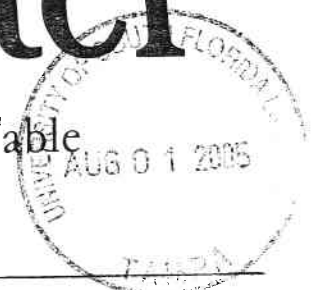


# SRRT Newsletter

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



December 1988

Number 90

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## COORDINATOR'S MEMO

From: John Hostage

Action Council is again planning to sponsor an informal discussion with the candidates for ALA president during the Midwinter Meeting in Washington. It will take place during our Sunday afternoon meeting, from 2-4 p.m. SRRT members are invited to come with their questions.

SRRT-sponsored programs in New Orleans were covered in a couple of articles in the September 1988 issue of American Libraries. These were the Feminist Task Force's "Librarians as Colleagues: Working Together Across Racial Lines" and the SRRT/IFRT debate between Noel Peattie and John Swan.

SRRT members both old and new are invited to come to SRRT meetings in Washington with ideas for how to celebrate SRRT's 20th anniversary at the Annual Conference in Dallas, or contact me directly if you can't make it to a meeting.



## BOOKS FOR NICARAGUA AND OTHER DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

The Books for Nicaragua program of the

ALA/SRRT Task Force on Alternatives in Print has completed its second shipment to the warehouse of the Quixote Center's Quest for Peace program. The shipments, with a value of nearly \$60,000, were sent to aid in the literacy campaign, to communicate with professional writers, and for direct library support in a people-to-people effort. At the ALA annual meeting in New Orleans last July, the ALA Council passed a resolution (Council Document #65) encouraging similar activities for developing countries. The resolution, sponsored by the International Relations Committee (IRC), recommends that:

"the American Library Association urge its member libraries, publishers, and others to contribute their relevant, unneeded materials to libraries in developing countries; and

that the ALA request other foundations to join the Brother's Brother Foundation in providing the financial resources to cover the cost of overseas mailing under this international gift program; and

that the IRC support the development of an expanded international gift program and promote visibility for it within ALA; and

that copies of this resolution be transmitted to IFLA and cultural officers in embassies of countries which have expressed interest in the international gift program and others who may wish to take advantage of the program in the future."

## END THE AFRICAN BOOK FAMINE

Books for Africa is a non-profit organization created to share the wealth in books with the English-speaking countries of East Africa. Currently BFA supports two major projects with donations of books and materials. Multiple copies of textbooks and children's books are supplied to Kenyan schools through the Kenya Book Foundation. The Uganda Public Library receives single copies of books for all ages.

Books for Africa welcomes donations of books from libraries, schools, and publishers. A list of criteria for books, as well as more information may be obtained by contacting:

Lynne Bertalmio (612)439-1692 or  
Jim Wells (612)731-8487



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Editor: Chris Sokol  
Editorial Board: Elizabeth Morrissett  
Linda Pierce  
John Sheridan

Deadline for next issue is Jan. 25.

## FROM THE NEW EDITOR:

This is an entirely new venture for me, and so I'd like to solicit your help in continuing to make the SRRT Newsletter a valuable and interesting periodical. Send news, letters, articles, etc. to the address listed on p. 2 or to me at my Bitnet address: SOKOL@WSUVM1. If you are interested in writing book reviews send your reviewing interests. Please note that the deadline for submission is always included on p. 2 of every issue.

As John Hostage noted, SRRT is observing its 20th anniversary in 1989. Many of you are relatively new to SRRT, others have been in the trenches since the beginning. Do you have reflections on SRRT's past and ideas for its future? If so, please send them for consideration for the next issue, which will commemorate the first fifth of a century of ALA's voice of social responsibility,

—Chris Sokol

\* \* \* \* \*

## CUBA TOUR FOR LIBRARIANS

A trip to libraries in Havana and Santiago is tentatively planned for March 10-19, 1989. Included may be the National Library as well as academic, public, and school libraries. The approximate cost of \$800-900 will include airfare from Miami via Air Cubana, sightseeing time at the beach, and three meals a day. Accommodations will be at first-class hotels. The tour is limited to 15-20 people. Final plans depend on confirmation from Cuba-Tour, the government tourist agency. Arrangements are being handled by Marazul Travel Agency of New York. For more information, contact Seth Godfrey at: 10 Glen Rd., New Haven CT 06511. Phone: (203)786-5447 (work) or (203)776-6108 (home)

REPORT FROM THE GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

Highlights from the annual conference in New Orleans:

Gay and Lesbian Book Awards were presented to Joan Nestle, Restricted Country (Firebrand, 1987) and Randy Shilts, And the Band Played On (St. Martin's, 1987).

