



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

April 1982

Number 63

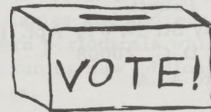
COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The following candidates for ALA Council are SRRT supporters, past and present. We urge you to consult this list when marking the ballot for new Council members...

Daniel Casey, Trustee, Onondaga County PL, Syracuse, NY; Mary Biblo, Univ. of

Chicago Lab Schools; Josephine Riss Fané, Simmons College Lib. School; Joan Coddard, San Jose (CA) PL; Diane Cordon Kadanoff, Norwell (MA) PL; Elizabeth Morrissett, Montana College of Mineral Sci. & Tech, Butte; Eric Moon, Crolier, Inc. (FL); Elliott Shelkrot, Pennsylvania State Library; Susan J. Vaughan, Brooklyn College Lib; Jana Varlejs, Rutgers Univ Lib. School; Leslie Burk Chamberlin,

Napa County (CA) PL; Bill Calaway; Jean Clarridge Pelletiere, Union College Lib, Schenectady, NY; Nasser Sharify, Pratt Institute Lib. School, Brooklyn (NY); Audrey B. Eahlen, Cuyahoga County PL, Cleveland (OH); Olive E. James, Library of Congress, Washington, DC; Doreitha Madden, New Jersey State Library, Trenton.



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QUICK NOTES

PHILADELPHIA '82

Since SRRT will have no hospitality suite at Philadelphia, the SRRT booth can be used to give and receive messages. Volunteers are needed to greet visitors to the booth and to answer questions. If Task Forces want items to be displayed at the booth, either single copies for display purposes or multiple copies for distribution, samples should be sent to the booth managers for planning purposes. Send names of volunteers and/or sample items to:

William J. Calaway
Head, Adult Services
Arlington Heights Memorial Library
500 N. Dunton Avenue
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

SRRT STATE AFFILIATES

The SRRT Constitution states:

An Action Council consisting of ten SRRT members plus a representative from each task force selected by that task force, plus two members from state affiliates upon their approval by Action Council shall constitute the coordinating body for the Social Responsibilities Round Table.

Action Council is interested in identifying SRRT state affiliates and having them serve on the Council. Please send information about your group and names of those members who are interested in being part of the Action Council to:

Barbara J. Pruett, Coordinator
2734 Ordway St. N.W., Apt. 1
Washington, D.C. 20008

TASK FORCE COMMITTEES

ALA requires minutes of all meetings. Send the minutes of your Denver task force meetings to the SRRT Coordinator,

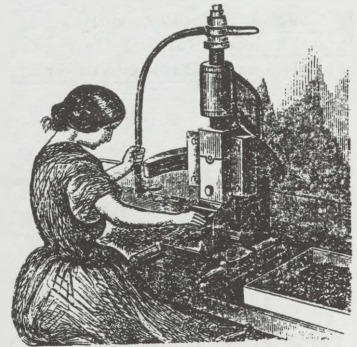
Barbara J. Pruett
2734 Ordway St. N.W., Apt. 1
Washington D.C. 20008

for forwarding to ALA.

THE SRRT NEWSLETTER

is published 4 times a year. Manuscripts and letters pertaining to editorial content should be sent to the editor at the Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201, attention of Doris Kirschbaum. Other correspondence should be sent to SRRT/ALA, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

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AGENT ORANGE

The Agent Orange Veterans Advisory Committee announces the publication of the Vietnam Map Book, A Self-Help Guide to Herbicide Exposure. Published by the Winter Soldier Archive, the map book has long been needed by Vietnam veterans seeking to document their exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides used in the military defoliation program in Southeast Asia.

