

SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table
of the American Library Association

June 1997

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FROM THE COORDINATOR

Midwinter was held rather late this year, so Annual Conference is fast approaching. In the last several months, SRRT Action Council members have been busy: updating the SRRT brochure, getting to know new OLOS director Satia Orange, planning meetings and programs for Annual, and writing a letter to ALA's Executive Board about the qualifications and salary for the ALA Executive Director position. (The letter is reprinted elsewhere in this issue.) We also heard from Oklahoma SRRT and it's official: Oklahoma SRRT is our newest state affiliate!

Looking forward to San Francisco, where we'll be continuing the experiment with our new schedule:

Action Council I/All Task Force Meeting
Saturday, June 28, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm
(All Task Forces meet 9:30 - 11:00; Action Council meets 11:00 - 12:30)

SRRT General Membership Meeting
Sunday, June 29, 1997, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Action Council II
Monday, June 30, 1997, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

See elsewhere in this newsletter for SRRT Task Force meetings and check your Annual Conference program for room assignments and last-minute

changes. All SRRT members are invited to Action Council and, of course, the General Membership Meeting!

I'd like to thank Action Council members-at-large **Roland Hansen, Mark Martin, and Madeleine Tainton**, whose terms are expiring after Annual. Roland is not running for reelection, and he has served us well as SRRT Treasurer for the last several years, so he will be very missed! A special thank you, too, to **Carol Reid**, who is finishing up her three-year stint as *Newsletter* editor.

This brings me to the topic of appointments for various SRRT positions. In San Francisco, we will need to appoint a new *SRRT Newsletter* editor, and we will have a vacancy on the Newsletter Editorial Board. We also need someone to be our liaison to the ALA Standing Committee on Membership. And we need to select a coordinator, treasurer, and secretary for next year. If you are interested in any of these positions, please let me know before Annual!

Thanks, and see you in SF!

—Wendy Thomas, SRRT Coordinator
wendy@radcliffe.edu

TASK FORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT



Sunday, June 29, 1997, 9:30 - 11:00 am

“Watching the Left: What Librarians Need to Know”
Panel discussion with Michael Parenti and David Barsamian; chaired by **Charles Willett**, Co-chair of the AIP Task Force.

What is the “Left”? Should libraries provide facts and ideas that governments suppress, corporate publishers and vendors don’t distribute, schools and universities don’t teach, review journals don’t mention, radio and TV don’t broadcast? Or not? Meet Michael Parenti, leading political analyst, and David Barsamian, founder of Alternative Radio. Learn about false consciousness: blaming victims instead of victimizers, welfare moms instead of welfare corporations, feminists and minorities instead of sexists and racists, fabricated adversaries instead of the military-industrial complex. Where do librarians stand?

Sunday, June 29, 1997, 2:00 - 4:00 pm

“Outsourcing Book Selection and Cataloging in Hawaii: A Critical Examination”

Presented by the AIP Hawaii Working Group; moderated by **Patricia Wallace**, Montessori Magnet School teacher and Early Childhood specialist; SLIS graduate student at Texas Woman’s University; Chair, Hawaii Working Group.

The Hawaii Model of outsourcing differs radically from approval plans, collection profiles, and other common collection aids. Find out what happened when the entire book budget and core library functions of materials selection and cataloging were handed over to a private corporation for 5 ½ years. Hawaii librarians will detail the history, implementation, and impact of this approach.

Speakers:

Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger, Hennepin County Library, Minnetonka MN
Norman Fitzpatrick, Young Adult Librarian, Kaneohe Public Library, Oahu HI
Deborah Gutermuth, Reference & A/V Librarian, Kaneohe Public Library, Oahu HI
Sarah Preble, Fine Arts Librarian, Hawaii State Library, Honolulu HI
Stephanie Strickland, Branch Manager, Waikiki-Kapahula Public Library, Oahu HI
Carol Tomioka, Reference Librarian, Hawaii State Library, Honolulu HI
Charles Willett, Publisher, CRISES Press; Editor, Counterpoint

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Editor: Carol Reid
Assistant Editor: Ian Duckor
Editorial Board: Carolynne Myall, Mark Rosenzweig, Madeleine Tainton

DEADLINE FOR SEPT. 1997 ISSUE: 28 JULY 1997

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Monday, June 30, 1997, 9:30 - 11:00 am

"Beyond the Valley of the Mega-publishers:
Dangerous Reviews"

Prepare to be cross-pollinated! Bang-up oral reviews of non-mainstream, under-reviewed library materials. Hot tips and "fave" recommendations for everything from adult comics and small press books to seditious tracts and zines. Get ready for independent videos, irresistible "little magazines," and bilingual children's books. Find out about the coolest lesbian and gay lit, ethnic newspapers, and mail-order catalogs. Checklists will be provided ... and overly wordy reviewers bopped with Nerf projectiles.

Reviewers:

Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger, Hennepin County Library & Coeditor, *Alternative Library Literature*
Cathy Camper, Art/Music/Video Dept., Minneapolis Public Library

James P. Danky, Newspapers/Periodicals Librarian, State Historical Society of Wisconsin and Coeditor, *Alternative Library Literature*

Jan DeSirey, AV Cataloger, Hennepin County Library

Chris Dodge, Editor, *MSRRT Newsletter* ("Library Alternatives")

R. Seth Friedman, Editor, *Factsheet Five*

Elaine Harger, Head Librarian, New Jersey Historical Society

Mev Miller, Women's Presses Library Project

Monday, June 30, 1997, 6:00 - 9:00 pm

FREE SPEECH BUFFET

AIP held its first Free Speech Buffet at the ALA annual conference in San Francisco five years ago. Join us for this pleasant reunion. Meet small press and alternative publishers from the Bay area. Browse local books, magazines, comics, and zines from this diverse cultural metropolis. Relaxed atmosphere. Free food. Cash bar. Latino-Hispanic Community Meeting Room, SFPL, lower level, Grove Street and Hyde at BART stop.