The annual program panel discussion regarding being/coming out at work was highly successful. The four speakers related both good and bad incidents. The emphasis was on the positive and encouraged many to be more positive about their own situations.

The Gay and Lesbian Bibliography revision is moving along. David Streeter, coordinator of the revision project, presented the preliminary list; he hopes for a completed draft by Midwinter.

Correspondence for the Gay and Lesbian Task Force should be addressed to:

Roland Hansen, Secretary/Treasurer,  
GLIF-SRRT  
3824 N. Fremont  
Chicago, IL 60613

—Roland Hansen

\* \* \* \* \*

CELEBRATE!

FEBRUARY is National Black History month. MARCH is National Women's History month. To order a 36-page catalog containing materials relating to multi-cultural women's history (program planning guides, videos, games, books, posters, curriculum units), send \$1.00 to:

National Women's History Project  
P.O. Box 3716  
Santa Rosa, CA 95402  
(707)526-5974

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS TRAINING SEMINARS IN LATIN AMERICA

The Government Information and Official Publications section of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions is seeking assistance in planning and hosting a training seminar on government publications for Latin American librarians. Successful training seminars on government publications have already been held in French-speaking Africa and the Pacific. Future seminars are planned for Latin America and English-speaking Africa.

Committee members, speakers, co-sponsors, support from organizations, suggestions, and other assistance are needed. Organizations or individuals interested in involvement in this training seminar should contact Bernadine Hoduski at the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Printing in Washington, D.C., telephone (202)224-5953 or Barbara Ford at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, telephone (512)736-8121. Suggestions of individuals or organizations that might be interested are welcome.



"Hunger, Homelessness and Libraries" was one of three programs at the annual conference of the Minnesota Library Association in October presented by the MLA Social Responsibilities Round Table (MSSRT). The panel, moderated by Sanford Berman, featured Jack Nelson Pallmeyer, author of The Politics of Compassion: Hunger, the Arms Race, and U.S. Policy in Central America (Orbis Books, 1986); Don Caton, president of the Twin Cities Union of the Homeless, and Noelle MacMillan, director of the Emergency FoodShelf Network (Minneapolis). The speakers discussed the root causes of hunger and homelessness, such as inequitable land tenure, the international trade situation, and the escalating arms race. Don Caton noted that "We manage to house missiles, but not homeless people." He observed that alternative publications presenting important facts and opinions regarding poverty and homelessness are often available free in library lobbies but seldom appear on the periodical shelves, where they could supply a counterpoint to such mainstream titles as The New York Times, U.S. News & World Report, etc.

Suggestions for involving libraries and librarians in the hunger and homelessness issue include:

- \* stock books, pamphlets, films, and other materials produced by such activist groups as Oxfam America, Food First, World Hunger Year, etc.

- \* publicize relevant materials through displays and bibliographies, and ensure that they are accessible through the catalog by creating and assigning useful subject headings such as HOMELESS FAMILIES and FOOD BANKS.

- \* specify certain days as "Food for Fines" times, permitting library borrowers to "pay" for overdue materials with food for local food-banks. (Atlantic County Library System, New Jersey, and Rochester Public Library, New Hampshire, have declared "Food for Fines" periods.)

- \* collect food donations regularly, perhaps placing a marked grocery cart at the entranceway of the library.

- \* involve homeless and poor children in library programs that not only provide entertainment but also promote self-esteem and socialization.

- \* prepare and distribute information cards listing area shelters, food-banks, and other services.



#### WHAT'S IN MY CIA FILE? by Dan Tsang

There may be more to governmental spying in libraries than exists under the FBI "Library Awareness Program." According to material released under a Freedom of Information /Privacy Act request, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency has been keeping files on reviews I wrote in December 1979 for Bill Katz's Magazines for Libraries column in Library Journal.

