation movement. While the book is a simultaneous publication from the Journal of Homosexuality, it is well worth the price for those who do not subscribe to the journal, and likewise for many who do subscribe.

They’re all here—our favorite brave and wonderful lesbian writers. And they’re engaged in a most overdue task—looking at lesbian sexuality, not in a sociological, clinical or academic sense, but with the writers’ vision.

An Intimate Wilderness brings together essays, poetry, stories and imaginative writing. The book is full of outstanding writing from powerful and influential writers, including Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Cherrie Moraga, Judy Grahn, Pat Parker, Marilyn Hacker, and Joan Nestle.

Highlights of this important work include Marilyn Frye’s essay, "Lesbian 'Sex'", which illuminates the myth of lesbian couples as being less "sexual" than heterosexual married couples, based on recent sex surveys. After discussing the fact that the average heterosexual encounter takes 8 minutes to do, Frye concludes, "The suspicion arises that what 85% of heterosexual married couples are doing more than once a month and what 47% of lesbian couples are doing less than once a month is not the same thing.” An essay for every lesbian couple who has ever read the latest Ladies Home Journal survey and concluded that they weren’t doing it as much as everyone else.

Other great moments in the book include Nicole Brossard’s essay, "Lesbians of Lore" ("... a lesbian who does not reinvent the world is a lesbian in the process of disappearing...") and Adrienne Rich’s XVII from “Twenty-One Love Poems” ("... this we were, this is how we tried to love, / and these are the forces they had ranged against us, / within us and against us, against us and within us."). Barbara Wilson, in her essay, “The Erotic Life of Fictional Characters”, notes the increasing number of lesbian erotica collections ("... the question of a decade ago -- Why can’t lesbians write about sex? -- has given way to its opposite -- Why can’t lesbians write about anything else?")

In short, the book makes a major contribution to the study of lesbian sexuality and is highly recommended, not only for women’s and lesbian study collections, but also for literature collections in academic and public libraries.

--Kathy Anderson, Atlantic County Library System, Mays Landing NJ

SRRT Newsletter 13 September 1993


If you’ve ever used a legal question-and-answer book before, you know the frustrations of not having enough explanation or information to deal with your legal problem. Curry and Clifford have written an insightful and informative legal guide that is essential for any gay or lesbian couple considering a life contract, parenting, or even a common surname.

The introduction and first chapter of the guide give an overview of the law and homosexual couples, along with the histories and personal views of the authors. These views (reflecting an anger with and mistrust of the American legal system) are carried throughout the guide, reassuring the reader that Curry and Clifford have perhaps "been there."

The authors recommend reading and considering several chapters in the guide to any homosexual couple regardless of their specific legal need. These chapters deal with life contracts, powers of attorney, and drafting a basic will. Other chapters include buying a home, marriage, children and divorce, estate planning, and medical emergencies. Throughout the guide there are helpful sample documents along with humorous illustrations by Linda Allison. Not only is this guide a must for any homosexual couple committed to each other, but it’s also a "good read."

--David R. Baca, Texas A&M University, College Station TX.


To many of us, clearcutting is associated only with the Northern Spotted Owl versus forestry jobs controversy. This book gives a very good view of the broader picture, with its 20 essays and 13 photographs. There are two
types of essays in this book. The first variety documents the history of clearcutting, the technologies used and ecological consequences of the practice. The second variety of essay offers more personal views of the forest and how clearcutting has affected these views. The contributors include writers, journalists, environmentalists and "some who simply love the forest."

From these essays we meet the loggers and have their work methods described to us. The pros and cons of how changes to clearcutting methods may affect jobs is presented. The relationship between the U.S. Forest Service and the timber companies, the policies that allow the timber companies to operate on publicly held land, and alternatives to clearcutting, such as sustained yield and selective logging are discussed. The effect of clearcutting on the larger ecosystem is explored. This includes the roads built for the forestry industry, the replanted tree plantations, and clearcutting's effect on the inhabitants of the forest.

Other essays present more personal views of the forest, how the forest is an important part of the authors' lives. Many of these authors grew up or worked in the forest, or discovered it as a place for spiritual renewal. The ongoing theme of these essays is that we need not become "worshippers" of the forest, but we do need to increase our level of "stewardship" of the forest.

The black and white photographs in the book show the effects of clearcutting: bare hillsides, fields of tree stumps, and the litter of unusable brush left behind by the loggers. They remind me of an under-construction landfill site I once visited.

There are two sides to every story and Beloved of the Sky definitely portrays the bad side of clearcutting in a way that may make it seem that there is no good side. If the reader decides to conduct more research on clearcutting, this book will have presented them with good background information and ideas on current clearcutting practices.