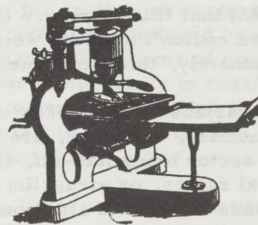
The map book includes 27 pages of maps of Vietnam, rainfall and grid coordinate maps, and an introductory section on "The Agent Orange Problem". In addition, the map book includes a methodology on how to plot spray missions and calculate areas of exposure as well as stateside maps for purposes of comparison. The remainder of the map book is made up of HERBS tape data -- the flight logs of aerial spray missions over Vietnam between 1965 and 1971. The book was prepared by Clark Smith, Director of the Winter Soldier Archive (a center for Vietnam War documentation) and by Don Watkins, a veteran of HHB, 9th Infantry Division, Don Tam, Vietnam.

In order to receive compensation for service-connected disabilities, Vietnam veterans are required to demonstrate to the Veterans Administration how they know they were exposed. Without adequate documentation, especially usable maps of Vietnam, the veteran has been unable to prove his exposure. Now, however, using this book and memory of where he served, every Vietnam veteran can chart his exposure. Supporting documentation from the Department of the Army can be used when necessary; the district office of every member of Congress can expedite the recovery of military records.

To obtain the Vietnam Map Book, send your name, address, to Winter Soldier Archive, 2000 Center St. #1251, Berkeley, CA 94704. Make checks payable to the Agent Orange Veterans Advisory Committee. All money derived from the sale of the map book will be used to assist Agent Orange victims of the war in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Map Book is free to prison libraries for use by incarcerated Vietnam veterans. Vietnam veterans \$25; community-based organizations and other individuals \$50; libraries \$75; government agencies \$100.

For more information or brochures on Agent Orange and filing claims call:
(415) 540-6175



INPUT REQUESTED FOR PROGRESSIVE PERIODICAL DIRECTORY

Input is requested from the public for listings of periodicals to be included in a directory of United States Progressive Periodicals and one for Southern Progressive Periodicals.

Progressive Education chairperson Craig Canan asks people to "just take a minute to mail the names and addresses of any national or Southern periodicals which should be listed in the upcoming new editions of these directories.

"We are depending on the progressive public and organizations to insure that the upcoming edition is the most comprehensive periodicals listing published to date." Canan emphasizes. "It is being published to fill a need for greater public awareness of the existence and availability of social justice periodicals in this country."

In all, over 300 social change periodicals will be listed in the two directories. The listings will include periodicals concerning peace, labor, Black, religious, environmental and many more progressive topics. Suggestions for listings should be sent to Progressive Education, Box 120574, Nashville, TN 37212 as soon as possible.

What is the Effect of Reaganomics on Librarians?

by Donna L. Nerboso, Sanford V. Lenz Library
Cornell University NYSSILR
(reprinted from Dialogue; Newsletter of the
Women's Caucus, NY Chapter, SLA, v. 3, n. 1)
(Reprinted with permission)

The new word this year is "Reaganomics", a catchword for a socioeconomic program that has been called the most dramatic shift in national policy since the New Deal. Women, minorities, and the poor will be the most severely affected. What does that mean for librarians? The cynical might comment that librarians are so underpaid now, we couldn't be much worse off. Unfortunately, this isn't true.

The librarians most directly affected by Reaganomics, of course, are those in the public sector being laid-off, or receiving minimal raises, or struggling with heavier workloads because of attrition. But in the long run the ripples from the assault on affirmative action will be felt by all working women. Antidiscrimination programs played an important role in women's struggle for equality in the workplace. In some instances governmental force provided the leverage needed to move women up. In many other cases the fact that the government was actively seeking to enforce antidiscrimination laws created an atmosphere of compliance that reached beyond the large companies and institutions directly involved in affirmative action. Women members of SLA still earn 17% less than male members. Surveys of other sectors of the library world graphically prove that librarianship, a female-dominated profession, is still not a profession run by women. It is obvious that to maintain our career mobility, to achieve pay equity and equal status, we will have to rely on our individual abilities, collective action, and the impetus of the past few years. Big brother is no longer watching out for us.