The reviews were of "anti-surveillance" periodicals, including CovertAction Information Bulletin and Counter-Spy (now The National Reporter). The editors at two other publications I reviewed, The Public Eye and the defunct Campaign for Political Rights' newsletter, Organizing Notes, were the first to receive copies of the LJ reviews when they wrote for their CIA files, thus prompting my own request. Coinciding with the latest release, the same reviews were cited in S. Steven Powell's newly published Covert Cadre, which purports to be an "expose" of the liberal think-tank, the Institute for Policy Studies.

What is more intriguing than the revelation that the CIA reads Library Journal is the CIA's refusal to release other documents in my file, arguing that the material (length unspecified) is exempt from release because it is classified.

Having indexed two books (Deadly Deceits and Secret Contenders) by former CIA officers Ralph McGehee and Melvin Beck,

and the first 12 issues of CovertAction, while also indexing the same periodical for the Alternative Press Index, I am now led to wonder if the CIA is in the habit of keeping personal files on librarians who index books or periodicals, or write for professional journals.

The existence of a CIA file on myself also casts a chill on my future professional activities: would not every review I write generate new material for not only my own file, but also create files for the publications I review? Would not the periodicals' editors also be the subjects of new CIA files, just as Bill Katz and the editors of the anti-surveillance periodicals named in my LJ reviews have all apparently become the unwitting subjects of CIA files?

Ironically, under Executive Order 12333, as the CIA itself pointed out in a letter to me (when its Information and Privacy Coordinator suggested the agency was unlikely to have a file on me), the CIA is prohibited from collecting information on "United States persons" unless the material relates to activities by foreign intelligence services against the U.S. This means that mention of any U.S. citizen in a surveillance of a foreign target should be purged from the records, at least in theory. Any retention would be illegal.

Was my name, then, mentioned by some Danish librarian under surveillance, perhaps, when I was invited in September 1987 to lecture in Copenhagen at the Tidsskriftcentret, a radical periodicals library, under a grant from the Danish Union of Librarians? Or was I under surveillance on my European trip for my work on the Alternatives in Print and Lesbian and Gay Task Forces of the Social Responsibilities Round Table? After all, at ALA conferences I have organized such "subversive" panels as "The Alternative Press in the Second Reagan Regime" and "Sex in the Stacks."

Unless my CIA file is fully released, of course, this is pure speculation. In appealing the withholding of the rest of my CIA file, I argued that I did not see why the CIA should be keeping files on

librarians or writers "pursuing their First Amendment rights." In fact, official ALA policy, reiterated in 1981 by ALA Council, encourages librarians to resist governmental intimidation of the individual which would abridge the exercise of free expression.

But if the FBI has for decades kept files on America's foremost writers, as Herbert Mitgang documented recently in his Dangerous Dossiers, why should it surprise anyone that the CIA has files on librarians? Perhaps the CIA, realizing that Mao Zedong worked in his youth as a library assistant, believes librarians and other library workers have the potential to be revolutionaries. After all, aren't we caretakers of the nation's intellectual heritage, and advocates of the freedom to read? What could be more subversive than that?

At last word, the CIA has agreed to process my appeal, but only after some 200 appeals from other file seekers are handled first. At the recent ALA conference the SRRT Action Council, citing this case, decided to file an FOIA request with the FBI for any possible files on SRRT.

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Daniel Tsang is Social Sciences Bibliographer/Librarian at the University of California, Irvine. In ALA, he is Coordinator of the SRRT Task Force on Alternatives in Print and is SRRT representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation Board of Trustees.



RECENT BOOKS: BRIEF NOTICES

Swenson, Mary A., and McDonnell, Sara J., comp. DIRECTORY OF CENTRAL AMERICA CLASSROOM RESOURCES K-12. Minneapolis: Central America Resource Center, 1987. ISBN 0-9617743-2-0. \$9.95. Publisher's address: 1701 University Ave., Southeast, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

More than 300 annotated entries. The directory is organized by seven broad categories: Teachers' Resources for Evaluating Materials; Curricula and Study Units; Classroom Resources; Audio-Visual Resources; Books; Directories; Organizations. The first five are further classified by grade level suitability and geographic coverage (Central America as a whole or individual countries). The Central America Resource Center also publishes Executive News Summary; Labor Report; Central America News; and the Annotated Central America Library Catalogue.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dodson, Bert. NUKE (A BOOK OF CARTOONS). With an interview by Noel Peattie. Jefferson, NC: MacFarland, 1988. ISBN 0-89950-327-6. \$12.95. Publisher's address: Box 611, Jefferson, NC 28640.