FORTHCOMING BOOK

The Hawaii Outsourcing Disaster: Libraries Betrayed will include readings and commentary about the 5 ½ year contract signed in 1996 between the Hawaii State Public Library System and book wholesaler Baker & Taylor. Private email to members of the Hawaii Working Group and messages from librarians and patrons who have expressed their views on listservs; the text of legislation recently proposed in Hawaii; and commentary from the press and library journals on the implications of the Hawaii outsourcing model for libraries everywhere will be presented.

This book is being produced by SRRT's Alternatives in Print Task Force, Hawaii Working Group. Editors are **Patricia D. Wallace**, chair of the Hawaii Working Group, and **Earl Lee**, head of Collection Management, Leonard H. Axe Library, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, KS. It will be published by CRISES Press sometime this summer (ISBN 0-9640119-6-4, ca 120 pages, pbk. \$20.00).

To preorder, contact:
Charles Willett, Publisher
CRISES Press
1716 SW Williston Road
Gainesville, FL 32608
352-335-2200; email: willett@afn.org

Charles Willett is also the editor of *Counterpoise*, a new quarterly, ALA-sponsored review journal for evaluating English-language materials in all formats that are ignored or slighted by mainstream review journals.

ENVIRONMENT



The Task Force on the Environment has invited several extremely qualified speakers to its programs for this year's ALA Annual Meeting.

"Environmental Education Resources for the 21st Century" (Sunday, June 29, 1:00 - 4:00 pm, check your program for location) will examine various information resources for K-12, college, and university classrooms and field settings. Speakers from the U.S. federal government and private sector will comprise a panel describing their respective organizations' contributions to environmental education.

Paula Altman (U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Agency) will describe her efforts in compiling the annual "Energy Education Resources," one of the DOE's most popular works.

Matt Hammond (Voyage Publishing) will introduce "Science and the Environment," an exciting new Web-based information tool (with CD-ROM archives) for bringing scientific information into the classroom.

Jonda Byrd (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) will describe the environmental education activities of the agency and more specifically how the EPA Library meets the information needs of the environmental education community.

Jerry Kay from the San Francisco-based Science Interchange will be providing an overview of some new techniques for bringing the environmental message to students, using broadcast and other media. **Fred Stoss**, TFOE chair, will moderate this session.

"The Need for an Environmental Information Infrastructure" is a TFOE program nearly three years in the making (with several requests for a Part 2 at the 1998 Annual Meeting in D.C!) A panel of librarians and information specialists has been gathered to discuss their respective environmental information libraries, programs, and services. Each speaker will then provide perspective on the need to develop an environmental information infrastructure to better identify, coordinate services for, and disseminate environmental data and information to a broad-based, multidisciplinary, and expanding community of users.

Speakers:

Jerry Curry (University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory) will discuss the role of NASA's Earth Observing System's Distributed Active Archive Centers as a source of global change information;

Donna Alward and Joe Schumacher from the Consortium of International Earth Science Information Network and the Global Change Research Information Office will further describe the coordinated access to global change data and information resources through the CIESIN Gateway;

Anne Frondorf (National Biological Service) will describe efforts already underway in creating a national biological information infrastructure;

Susan Jover and other colleagues from the Congressional Information Service will describe Environment Abstracts and their efforts as a private-sector vendor in an environmental information infrastructure;

Sarah Feldstein from Libraries for the Future will describe LFF's ongoing activities in promoting public libraries' services, collections, programs, and other resources for the environmentalist.

Fred Stoss, TFOE Chair and Associate Librarian at SUNY Buffalo, will moderate this panel and provide a presentation on the efforts to create a National Library for the Environment within the proposed National Institute for the Environment.

TFOE BUSINESS MEETING

The Annual TFOE Business Meeting will be held as part of the SRRT All-Task Force Meeting on Saturday morning, June 28. TFOE will also use the allocated time to introduce other ALA members and conference attendees to this task force. Please feel free to attend this critical business meeting where new officers will be elected and program ideas for

the 1998 and 1999 Annual Conferences will be discussed. Bring a friend or colleague to this meeting and help them to learn more about TFOE.

EARTH DAY—HOW WE GOT THERE

What were you doing on the first Earth Day in 1970? I was a sophomore at Hartwick College in the western Catskill Mountains in Oneonta, New York. I attended the morning teach-ins at Pine Lake, a newly acquired property of the college (now the Pine Lake Environmental Center). As luck would have it, several of us just happened to have our fly rods and waders in the trunk of Bob McNamara's Olds. We set our own agenda, created our "independent study," and celebrated the Earth and all its bounties under the first REAL spring skies of 1970. That night we dined on freshly caught trout. In the Lutheran tradition (Hartwick was still then a Lutheran school) the trout were washed down with a nice, cold, dark, German lager.

"Earth Day is a commitment to make life better, not just bigger and faster; to provide real rather than rhetorical solutions. It is a day to reexamine the ethic of individual progress at mankind's expense. It is a day to challenge the corporate and government leaders who promise change, but who shortchange the necessary programs. It is a day for looking beyond tomorrow. April 22 seeks a future worth living."—Environmental Teach-In advertisement appearing in the *New York Times*, January 18, 1970

The legacy of environmental thought in the decades prior to the first Earth Day gave birth to the event in 1970. A body of environmental literature emerged in the United States and traced its roots to the colonial

and post-Revolutionary War periods. The writings of Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, and George Perkins in the latter half of the 19th and 20th century precipitated a philosophy and ethic of concern for nature. Others would be called upon to sustain that philosophy and ethic.