Over the last twenty years a complex structure of government programs has been established to help women and minorities secure the rights and opportunities mandated by Congress and the


Supreme Court. The Reagan administration is weakening this structure through an approach to discrimination that former Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) chair Eleanor Holmes Norton calls "benign neglect". Budget cuts, for example, are crippling the Women's Bureau. The 61-year old agency, which disseminates statistics on working women and conducts pilot employment programs, was first threatened with abolishment and is now struggling with a 35% cut in personnel. Underqualified or late personnel appointments is another downgrading tactic. William Bell, the recent nominee for chair of the EEOC, is the president and only employee of a recruiting firm that is not even listed in the Detroit telephone book. Until recently the EEOC itself was unable to conduct business because it did not have enough members for a quorum.

Deregulation is being used to water down affirmative action compliance and enforcement procedures. The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), which monitors and enforces the affirmative action efforts of federal contractors, recently issued regulations that, among other things, eliminate 75% of federal contractors from written affirmative action agreement requirements. This includes, according to Women's Equity Action League, large universities such as Yale and the University of Michigan. The policy that put the teeth in affirmative action, back pay penalties, is under review. EEOC sexual harassment guidelines are under review. The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, which litigates discrimination suits, has announced that it is opposed to the use of goals and timetables in affirmative action plans (a common and effective remedy) and that it intends to drop class action suits, limiting legal means of redress to the individual and the wealthy. Furthermore, the Administration is currently considering legislation that will abolish the OFCCP and drastically reduce EEOC functions.

Labor


PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND UNION REPRESENTATION

by Joan Higbee, speaking to
members of the National Librarians
Association



Tenure quotas, lay-offs, dilution of professional work with clerical tasks followed by job audits and down gradings, statistical standards of production for cataloguers that lead to ten-hour days and weekends at the office, academic status requirements that include research, writing and teaching in addition to library duties but offer limited professional leave and no sabbaticals -- these realities of existence threaten the well-being of many librarians. While documenting their scope of their expertise, library professionals should simultaneously learn pragmatic skills that will enable them to respond assertively when faced with sustained insecurity, demotions, systems based upon piece-work production and publish or perish syndromes. Acceptance of collective bargaining, combined with full legal rights of contract enforcement, mean that librarians assume responsibilities inherent in shaping the contractual context of their work environ-

Only by fusing the knowledge of those goals and objectives that distinguish their profession with negotiating skills at the bargaining table can librarians truly defend their right to function as fully productive human beings. Sections in union contracts that are written to assure time for professional reading, writing, and



conference attendance are needed to prevent burn out and assure the individual librarian's identification with librarianship as a whole. The impact of standards for on-the-job performance must be carefully monitored by unions so that quantifiable forms of production are not used improperly in cost/benefit analysis to deny professional leave and restrict staff to endless days of repetitive tasks.

In coming to terms with their own needs, librarians may prove a creative force within the union movement. How, for example, will we use grievance proceedings and arbitration to enforce earned rights to a professional existence and honest merit-promotion systems? What legal support will we require and receive from our unions? What percentage of our dues will be returned to us in union services?

Through collective bargaining with management and the careful evaluation of union services, organized librarians earn the self-reliance and assurance that comes from taking responsibility for devising pragmatic strategies to further

professional ends. Librarianship and unionization have a symbiotic relationship -- they support and reinforce each other when synthesized by librarians determined to defend the dignity of their profession.



