



# Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

September 1984

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## COORDINATOR'S MEMO

To: SRRT members

From: Doris Kirschbaum, Action Council  
Coordinator

In the March 1984 issue of the *SRRT Newsletter*, I said farewell as editor. In this issue, I extend greetings as the new coordinator of SRRT. The other members of SRRT Action Council are listed on pages 3-4 of the newsletter. I am looking forward to working with them and with all SRRT members.

### Report from Dallas

\* Linda Pierce reported that SRRT membership voted, through ballots sent out with the March 1984 newsletter, to increase dues to \$10 per year, effective in 1985. We encourage your continued support.

\* SRRT Action Council will again sponsor an ALA presidential debate at Midwinter in Washington, D.C. More details in the next newsletter.

\* Roundtable chairs and assistant chairs met to discuss:

- 1) whether roundtables should seek representation on the ALA Conference Programming Committee;
- 2) whether roundtables should seek representation on Council;
- 3) whether roundtables should formalize the group of roundtable chairs that has been meeting recently.

The representatives were asked to seek advice from their roundtables and SRRT Action Council agreed that

all the above would be beneficial.

\* SRRT members introduced three resolutions at the ALA Membership meeting. All three passed membership, but only one was passed at Council. They were:

1. That ALA join the Citizens Against Nuclear War (CAN) as a member organization -- PASSED.

2. That any personal member of ALA may attend membership and Council meetings, whenever and wherever held, by showing either a conference badge for the day of the meeting or a current membership card -- REFERRED TO COPES.

3. That ALA urge the withdrawal of all American military personnel and the cessation of all military aid and covert intervention in Central America -- FAILED.

If any readers were at Council meeting and/or have any comments on the above, let me know or write a letter to the *SRRT Newsletter*.

\* Buttons with the message "A-SRRT yourself in ALA", designed by Barbara Levinson, were sold this year at the SRRT booth for 50¢ each. Those who signed up to become members during the conference received a free button. We signed up 18 new members. Staffing the SRRT booth at the Annual Conference can be fun and interesting. Think about volunteering some hours next year in Chicago.

\* Joy Kennedy, a representative from

the Illinois Library Association's SRRT, attended Action Council meetings and reported on her state's activities. Other state SRRT representatives would be most welcome at future conferences.

Report from the Twilight Zone

Addressed to me at ALA-SRRT Newsletter was a letter and brochure from Senator Richard Lugar, Chairman of the Republican Presidential Task Force, asking me for my help (\$120 worth) to "ensure that everything the Reagan Administration stands for is not defeated in the '84 elections." My reply to Senator Lugar is as follows:

"Thank you for your invitation to join the Republican Presidential Task Force. Although it is mighty tempting to think that for only \$120.00 my 'name will be inscribed on the President's Honor Roll and be kept forever with his permanent Presidential Papers,' and that my 'grandchildren or great-grandchildren will see my name linked historically with President Reagan himself on this rare document,' I prefer not to join.

"However, since the invitation was addressed to me at the *SRRT Newsletter*, of which I am the former editor, it occurred to me that you might like to have a copy of our membership brochure so that you can familiarize yourself with SRRT activities. For only \$5.00 you can become a member, which will entitle you to receive a copy of the *SRRT Newsletter* four times a year and to participate in the activities of one or more of SRRT's task forces. I am enclosing an extra copy of the brochure for President Reagan. In addition, I am sending you two SRRT buttons (value \$1.00) which you may keep and wear, whether or not you decide to join.

"Like you, we are concerned with the future of this country--and its people--so I am confident that we can count on your support."

I hope this is a good year for everyone. Let me or other Action Council members know how we can be of help.

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Editor ..... John Hostage  
Editorial Board . Elizabeth Morrissett  
..... Linda Pierce  
..... John Sheridan  
Deadline for next issue is Oct. 15  
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**ACTION COUNCIL**

Listed below are the members of SRRT Action Council for 1984-85. Please feel free to contact any of them to discuss SRRT activities or matters that you feel SRRT should be involved in. The years in which Action Council terms expire are shown with the names.

Coordinator  
Doris Kirschbaum (1987)  
2531 N. Washington Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22201  
(703) 243-4127 (h)  
(703) 522-5600 x284 (w)

Treasurer  
Nancy Gruber (1986)  
3309-1/2 Mission St.  
Box 163  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Secretary  
John Sheridan (1986)  
Colorado College Library  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907  
(303) 473-2233

Conference Arrangements & Programs

Dave Vespa (1985)  
Dept. of Transportation Library  
400 7th St., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590  
(202) 426-1792

MAIL:  
1414 17th St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 483-6774

Membership promotion

Barbara Levinson (1986)  
Box 423  
Pine Bush, NY 12566  
(914) 744-2469

Newsletter editor

John Hostage (1985)  
Harvard Law School Library  
Langdell Hall  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-4295

78 Glenville Ave., Apt. 9  
Boston, MA 02134  
(617) 782-0910

Freedom to Read Foundation rep.