The “birth” of the contemporary environmental movement began with the 1949 publication of Aldo Leopold’s *Sand County Almanac*, considered by many to be one of the most important books on conservation. This environmental classic was preceded by the evolution of a contemporary wilderness ethic that began in 1935 with the publication of the first issue of the magazine *The Living Wilderness* by the Wilderness Society. The Society’s first director, Howard Zahniser, drafted the first version of a wilderness bill in 1955. The bill was introduced in the U.S. Senate by Hubert Humphrey (D-Minnesota) in 1956 and signed into law as the Wilderness Act by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964.

The celebratory event known as “Earth Day,” created in 1969, took place on April 22, 1970. Earth Day found its initial inspiration in the 1950s and 1960s—decades marked by tremendous social and cultural awareness, times of activism and change. One cultural concept around which millions of people began to rally was the environment. Environmental concerns, which had been percolating for years, began rising to the surface of public consciousness.

The sinking of the super-tanker, Torrey Canyon, off the coast of England, was the first oil spill to dramatically show the catastrophic consequences of an environmental disaster.

The Cayahoga River in Cleveland, Ohio, caught on fire—twice—from an accumulation of debris and materials. Rachel Carson’s publication of *Silent Spring* was an impassioned call for a sensible assessment of the impacts of pesticides in the environment. Killer smogs were responsible for the untimely deaths of hundreds of people in larger cities around the world. The world’s largest freshwater ecosystem was being called the “Late Great Lakes,” as an accumulation of sewage and other pollutants rendered them inhabitable.

Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin) had become quite frustrated with the lack of environmental interest among his Senate colleagues. Hoping to stimulate more popular interest in the issues plaguing the environment, Nelson proposed a series of environmental learning experiences on college campuses across the nation. On the campus of Harvard University, law student Denis Hayes (trying to fulfill a course requirement) was helping to organize such an event in Cambridge and set out to Washington, DC, to interview Nelson. Nelson then made what is perhaps one of the most persuasive arguments to influence the way human beings look upon their environment. Nelson got the young, idealistic law student to concentrate his efforts on coordinating the nationwide activities that would become the first Earth Day.

April 22 was chosen for some very strategic reasons, from the viewpoint of the primary audience for which these “teach-ins” were being planned—the typical college student. The mid-week day of Wednesday was chosen for no other reason than it would be the least inconvenient for the students being called upon to participate in the event—there would be no

competition with weekend activities. The weather in the more northern states would be warming, it was after the annual "Spring Break" southern migrations, and it was well before final exams. Earth Day, April 22, 1970, coincided with the 100th birthday of Vladimir Lenin, and it was also the birthday of the original environmentalist, St. Francis of Assisi.

The practicality of it all—April 22 was selected for nothing more than a matter of convenience! The result was a spectacular demonstration called, simply, Earth Day. Public speeches, parade-like marches, rallies on college campuses, and teach-ins across the land launched the contemporary environmental movement. Earth Day was, up to that time, the largest demonstration in our history. Congress closed its doors as politicians went home to attend or participate in local events. An estimated 20 million Americans—students, teachers, officials, and others—voiced their concerns by taking part in the activities. The impact on the nation was tremendous.

Environmental organizations blossomed and the membership ranks of established conservation groups swelled. The U.S. legislative agenda, spurred on by the earlier passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the creation of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, was filled with revisions of the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act. By the end of the year a reorganization of the government would see the establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Twenty-seven years later, Earth Day is a well-organized and well-funded event, which will see more than 200 million people worldwide in over 140 countries show their support for the environment.

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Recycling, rainforests, hazardous wastes, global warming, and acid rain—these are the topics on which a new generation focuses its concerns.

FEMINIST ♀

The Feminist Author Breakfast will be held Sunday, June 28, from 8:30 to 11:00 am. The theme for this year's Breakfast is "The Patchwork Quilt of Feminism." It will feature Jewelle Gomez, author of *The Gilda Stories* and *Swords of the Rainbow*, a book of essays called *Forty-three Septembers*, and several collections of poetry; and Ginu Kamani, author of a collection of short stories entitled *Junglee Girl*. Another author/speaker is yet to be booked.

For ticket information, please contact:

Dottie Granger

Pacific Oaks College

5 Westmoreland Place

Pasadena, CA 91103

D_GRANGER@convene.com

—**Kristin Carlson** (carlson@uic.edu)

and **Veronda Pitchford** (vjpitch@uic.edu)

Feminist Task Force Co-coordinators

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL ▽

The following schedule lists the GLBTF meetings and events scheduled for ALA Annual 1997 in San Francisco. Please check your conference program for locations.

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Additionally, the following website will provide a list of the schedule and social events:
http://calvin.usc.edu/~trimmer/ala_hp.html.

GLBTF Steering Committee I, Sat 6/28,
9:30 - 11:00 am (SRRT All TF)
ALA SRRT All TF, Sat 6/28,
9:30 - 11:00 am
ALA SRRT Action Council I, Sat 6/28,
11:00 am -12:30 pm
GLBTF Book Awards Committee, Sat 6/28,
2:00 - 4:00 pm
GLBTF Social - SFPL, Sat 6/28, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

GLBTF PPC, Sun 6/29, 9:30 - 11:00 am
ALA SRRT General Membership Meeting, Sun 6/29,
11:30 am - 12:30 pm

GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast, Mon 6/30,
8:00 - 10:30 am
GLBTF Program, Mon 6/30, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm
GLBTF Membership Meeting, Mon 6/30,
2:00 - 4:00 pm
ALA SRRT Action Council II, Mon 6/30,
2:00 - 4:00 pm
GLBTF Read-Aloud, Mon 6/30, 8:00 - 10:00 pm