Criticism of Psychiatry: Recommended Reading

Compiled by Leonard Roy Frank, August, 1981

- Peter Roger Breggin, Electroshock: Its Brain-Disabling Effects (New York: Springer, 1979). Based on his personal examination of six electroshock victims and an extensive review and analysis of the literature, a Washington DC psychiatrist exposes the fraudulent claims of shock proponents that their procedure is safe and effective.
- _____, Chemical Lobotomy (New York: Springer, in press). Breggin applies his brain-disabling thesis to psychiatric drugs, especially the major tranquilizers, with equally devastating effect.
- Doug Cameron, How to Survive Being Committed to a Mental Hospital (New York: Vantage, 1979). A former inmate's frightening account of being institutionalized in Texas.
- Judi Chamberlin, On Our Own: Patient-Controlled Alternatives to the Mental Health System (New York: Hawthorn, 1977). An outstanding book about the system and what to do about it by a leading activist in the psychiatric inmates liberation movement.
- Phyllis Chesler, Women and Madness (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1972). A feminist psychologist's study of the damaging effects of "mental health" treatment on women.
- Bruce Ennis, Prisoners of Psychiatry: Mental Patients, Psychiatrists, and the Law (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1972). Using his own experiences defending "mental patients," an ACLU attorney reveals the nature of psychiatric injustice.
- Michael Foucault, Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason (New York: Random House, 1965). A French philosopher's study of madness from 1500 to 1800.
- Leonard Roy Frank, ed., the History of Shock Treatment (Self-published: 2300 Webster St., #603, San Francisco, CA 94115, 1978). Through more than 250 chronologically arranged excerpts from the literature a shock victim traces the history of one of psychiatry's most dehumanizing procedures.
- Jant and Paul Gotkin, Too Much Anger, Too Many Tears: A Personal Triumph over Psychiatry (New York: Quadrangle, 1975). A young woman and her husband's moving, personal account of her being caught up in the psychiatric system.
- Sherry Hirsch, et al., eds., Madness Network News Reader (San Francisco, New Glide, 1974). A spirited collection of articles, poems, and letters-to-the-editor --many from the early issues of Madness Network News--in three sections: "The Madhouse," "The Cure," and "The Resistance."
- Ken Kesey, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (New York: Viking, 1962). This story of a thousand-faced hero who gets lobotomized for standing up against psychiatric tyranny is --in Kesey's words--"the truth even if it didn't happen."

(continued on next page)

R. D. Laing, The Politics of Experience (New York: Ballantine, 1968). A collection of essays by the English psychiatrist, who in the 1960s popularized the idea that "madness" is a sane reaction to an insane world, potentially as much "breakthru" and "breakdown".

Madness Network News (Box 684, San Francisco, CA 94101; subscription: 6 issues, \$6, \$12 for institutions, free for psychiatric inmates). The clear, strong voice of the psychiatric inmates liberation movement.

Sylvia Plath, The Bell Jar (New York: Harper & Row, 1971). The autobiographical story of a young woman's encounter with madness and electroshock.

Alan Schefflin and Edward Opton, Jr., The Mind Manipulators (New York: Paddington, 1978). Well written and researched account of contemporary psychiatric warfare, governmental involvement, "brainwashing," behavior modification, electroshock, and psychosurgery.

Peter Schrag, Mind Control (New York: Pantheon, 1978). A highly readable review of current psychiatric practice: labeling, commitment, psychiatric drugs, electroshock, and psychosurgery.

Thomas S. Szasz, The Myth of Mental Illness: Foundations of a Theory of Personal Conduct (New York: Harper & Row, 1974, rev. ed.). This landmark work, first published in 1961, launched the modern-day attack on psychiatric ideology and established its author/psychiatrist as psychiatry's foremost critic.

_____, The Manufacture of Madness: A Comparative Study of the Inquisition and the Mental Health Movement (New York: Harper & Row, 1970). The most important book in the field.

_____, ed., The Age of Madness: The History of Involuntary Mental Hospitalization Presented in Selected Texts (Garden City: Anchor, 1975). The best historical anthology on madness: Checkov, Defoe, Coffman, Krim, London, Pinel, Plath, Rush, and Thurber.

Jay Ziskind, Coping with Psychiatric and Psychological Testimony (Beverly Hills: Law and Psychology Press, 1975, with 1977 supplement). Essential reading for attorneys with clients accused of being "mentally ill."



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