Susan Vaughn (1987)  
Brooklyn College Library  
Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(212) 780-5342

*At Large*

Kay Cassell (1987)  
108 Woodbury Rd.  
Huntington, NY 11743

Joan Goddard (1985)  
Branch Librarian  
San Jose Public Library  
180 W. San Carlos St.  
San Jose, CA 95113  
(408) 277-4822

Jeanne Kocsis (1985)  
P.O.B. 128  
Whately, MA 01093

Betty-Carol Sellen  
Brooklyn College Library  
Bedford Ave. & Ave. H  
Brooklyn, NY 11210  
(212) 780-5344

252 E. 7th St.  
New York, NY 10009  
(212) 260-1865

*Task force liaisons*

Alternatives in Print

Jim Williams  
100 University Library  
University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign  
1408 W. Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801  
(217) 333-2305  
and:  
Dan Tsang  
P.O. Box 29627  
Philadelphia, PA 19144  
(215) 849-4612

Civil Rights

Bradford Chambers  
CIBC  
Room 500  
1841 Broadway  
New York, NY 10023  
(212) 757-5339

Coretta Scott King Award

David Searcy  
(no address available)

Feminist

Gail Warner  
North 101 West St.  
Colfax, WA 99111  
(509) 397-4210 (h)  
(509) 397-4366 (w)

Gay

Barbara Gittings  
P.O.B. 2383  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 471-3322 (h)

International Human Rights

Lee Regan

U.S. Geological Survey Library  
Exchange & Gift Unit  
Mail Stop 950  
12201 Sunrise Valley Dr.  
Reston, VA 22092  
(703) 860-6615

610 3rd St., S.E. #3  
Washington, DC 20003  
(202) 543-0093

Library Union

Peter Kidder  
Shared Cataloging Division  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC 20540

Men's Issues

Carl Hays  
P.O. B. 740  
College Park, MD 20740  
(301) 441-8259 (h)  
(301) 454-3478 (w)

Peace Information Exchange

Elizabeth Morrissett  
Director, Library  
Montana College of Mineral  
Science & Technology  
Butte, MT 59701  
(406) 496-4283 (w)  
(406) 782-7750 (h)

Past Coordinator

Linda Pierce  
3634 Edwards Rd., #32  
Cincinnati, OH 45208  
(513) 321-6266 (h)  
(513) 745-3881 (w)

Staff Liaison

Jean Coleman, Director  
Office for Library Outreach Services  
American Library Association  
50 E. Huron St.  
Chicago, IL 60611  
(312) 944-6780 x262

\* \* \* \* \*

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE

At the 1984 ALA conference in Dallas, the Task Force on Alternatives in Print co-sponsored with the International Human Rights Task Force a program entitled "New World Information Order: a Third World Perspective."

Speakers were Claude Robinson of Inter Press Service and Brennon Jones of Interlink, the U.S. distributor for Inter Press Service. Inter Press Service is an international news agency based in Rome and carrying news of and from Third World countries. A report on the content of the addresses will appear in *Technicalities*.

The task force also distributed free copies of its newly-published *Field Guide to Alternative Media: A Directory to Reference and Selection Tools Useful in Accessing Small and Alternative Press Publications and Independently Produced Media* from the SRRT booth. The guide was compiled and edited by Pat Case, out-going task force coordinator. Copies of nearly 70 of the directories, indexes, catalogs, and review media listed in the guide were on display in the booth as well. The *Field Guide to Alternative Media* is available for \$6.00 per copy from: Office of Library Outreach Services, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611. Checks should be made payable to the American Library Association. Comments concerning the guide and suggestions for additional listings should be sent to Patricia J. Case, Contemporary Culture Collection, Temple University Library, Philadelphia, PA 19122, ATTN: Field Guide.

Two membership meetings were held. Pat Case reviewed the accomplishments of 1983/1984. The major projects during the year were the compilation and publication of the guide and the assembling for display the titles included therein. Potential publishing projects for the future and possible topics for the 1985 conference program were discussed.

Pat ended her term as task force



coordinator at the Dallas conference. The entire task force expresses thanks to her for the energy and devotion that she has put into its work during her extensive term of service. Co-coordinators for the task force during 1984/1985 are Dan Tsang and Jim Williams. Their addresses are in the Action Council list elsewhere in this issue. Dan will have primary charge of TFAIP with Jim serving as back-up. Issues concerning the task force may be addressed to either Dan or Jim.

The task force would be pleased to have the exhibit of titles from the *Field Guide to Alternative Media* displayed at state or regional conferences during the next year. Anyone who is affiliated with a state or regional SRRT group and is interested in using the exhibit at an upcoming conference should contact Jim Williams.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### THE NEW WORLD INFORMATION ORDER

Communication issues -- from local ethnic perspectives to international news coverage -- touch every aspect of our daily lives. Topics in the debates about a New International Information Order (or New World Information Order), such as communications satellites, technology transfer policies, information resources for development, foreign censorship, international propaganda, and cultural imperialism -- all will play a role in forming the kind of world we live in.