GLBTF Steering Committee II, Tue 7/1,
8:30 - 11:00 am

1997 BOOK AWARDS BREAKFAST

On Monday, June 30, 8:00 - 10:30 am, in the Barcelona 2 Ballroom, Crowne Plaza Parc 55, 55 Cyril Magnin St., San Francisco—join with librarians, publishers, authors, and readers to honor the 1997 winners of the oldest gay, lesbian, and

bisexual books awards in the United States: Fenton Johnson, *Geography of the Heart* (Scribner) and Emma Donoghue, *Hood* (HarperCollins). The breakfast is a fundraiser to endow the Book Awards and to ensure their future. There will be a full sit-down breakfast, with door prizes and giveaways. Keynote speakers (in addition to the winning authors) are: Wickie Stamps, lesbian author and editor of *Drummer* magazine, and David Tuller, gay reporter for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and author of *Cracks in the Iron Closet*. Be sure to make your reservations—\$30 before June 2, \$35 after June 2. Indicate if vegetarian. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF. Send to: **Roland Hansen**, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL 60603. For more information, contact **Joseph Eagan**, email: jeagan@epfl2.epflbalto.org, phone: 410-396-4042.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the 1998 Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards are now being accepted. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Book Awards are presented to English-language works published in the year prior to the announcement date. All books published in December 1996 or the first eleven months of 1997 are eligible. The awards, which consist of a commemorative plaque and a cash stipend, are announced in February and presented to the winning authors or editors at a breakfast during the ALA Annual Conference. The awards are given in two categories: Literature and Nonfiction.

Nominations for the Book Awards may be made by any individual not affiliated with the publisher of the book being nominated. Authors may not nominate

their own works. A short statement (30-50 words) describing why the book is being nominated must accompany the nomination, and be submitted to the Committee Chair by November 30, 1997. Mail must be postmarked by the nomination deadline. Nominations will be accepted by regular and electronic mail, as well as by fax. Nominations may be sent to:

Faye A. Chadwell

Chair-Elect, GLBTF Book Award Committee
Collection Development
Knight Library
1299 University of Oregon
Eugene, OR 97403-1299

Phone: 503-346-1819

Fax: 503-346-3485

Email: chadwelf@oregon.uoregon.edu

GAY PRIDE PARADE

The GLBTF's Local Arrangements Committee has organized our participation in the S.F. Gay Pride Parade. The Parade will take place on Sunday, June 29th. More specific information will be announced at all ALA Annual GLBTF meetings.

LIBERATING MINDS

The ALA/SRRT/GLBTF is proud to be the cosponsor of two readings/signings of a new international collection which is the first ever to examine the coming out experiences and professional lives of gay, lesbian, and bisexual librarians in the United States, Canada, Germany, and New Zealand. *Liberating Minds* contains over 30 selections, most never before

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published—from narratives, memoirs, short stories, research papers, speeches, letters, and interviews. It also includes an inspiring foreword by Cal Gough. A secondary aim of the book is to highlight the issues posed by our advocates—namely, queer booksellers, library users, and volunteer community archivists.

Kester, N. G. (Ed.). (1997). *Liberating Minds: The Stories and Professional Lives of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Librarians and their Advocates*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Co.

Please also know that the editor will be present at the readings as well as the second annual GLBTF Book Awards Breakfast for signing and selling copies of the new monograph.

"Liberating Minds—Reading/Signing"

Monday, June 30
Different Light Bookstore
489 Castro Street
Tel: 415-431-0891
Time: 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Readers:

Robert B. Marks Ridinger, Michael S. Montgomery, J. Mcree (Mac) Elrod, Martha Cornog, Robert Evans, Martha E. Stone, Deborah Ann Turner, Jol Sartorius, David Garnes, Honor Conklin, Hollie Edwards, Steven Riel, Ina Rimpau, Anthony J. Adam, Kimberly-Lei Mistysyn, Violet Clifford

"Liberating Minds—Major Reading/Signing"

Tuesday, July 1
San Francisco Public Library
Eureka Valley Harvey Milk Memorial Branch
Library

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3555 16 Street, San Francisco

Tel: 415-554-9446

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Refreshments will be served.

Readers:

Sanford Berman, Israel Fishman, Jim Van Buskirk, Joanne Abel, Nancy Blood, Kenn Bicknell, Heike Seidel, Barbara Gomez, Pauline M. Klein, Dr. James V. Carmichael, Jr., Jill Holman, David Gantt, Cal Gough, Gerald Perry, Bonita Corliss, Norman Kester, Dr. Alvin M. Schrader

NO KIDIN' AROUND

The GLBTF Program Planning Committee is proud to announce the Annual GLBTF program "No KIDin' Around: Womyn's Press in the New Millennium."

The program will immediately follow the GLBTF's Annual Book Awards Breakfast, Monday morning, June 30, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm.

Speakers:

Carol Seajay, editor, *Feminist Bookstore News*
Nancy Bereano, publisher, Firebrand Books
Mev Miller, Women's Presses Library Project
Jewelle Gomez, author

If you would like to help with this or future programs, please attend the Program Planning Committee meetings during our Annual and Midwinter conferences. See the meeting schedule in this issue. (Or contact the PPC chair, **Michael J. Miller**, Columbia University, 212-854-5159 FAX x2495, miller@columbia.edu.)

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POSITIONS OPEN

The GLBTF will be electing a new Male Co-chair and Program Planning Chair during ALA Annual 1997. If you are interested in these positions in serving on any GLBTF Committee (or know of someone who would be), please contact **Cal Zunt** at: mzunt@phoenix.kent.edu. You should also attend the GLBTF Membership Meeting, Monday, June 30, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, and vote. Nominations remain open until moments before the vote so come on down and run!

LOOKING AHEAD

The GLBTF will be discussing our initiatives for Midwinter in New Orleans and also for Annual 1998 during ALA Annual 1997. As you may recall, our topic was leaning toward "Pink Information," wedded to the conference theme of Global access. We were talking about focusing speakers on various user population levels such as teens, parents, school administrators, etc. Come with fresh ideas.