The star of this collection is Nuke, a character shaped like a warhead, who carries nuclear weapons apologia to its illogical extreme. In one strip, the ghost of Walt Whitman appears to Nuke in a dream, complaining of the mess the world has gotten into--"deforestation, acid rain, pollution, preservatives, and worst of all, this insane arms race." Nuke counters with a list of items connoting progress, including plastic bags, artificial hearts, and Teflon. As Whitman fades away with disgust, Nuke remarks, "Geez, I forgot to mention the Walt Whitman Highway Rest Stop & the Walt Whitman Shopping Plaza." Nuke is syndicated in five publications so far, including Sipapu. Let's hope for wider distribution. Nuke's messages, according to Dodson, are; "Technology cannot

replace human understanding. Love is more creative than fear. Everything is connected to everything else. One can never really profit from another's misery." Write on, Bert!



Wagner, Pete. BUY THIS TOO. Minneapolis: Brain Trust, 1987. ISBN 0-937706-01-9. \$8.95. Publisher's address: P.O. Box 14009, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

A collection of cartoons, photographs of street theater performances, and other humorous messages poking fun at just about everything, by the staff cartoonist for City Pages, the weekly newspaper of Minneapolis-St. Paul. Actually, Wagner goes beyond poking fun, as when he says, "We aren't laughing with you, we're laughing at you." Guaranteed to offend, to make you uncomfortable, and to make you laugh and laugh and laugh.

Nakazawa, Keiji. BAREFOOT GEN: THE DAY AFTER; A CARTOON STORY OF HIROSHIMA. Translated by Jared Cook and Fredrik Schodt. Philadelphia and Santa Cruz: New Society Publishers, 1988. ISBN 0-86571-122-4 (hardcover); 0-86571-123-2 (paper). \$29.95/\$8.95. Publisher's address: P.O. Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061.

This is the second volume of a graphic presentation of the story of Hiroshima, written originally in Japanese by a Hiroshima survivor (Nakazawa was seven when the bomb was dropped) who wanted Japanese young people to know about the effects of nuclear weapons. The young boy Gen, his mother and baby sister, struggle for survival after the rest of the family have perished in atomic flames. In the words of the translators, "Barefoot Gen is the saga of a triumph of human spirit in the midst of one of the world's greatest tragedies."

Book reviews by Jeanne Kocsis

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CATALOGS RECEIVED

Preparing for the 21st Century: Video & Film Programs for a Safe and Sustainable World (1989 ed.) available from:

The Educational Film & Video Project  
1529 Josephine St.  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(415)849-1649

Some new releases included in the catalog are:

"The Black Tulip" — A look at the human costs of the Afghan War on the USSR.

"Stopping the Coming Ice Age" — Describes the greenhouse effect and its impact on the earth.

"Coverup: Behind the Iran-Contra Affair"

NEW PUBLICATION

Nuclear Texts & Contexts is a new occasional newsletter for "researchers and teachers dealing with nuclear issues through literary and linguistic analysis," covering fiction as well as non-fiction. Featured are news of conferences, brief book reviews, bibliographies, scholarly inquiries, and more. NTC is available by contacting:

Paul Brians  
Dept. of English  
Washington State University  
Pullman, WA 99164-5020



SRRT MEETING SCHEDULE  
ALA MIDWINTER  
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1/6/89	4:30- 5:30 p.m.	Gay & Lesbian Task Force Steering Ctte.
1/7/89	9:00-11:00 a.m.	International Human Rights
	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Action Council
	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Feminist Task Force
	2:00- 5:30 p.m.	Coretta Scott King Award (closed)
	2:00- 5:30 p.m.	Gay & Lesbian Task Force Membership
	4:30- 5:30 p.m.	Alternatives in Print Task Force
	8:00-10:00 p.m.	Coretta Scott King Award (closed)
1/8/89	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Alternatives in Print Task Force
	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Library Union Task Force
	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Action Council
	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Coretta Scott King Award Task Force
	4:30- 5:30 p.m.	Gay & Lesbian Task Force business mtg.
1/9/89	8:00- 9:00 a.m.	Peace Information Exchange Task Force
	9:30-11:00 a.m.	Feminist Task Force
	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Coretta Scott King Award Task Force
	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Library Union Task Force
	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Action Council
1/10/89	* 9:00-11:00 a.m.	Feminist Task Force
	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Gay & Lesbian Task Force Steering Ctte.

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