---Michael W. Ugorowski, Austin TX.

The purpose of this manual, as stated in the Preface, is to "help public libraries develop collections resources, programming and promotional materials for adults and children about American Indian history, culture and tribal sovereignty." That aim has been admirably carried out. The manual, which combines features of a bibliography, directory and guide book, is well organized, up-to-date and accurate.

Introductory pages supply basic information for librarians or teachers who might be responsible for evaluating materials treating Native American. This section includes a helpful checklist of twenty-four "Questions to Ask" and a backup bibliography of aids to use when selecting their materials.

The main body of the manual is made up of an annotated bibliography of books, videocassettes and audiocassettes on all aspects of Native American history and culture. The bibliography is organized by topic (arts and crafts, biography, fiction, history etc.) and then sub-divided into sections for adults and children. An asterisk indicates those core titles especially recommended for schools and libraries with small budgets. The compilers have also added tribal affiliation, where appropriate, after each author's name. We learn, for example, that Leslie Silko, author of Ceremony, is Laguna-Sioux and the Ignatia Broker, author of Night Flying Woman, is Ojibway.

The users of this manual are not left simply with a list of materials, but in Chapters 4 and 5 are supplied with a variety of practical suggestions on how to make the best use of the materials through planning, programming, bulletin board exhibits, and public relations efforts. Another section of the manual supplies the names and specialties of individuals and organizations in Wisconsin who stand ready to provide programming resources. A directory of publisher's addresses and a section of copyright free clip-art make up the final sections of this useful work. The manual is clearly directed to teachers and librarians in Wisconsin, but because of its excellent organization and careful annotations, it can be examined with profit by librarians and teachers in any location where there is a need for sound guidance in selecting materials relating to Native Americans.

---Donald C. Dickinson, School of Library Science, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ.

The struggle for independence has always been an integral part of human nature, whether it be in the political, social, or religious arena. Written in a clear, concise style, Roberto Cabello-Argandona’s Cinco De Mayo: A Symbol of Mexican Resistance provides the reader with a very brief, yet well-documented history of Mexico’s struggle for independence.

Divided into two parts, the first provides a brief historical background on the country—from its beginnings as a Spanish Colony to the French Intervention in Mexico which eventually led to the Battle at Puebla on May Fifth, 1862. It was during this battle that the French army, under command of General Latrille, Count of Lorencez, was defeated by the undermanned forces of Mexican resistance fighters. It is due to this victory at Puebla that Cinco de Mayo continues to be celebrated in both Mexico and the United States.

The second part of the book consists of a collection of patriotic poems written for the El Nuevo Mundo, a newspaper published in San Francisco on Cinco Mayo (the Fifth of May). These poems were collected, edited, and translated by Luis Torres as part of his book, The World of Early Chicano Poetry, 1846-1910 (Encino CA, 1992). These poems celebrate the victorious Battle at Puebla, and also possess the quintessence of Chicano pride among those Mexican-Americans living in San Francisco in 1862. Mr. Torres provides the reader with historical backgrounds for each series, and uses the original Spanish versions combined with excellent translations for non-bilingual readers.

This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in Chicano studies, and is a suitable addition to any school, academic, or public library with a strong multicultural collection.

--Rob McCabe, Detroit MI


Slim is a 65-year-old Chicago mechanic. He and most of his tablemates at Valois Cafeteria are African-American. Slim’s Table is a view of slim’s world as it revolves around this neighborhood meeting place.

Mitchell Duneier, a White sociologist, lived in an integrated University of Chicago community and became a regular at the restaurant. In this slim volume, we get to know a half dozen or so of the other regulars at Valois—men who eat and socialize there.

What is immediately apparent from the portrait of these men’s lives is that we don’t recognize them. We don’t see crane operators in the media, or retired butchers, or social workers. The image of Black men presented in movies, TV, magazines and newspapers is of criminals, gang members or the solid middle class. With the paucity of interracial friendship, these images become the reality for millions of non-Blacks.

The author manages to minimize the White-social-scientist-peering-in-at-minority-subculture syndrome. He was friends first, accepted by the Valois crowd and then open about his decision to write the book. Most of the dialogue appears to be remembered conversation rather than taped interview.

There is nothing remarkable about Duneier’s subjects. They work, eat, talk and live in quiet dignity. But, in the context of an information system unwilling to portray the everyday lives of plain folk, the book is quite remarkable.

--Rob Lerman, Woburn Public Library, Woburn MA

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