—Cal Zunt

HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

The Social Responsibilities Round Table Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, & Poverty, invites you to a compelling discussion of "Fees and Fines: Barriers to Library Use" at the Annual Conference on Saturday, June 28, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. The elimination of economic barriers to library use will be explored by four antipoverty and intellectual freedom activists: John N. Berry, editor-in-chief, *Library Journal*; Gordon M. Conable, director, Monroe

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County (Michigan) Library System; Melissa Riley, librarian, San Francisco Public Library; and James Chaffee, editor, *The Original*. Key issues to be discussed include the impact of library charges on various groups of users and how libraries can become less dependent on fines and fees as revenue sources. We hope this program will challenge your notions regarding the library's impact on the economically disadvantaged.

—Kim Edson

SRRT BOOTH STAFFING REMINDER

We agreed at the DC Action Council meeting to try and share staffing of the SRRT booth during the upcoming conference in San Francisco. Each task force should recruit members and take responsibility for some time. Since some task forces are larger and others are smaller, the smaller ones can volunteer for a half-day instead of a whole. Below is a list of open times. As you can see, there are many! Please sign your task force up and return to **Peggy D'Adamo** (email: mdadamo@welchlink.welch.jhu.edu; phone: 410-659-6256) as soon as possible. Thanks.

Saturday, June 28, 9-5 — AIP Task Force
Sunday, June 29, 9-1
Sunday, June 29, 1-5
Monday, June 30, 9-1
Monday, June 30, 1-5
Tuesday, July 1, 9-12
Tuesday, July 1, 12-3

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

April 7, 1997

Executive Board
American Library Association
50 East Huron
Chicago, IL 60611

Dear Executive Board:

We are writing to register concern about the qualifications and compensation package for the new Executive Director of the American Library Association.

As members of the Social Responsibilities Round Table's Action Council, we feel strongly that the minimum qualifications for the Executive Director position be amended to include the MLS degree. ALA's Executive Director will head an organization of over 55,000 professional librarians and will be required to lead us as we cope with some of the difficult issues facing the association and the profession. In order to do so, he or she must have the minimum professional qualification for this field. We urge that this qualification be applied to the current search and to all future advertisements for this position.

In addition, we are extremely concerned about the compensation package for this position. The total annual compensation for the Executive Director should be competitive with salaries for major library system directors in the U.S. In no event should the salary exceed \$150,000.

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Sincerely,

Josephine Anemaet	Al Kagan
Carol Barta	Linda Pierce
Sam Bennett	Carol Reid
Sanford Berman	Mark Rosenzweig
Bonita Corliss	Frederick W. Stoss
Peggy D'Adamo	Wendy Thomas
Kim Edson	Charles Willett
Yvonne Farley	cc:
Sanford Goin	<i>Library Journal</i>
Dorothy Granger	<i>School Library Journal</i>
Elaine Harger	<i>Library Hotline</i>
Steven Harris	<i>American Libraries</i>

DON'T B&T ON IT

Following is a set of letters representing exchanges between representatives of Baker & Taylor and Charles Willett as Co-coordinator of AIP with regard to B&T's desire (tantamount to a demand) to be included in our panel in SF this summer. Also included are my comments directed to the issues of why it is "appropriate" for AIP and HWG as a subgroup to be concerned about the Hawaii outsourcing contract and our point of view as to why we refuse to accommodate B&T's pressure (exerted via the President of ALA!) to include them on our panel and in fact, ANY panel by ANY subgroup of ALA dealing with the issue of outsourcing. I think it is an extraordinary exchange from several points of view.

1. It is important for other SRRT members to see B&T in operation, going straight to the President of ALA, as one CEO to another, to control the masses, so to speak. In this case, B&T wanted ALA to

prevent us from operating independently of their direct supervision and they wanted ALA to take the position that B&T had a right to be represented in any future discussions re outsourcing and re collection development in the mission of libraries and librarians.

2. It is important for other SRRT members to see us act in a way totally in contrast to the way that ALCTS and LITA subgroups act in re whether or not we feel compelled to provide a platform for vendors, wholesalers, and other commercial library support services for serious discussions of philosophical issues that are the appropriate concerns of library professionals.

3. It is useful to enter into a discussion of just in what way people who support the mission of AIP might view the contributions they can make to the grander discussion of the pros and cons of "total" outsourcing.

—Pat Wallace

January 10, 1997
Ms. Mary R. Somerville
President, American Library Association
Director, Miami-Dade Public Library System

Dear Ms. Somerville:

The outsourcing of library support services is neither a new concept nor practice. In fact, over the years, many libraries have outsourced their technical services to wholesalers and other vendors. Recent trends in the library marketplace, including the influence of restrictive budgets, increased focus on operating efficiencies, patron demand for higher levels of service, and in some cases expansion projects, have ignited interest in the concept of outsourcing at ever-increasing levels of wholesaler and vendor service.

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Outsourcing services such as general collection development is a new and innovative alternative to library management intended to provide the library and its patrons with quality products and quality services at competitive prices. This interest in turn has sparked a philosophical debate regarding the role played by commercial vendors who assume non-traditional support responsibilities including, and in particular, collection development functions. It is a concept that deserves an open and balanced discussion.

On Monday, January 6, 1997, the Alternatives in Print Task Force of the ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table announced the formation of the Hawaii Working Group. The purpose of the group is "... to publish a book and present a program (at ALA Annual, San Francisco) criticizing the Hawaii State Library System's outsourcing contract with Baker & Taylor." Baker & Taylor is extremely disappointed that a unit of the American Library Association has made a decision to focus on a unique, singular, commercial business relationship such as the contract between Baker & Taylor and the Hawaii State Library System, rather than the real issue at hand, the concept of outsourcing technical skills such as collection development. This is an issue with its foundation in the mission of the library, economics of library management and collection development philosophy.

It is also clear the task force has arrived at its critical conclusion without first examining all the facts involving all the concerned participants. Since Baker & Taylor employs more than forty degreed librarians and is a major provider of products and services to the library marketplace, we believe the views of all the professionals involved need to be included and presented. We are extremely disappointed by this biased direction as opposed to the balanced, professional approach we expect from the American Library Association.