The power of the media to help or hinder social change, to market, manipulate and manage public values has long been acknowledged. There is not yet, however, a very thorough or widespread knowledge about how international communication structures interact with economic and political structures. The New International Information Order (NIIO) is a response by Third World countries to the increasing realization that change in economic structures, which they see as

necessary for liberation from endless cycles of poverty and dependence, and the international exchange of information and ideas are interdependent.

The present information order, like the economic system, is chiefly vertically structured: North over South, rich over poor, educated over illiterate, experts over ordinary people. The assumption behind the new order is that horizontal relationships should replace the vertical ones. The distinction between communication as a human right and social good, and communication as a marketable commodity to be packaged and sold for personal profit is basic to the NIIO rationale.

How information is shared is as much a means of shaping and controlling the content of communication as *what* is actually being conveyed. Thus, participation in the creation and dissemination of information is another important aspect of the NIIO debate. The quality of participation, between media workers and with their audiences, and audiences' ability to analyze and reflect their evaluation of whether information meets their needs, represent assumed values in the NIIO.

Librarians' daily experiences attest to how problematical the management of information can be, and for that very reason, librarians should become more knowledgeable about and concerned with current debates and policy decisions concerning the management of international information.

A selective two-page bibliography on the New World Information Order is available on request from the the task force coordinator, Lee Regan, 610 3rd St., S.E., #3, Washington, DC 20003. Please include a #10 self-addressed stamped envelope. Bibliographic contributions on human rights are also welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

## FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION

The Board of Trustees of the Freedom to Read Foundation met on Thursday, June 21, in Dallas.

The foundation is currently a plaintiff in a suit to declare an Indianapolis ordinance unconstitutional. It has also filed an amicus brief in the case for the Indiana Library Association. The ordinance would ban any representation of subordination of women in a sexual context. It was very broadly written and proposed by Andrea Dworkin and Catherine McKinnon. There is a preliminary injunction against its enforcement. It has been amended to require knowledge on the part of the bookseller, librarian, etc., of what they were showing.

The Board appropriated an additional \$2500 in support of the ACLU suit against the National Security Agency. The case involves materials donated to the George C. Marshall Library by a cryptographer. Most of the documents in dispute have been returned to the shelves, but 34 are still being withheld. The case is still in discovery.

In the case of Marian English v. the Evergreen School District in Washington State, 37 of the 38 books have been returned to the shelves. The Board voted another \$1000 to support the suit.

The libel suit of Gov. Janklow of South Dakota against Viking Press and certain booksellers with regard to Peter Matthiessen's book *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse* was dismissed. The Foundation was supporting the defense.

The Board voted \$2500 to support the case of Bullfrog Films, et al. v. Wick, et al., being brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights. Charles Wick is the director of the United States Information Agency. The suit challenges the USIA's denial of "Certificates of International Educational Character" under the "Beirut Agreement" of 1949 to certain American films. The certificates would free the films from certain tariffs when

distributed abroad. The suit claims the certificates were improperly denied. The pattern of the denials leads to the conclusion that they were politically motivated. The Foundation will also file an amicus brief in the case.

The Board voted to renew its \$5000 contribution to the Media Coalition, which provides valuable monitoring of legislation in all 50 states, among other services.

Susan Vaughn will be taking over as representative to the FTRF at the Washington meeting in January.

--John Hostage

\* \* \* \* \*

## CATALOGING

Notes from Sanford Berman, Head Cataloger at Hennepin County Library in Minnesota: among the many new subject heading recently established at Hennepin County, which pioneers in establishing new "user friendly" headings for topics not yet covered by Library of Congress subject headings, is "Librarians--Social responsibility." Sandy is also editor of the collection *Subject Cataloging: Critiques and Innovations*, which includes several of his articles. It will be published in book form in October by Haworth Press (ISBN 0-86656-265-6 : \$22.95); it also constitutes volume 2, numbers 1/2 of *Technical Services Quarterly*.

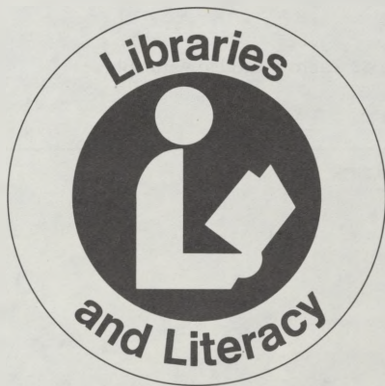
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## ESSAY CONTEST

Stuart M. Speiser is sponsoring an essay contest with a prize of \$10,000 on the topic "How can we, without adopting socialism or giving up our treasured freedoms, modify American capitalism to make it more equitable and reduce the level of ideological conflict with the Soviet Union so as to make possible an

end to the nuclear nightmare?" The deadline for entries is December 31, 1985. A detailed announcement, entry form, and contest rules can be obtained by sending a stamped, self-addressed

envelope to: Speiser Essay Contest, Council on International and Public Affairs, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017.



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