A public forum to discuss the concept of outsourcing these higher levels of service with representatives from all areas

SRRT Newsletter

of the library field—librarians, wholesalers, integrated library system providers, bibliographic utilities and other vendors—will offer ALA members a balanced presentation of the facts. Baker & Taylor is open to participating in any such forum and believes that the ALA should focus on the full concept rather than the narrow scope.

As a longtime supporter of the American Library Association and its daily interactions with every library in the U.S., Baker & Taylor has always held the ALA in regard. We would appreciate the opportunity to participate in a future discussion concerning the concept of outsourcing. I will have Arnie Wight, Senior Vice President, Customized Library Services, contact you later today.

Sincerely,
Craig Richards
Chief Executive Officer

cc:
Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive Director
Linda Wallace, ALA Director Press Information
Peggy D'Adamo, SRRT, AIP
Charles Willett, SRRT, AIP

To: Charles Willett
Re: your response to Craig Richards

B&T and anyone else have been issued an offer to join! There is also the offer of "other ALA units and related organizations are invited to cosponsor this program." I think the word "criticizing" just pushed Mr. Richards' hot button.

Something Mr. Richards said pushed my hot button—"technical skills such as collection development." Building an automobile requires technical skills as does repairing a broken appliance. I find it hard to equate collection development as a technical skill. Maybe that is the reason B&T thinks anyone can do this from a location

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remote from the library. It gives us greater insight into their corporate thinking.

Aloha,

Stephanie Strickland

13 January 1997

Mr. Craig Richards
Chief Executive Officer
Baker & Taylor, Inc.

Dear Mr. Richards:

We are writing in response to your letter of 10 January 1997 to ALA President Mary Somerville. The Alternatives in Print Task Force (AIP) of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) does not represent ALA as a whole. It has a specific charge:

The Alternatives in Print Task Force advocates the selection of materials from small and alternative press publishers and independent producers for library collections by compiling directories, sponsoring programs, and producing reviews, articles, and exhibits.

By publishing a book criticizing the Hawaii Public Library System's contract with Baker & Taylor and offering a program at the ALA annual conference in San Francisco, AIP is carrying out its responsibilities to the library community as an advocate of greatly enlarging user access to the diverse viewpoints, cultures, and lifestyles which the small and alternative press present. AIP does not claim to have the last word about the Hawaii contract or to present balanced conclusions in what you have rightly called a philosophical debate.

Philosophy, the love and pursuit of wisdom, considers all points of view. Instead of accusing AIP of "bias" and lack of "balance," you should welcome our contributions. You

are a businessman, representing the large commercial corporation which won the Hawaii contract. It is a mistake for you to arrogate the prerogatives of professional librarians and to lecture us about "the mission of the library, economics of library management and collection development philosophy." Given the top-down tone of your letter to Mary Somerville, written from one chief executive officer to another, in which you suggest that she intervene to subvert our responsibilities within ALA and to curtail our freedom of speech, we wonder how much freedom the "more than forty degreed librarians" employed by Baker & Taylor enjoy to express their own professional concerns.

Your use of the word "balance" implies only two sides, but the Hawaii contract has many facets. Doubtless, Baker & Taylor and the leadership of the Hawaii Public Library System will find opportunities to present their own versions of reality. In addition, your competitors, as well as various ALA units, librarians, publishers, politicians, and members of the press and the library public may also wish to contribute their opinions. When all these points of view have been put forward, the philosophical debate that we all cherish can begin.

In preparing our book and our program about the Hawaii Public Library System's contract with Baker & Taylor, AIP invites your input. We will consider your information fairly and with respect. We request, however, that it specifically address our charge, as given above. The program scheduled for Sunday, 29 June 1997, in San Francisco, is only two hours long, barely enough time for our panelists to present their perspectives. We will reserve time at the end for questions and discussion.

We hope that our book and program will contribute to more effective library/vendor contracts in the future. There are indications that several other vendors are more adept than Baker & Taylor in supplying diverse points of view to libraries through small and alternative press publications.

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The Alternatives in Print Task Force would welcome an invitation from you, Mr. Richards, to work with your staff to help your company improve its performance in this vital area.

Sincerely,

Margaret D'Adamo, Co-coordinator, Alternatives in Print Task Force, ALA/SRRT

Charles Willett, Co-coordinator, Alternatives in Print Task Force, ALA/SRRT

Patricia Wallace, Chair, Hawaii Working Group, ALA/SRRT/AIP

cc:

Mary Somerville, President, ALA

Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive Director

Mary Ghikas, Associate Executive Director, ALA

Wendy Thomas, Coordinator, SRRT Action Council

Linda Wallace, Director, Public Information Office, ALA

Gordon Flagg, Managing Editor, *American Libraries*

Subject: Letter from Baker & Taylor

To: sberman ET AL (Hawaii Working Group)

From: Charles Willett

Date: Feb 2, 1997

The following letter, dated 28 January 1997, was addressed to Charles Willett, Co-coordinator, Alternatives in Print Task Force, ALA/SRRT, from Arnie Wright, Senior Vice President, Customized Library Services, Baker & Taylor, with copies to Peggy D'Adamo (sent to my address); Mary Ghikas, ALA Associate Director; Elizabeth Martinez, ALA Executive Director; Linda Wallace, ALA Director, Public Information; Craig Richards, CEO B&T Inc., and Jim Ulsamer, President B&T Books.

Dear Mr. Willett:

SRRT Newsletter

Thank you for your response to our concerns presented in our January 10, 1997, letter to ALA President Mary Somerville. Baker & Taylor hopes this is the opening of an ongoing exchange of information and viewpoints between Baker & Taylor, other interested parties, the Alternatives in Print Task Force and the American Library Association in general. Our main interest is to assure a public forum for libraries, librarians, library marketplace vendors, publishers, politicians and especially, the library patrons/taxpayers to express their views.

You have very clearly stated the specific charge of the Alternatives In Print Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table (AIP/SRRT) as:

"The Alternatives In Print Task Force advocates the selection of materials from small and alternative press publishers and independent producers for library collections by compiling directories, sponsoring programs and producing reviews, articles and exhibits." Baker & Taylor is a strong supporter of this concept and provides access and products from a wider range of publishers than any other library wholesaler.

The Internet information release from the AIP/SRRT, announcing the formation of the Hawaii Working Group, states the group's purpose is to "publish a book and present a program criticizing the Hawaii State Library System's outsourcing contract with Baker & Taylor." This announcement describes the scope for the group, which is to gather facts and opinions from all points of view about the contract. It also states that the group plans to publish a book of readings from the contract and from news reports, Internet discussions and other sources in order to acquaint librarians and the public with the many issues raised by this controversial agreement, which privatizes collection development and cataloging for the entire Hawaii Public Library System.

This approach seems to extend beyond your stated AIP/SRRT focus of enlarging user access to the diverse

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viewpoints, cultures and lifestyles which small and alternative press present. We welcome the AIP contribution, but also believe that there are many diverse groups inside ALA and in the library marketplace that have points of view required for a full discussion on the concept of outsourcing library support services. It is for this reason we believe the broader representation within ALA will provide the support and structure for a balanced and open public forum on all the issues and viewpoints in library service outsourcing.

Each library has unique conditions and requirements. By providing the forum for all views to be presented and discussed, ALA will be providing key information for each individual library's management to make the appropriate decision for their library.

Baker & Taylor would like to be an active participant in any reviews or discussions on library outsourcing. We hope the ALA and each of its operating units will take the opportunity to include us in these important processes. Please contact me directly at (908) 429-6414 in regards to the support and participation we can provide.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
Arnie Wight

Re: Our reply to B&T
To: Charles Willett and the Hawaii Working Group
From: Pat Wallace, Chair
Date: Feb. 2, 1997

Charles:

I don't think we are going beyond our mandate at all and we need to explain that to the man, because he doesn't really understand the concept of "alternative" and "diversity" as applied to Hawaii in particular and outsourcing in general. Here are some points to consider:

1. One of the major objections to outsourcing collection development and cataloging is that it removes the function of responding to a particular patron population away from those who live and work among that population on a day-to-day basis to a distant and more alien site, both physically and socio-psychologically. Baker & Taylor's suitability or lack of suitability as a selector of materials for Hawaii's readers does not reside with how many publishers are represented in their catalog! Somebody has to select which of those millions of books best meet the needs & interests of a particular user group. Even under the best of circumstances, which Hawaii certainly was not (i.e. even with adequate advance profiles, right of rejection, branch variations in profiles, active participation in selection policy and profile application by local librarians, etc. etc.), I don't think anyone honestly thinks a distant, huge corporate vendor can duplicate the sensitivity of experienced local library professionals. And that's what advocates of full access to small press, alternative press materials are after—i.e. the ability to fine-tune your collection to a unique mix of interests/needs.

2. What you get when you outsource is, among other things, response to stereotypes and statistical norms, not actual diversity. Go back and read the 14 letters from Hawaii patrons I've posted. In the most recent, Chris Eubanks says: "They have sent tons of bestsellers—way too many copies for our needs. They have sent every barbecue cookbook published in the last year because I assume Baker & Taylor thinks we cook outside for every meal. They have also sent any anthology of Chinese, Japanese or Korean short stories, cookbooks, history, you name it. Every book published on golf in the last year has also been sent. B&T doesn't seem to realize that golfers golf. They don't come to the library to read about it."

Add to that the 34 copies of *Practical Guide to Lambs & Lambing* sent to a place where NO-ONE raises sheep, the Black Hip Pop literature like Dennis Rodman's "Bad As I Wanna Be" (Post 13, Dorothy Turnbull), the stupid Disney kiddie books instead of local press renditions of

indigenous folktales ... and you have a devastating example of lack of sensitivity at work. Read also Letter #7, Jay Kwak, who represents aggrieved Koreans and Hawaiians of Korean ancestry who were simply cut out of the database completely in the outsourcing specifications (too 'minority' a minority with all those other Asian groups to represent!)

So, the simple point is, our group opposes outsourcing collection development, period, no matter what the vendor!!!!!! And we are downright appalled at how B&T is impoverishing the collections in Hawaii.

Secondly, we ARE the only group planning an ALA presentation which directly represents the input and point of view of Hawaii librarians and Hawaii patrons and we feel obligated to focus a large portion of our time to letting them speak and present their information. We can be blunt in saying that actual experience has shown that when Baker & Taylor reps were present at open forums at which Hawaii patrons & librarians might have spoken, so much time was taken up by B&T reps who seemed devoid of any realization of what the grievances were that needed to be voiced, that the grievances had little time in which to be voiced!!! We intend to correct that imbalance. Once again, that is what "Alternatives" is all about! Give voice to the voiceless. Correct the balance of power and access. You know the routine better than I. Lay it on, and don't be reticent about it.

My two cents, Pat

Charles:

You asked if I had other thoughts about the B&T letter. Yes, I do.

>Our main interest is to assure a public forum for
>libraries, librarians, library marketplace vendors,
>publishers, politicians and especially, the library
>patrons/taxpayers to express their views.

This strikes me as very hypocritical considering that they have done absolutely nothing to provide such a forum in Hawaii and in fact they wrote into the contract that they would do nothing to defend the HSPLS against complaints, should they arise.

Why do they feel they have to tell ALA or us how to run our business? It's the hubris that appalls me. It is not open exchange of opinion they desire ... It is free publicity! It is spin control. Do they think we are too gullible not to see through their professions of devotion to true communication (aka advertising)?

>Baker & Taylor hopes this is the opening of an
>ongoing exchange of information and viewpoints
>between Baker & Taylor, other interested parties, the
>Alternatives in Print Task Force and the American
>Library Association in general.

Great! How many Forbes 500 folks have you had trying to get ALA presidents and SRRT/AIP coordinators sit down around the table with them? Take him up on it, if he is extending an invitation. But we are not putting him on our panel. That's an entirely different venue.

>We welcome the AIP contribution, but also believe
>that there are many diverse groups inside ALA and in
>the library marketplace that have points of view
>required for a full discussion on the concept of
>outsourcing library support services. It is for this reason
>we believe the broader representation within ALA will
>provide the support and structure for a balanced and
>open public forum on all the issues and viewpoints in
>library service outsourcing.

Since it is they who have referred to ALA's conventions as a "marketplace," then you might enquire as to the point of reference—a marketplace of ideas or a marketplace of competing providers of "library support services"?

If the former, then they should acknowledge that just as in the great democratic tradition of our country, various partisan groups sponsor their own panels and parades in political campaigns, so do the various professional subgroups within ALA put on their preferred forums for discussions of various issues. So ALCTS and LITA etc. are putting on theirs, in their style, and we are putting on ours, in our style. If he really means the latter, more commercial meatmarket, tell him we are not interested, we are not potential customers, so please accept that we are not interested in helping him hawk B&T's wares.

And the term "library support services" is a misnomer as applied to outsourced collection development. That never has been viewed as an ancillary activity. It always has been and still is a CORE FUNCTION... They had better start confronting that in their PR. To tiptoe around it with coy phrases like "co-sourcing" is not winning brownie points for integrity.

>By providing the forum for all views to be presented and
>discussed, ALA will be providing key information for
>each individual library's management to make the
>appropriate decision for their library.

If they are agitating for ALA to somehow provide a collection of information about outsourcing selections to be available to libraries trying to consider its pros and cons, that is a good idea. Let ALA commission a study or a monograph, and invite HWG to contribute to it. Of course it would have to include the Hawaii "case study" with all the unflattering details about B&T's inadequate, lackluster, and in some cases fraudulent performance. But we don't mind.

>Baker & Taylor would like to be an active participant in
>any reviews or discussions on library outsourcing. We
>hope the ALA and each of its operating units will take
>the opportunity to include us in these important
>processes. Please contact me directly at (908) 429-6414

>in regards to the support and participation we can
>provide.

I think we should devise a way to take B&T up on this proposal. I would welcome a serious, scholarly presentation from them of just why they think this is the right time and circumstance for the information services profession to abandon its historically core function of collection development and contract it out to profit-making institutions. We could find any number of publishers for such an essay. But they would have to put their best researchers to work collecting bibliographic background so they could place their arguments within the context of scholarly discussions (pro and con) which has preceded them.

If they prefer not to be scholarly, hey, I'll sit down and shoot the bull with Arnie anytime he wants.

—Pat Wallace

A PROGRESSIVE PROPOSAL

The following message was posted to the ALA Council listserv on April 23, 1997:

This is an invitation to any and all members of Council who feel the need for the creation of a Progressive Council Caucus to contact me to help organize such a group and formulate its goals.

It is my feeling that there is a need for concerted action in ALA Council by those who are disaffected with the mainstream consensus on issues of vital importance to the profession. The agenda-setting by the existing Council Caucus is just another barrier to full-blooded democratic debate in the Council and a further disenfranchisement of the membership. Dissident councillors, activists, advocates, representatives of minorities, proponents of social

responsibility and of the need for diversity, critics of techno-mania and techno-vandalism. We need not agree about everything, we need not all be of the same political persuasion, but I feel there are enough of us who are concerned with the erosion of democracy in the Association, its dereliction of responsibility in defending the idea of a non-librarian as a possible Executive Director, the destruction of the means for effective membership input, the inability to effectively address issues like the B&T scandal and the related Hawaii outsourcing, the cowardice on international human rights issues, the management/elite orientation in general that predominates in Council, the cooling of Council's ardor for intellectual freedom when difficult cases arise, and its overall intolerance of differences and dissidence.

If there are any of you out there who feel that there is the possibility of forming some kind of progressive bloc in the Association, who have any ideas about how to formulate an alternative "program" for the profession to guide our work in Council and to make our interventions more effective, please get in touch with me. There is no reason why we can't coordinate the efforts of the ethnic caucuses, the feminist and gay caucuses, the Black caucus, and the SRRT and other progressives. We might be able to make a difference. At least our voices will be less likely to be drowned out.

As for those who find this idea appalling, as I'm sure some on this list do, your comments too are welcome in response to this call. Perhaps they can help clarify for others who hesitate to accept that things are so bad that such a caucus is actually needed.

Sincerely,

SRRT Newsletter

Prof. **Mark C. Rosenzweig**
Councillor-at-large
Axinn Library, Hofstra University
516-463-6529; 212-865-6925

STATE SRRT CONFERENCE

A Joint Conference of the Washington and Oregon Library Associations was held in Portland, OR, April 24-26, with over 1000 library workers from the two states attending. The Washington State SRRT was responsible for four programs at the conference, including "The Ethical Library: Responsibilities to Our Users and Staff in the Information Age," "Community Resources: Quandaries and Cooperation," "East, West and Central: Early Librarians in Washington State," and "Handling Grief in the Workplace." All the programs were well attended and WSRRT was a valuable contributor to the overall program. Other interesting conference programs dealt with the Hawaii outsourcing controversy, Spanish-speaking patrons, and a program on gay/lesbian/bisexual materials presented by students at the University of Washington Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

At the annual business meeting, discussion took place regarding a WSRRT website, programming for next year's conference and the WSRRT newsletter. New officers were also chosen: the new Chair is **Shirley Lewis**, Washington State Library; Vice Chair is **Jonathan Betz-Zall**, Edmonds Public Library; and Newsletter Editor is **Konny Thompson**, Gonzaga University. Jonathan also agreed to be the WSRRT representative to ALA SRRT.

—Linda Pierce

June 1997

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