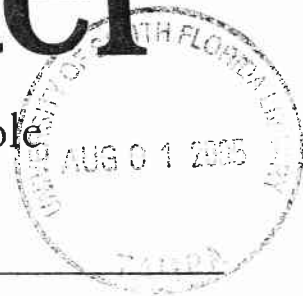


SRRT Newsletter

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of the American Library Association



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COORDINATOR'S MEMO

From: John Hostage

A highlight of the recent ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans was the debate between SRRT's Noel Peattie and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table's John Swan on "Two Views of Intellectual Freedom." Each gave a spirited and convincing exposition of his point of view; the question and answer period included a number of equally eloquent comments from the audience. At the end a standing vote was taken of the audience to determine the winner of the debate. The decision went to John Swan; as agreed, Noel treated him and the moderator, Kathy Heim, to dinner at one of New Orleans' fine eateries.

SRRT Action Council held its usual round of meetings at the conference. A new issue that arose there was the possibility of new ALA dues increases after next year's final increment of a five-year plan to raise the basic rate to \$75. SRRT proposed a resolution to the membership meeting that there be no more dues increases for three years, but this was defeated. The debate focused on how stable ALA's financial health really is and how ALA's resources should be allocated between programs and administrative staff.

Dan Tsang, coordinator of the Alternatives in Print Task Force and now SRRT's representative to the Freedom to Read Foundation as well, reported that he had requested under the Freedom of Information Act any files that the CIA had on

him. They responded with copies of magazine reviews he had written for Library Journal and the information that other information in the files was exempt from release. Dan is appealing. Action Council decided to make its own request for any files that the government may be keeping on SRRT, just to see how much the government is spying on librarians.

The case of Dannie Martin, a federal prisoner in California who suffered retaliatory treatment after reporting on conditions at Lompoc Federal Penitentiary in the San Francisco Chronicle, was brought to Action Council. His case has been taken by the ACLU, and Action Council decided to request that the Freedom to Read Foundation look into filing an amicus curiae brief.

This is Jeanne Kocsis' last issue as newsletter editor, and I want to thank her for doing an excellent job over the past two years. She will be succeeded by Chris Sokol.

LIBRARY EDUCATION ASSEMBLY REP NEEDED

SRRT is looking for a member interested in serving as its representative to the Library Education Assembly. The term would begin next summer at the Annual Conference. Anyone who is interested should contact John Hostage, SRRT Coordinator, or Jackie Eubanks, the current representative. Addresses are listed elsewhere in this issue.

AWARDS COMMITTEE APPROVES PEACE AWARD

The ALA Awards Committee has given official approval to the Peace Award proposed by the Peace Information Exchange Task Force. Concerns raised by the committee last year were resolved when a corporate donor, the Social Issues Resources Series, Inc., agreed to finance the project for the next five years. Nominations will be accepted from the membership of ALA at large and must be submitted to the Award Committee or the Chair of the Task Force by the first day of the annual Midwinter Conference. If you would like to nominate a librarian or a library for the first Peace Award, ask Stephen Stillwell for full details.

This is a major step for the task force, several members of which worked hard to establish the award. Congratulations, PIETF!



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REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT TASK FORCE

The Alternatives in Print Task Force presented a program at ALA in New Orleans entitled "Southern Voices: Alternative Literary and Political Publishing in the South," which was attended by over 150 people. Speakers included John Guidry, former curator of the Political Ephemera Collection at Tulane; Andrei Codrescu, poet, literature instructor at LSU, and frequent commentator on National Public Radio's "All Things Considered;" Tom Dent, one of the founders of the Free Southern Theater in the 1960s and currently Executive Director of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation; and Robert Sullivan, a Cajun high school French teacher who publishes in French as well as English.

The speakers gave their perspectives on alternative and small press publishing in the South (centered on New Orleans and Louisiana). They addressed the history and trends of non-mainstream political publications, small literary periodicals, small literary black writings, and the mainly oral Cajun literary movement. John Guidry observed that desk-top publishing has revolutionized alternative political publishing, a trend echoed by Andrei Codrescu in regard to small literary periodical ventures. Codrescu explained how he keeps his publication, The Exquisite Corpse, afloat and vibrant. Tom Dent delved into the history of local black authors and their influence on black literature. Robert Sullivan related his experiences of growing up bilingual in Louisiana and how he eventually came to be proud rather than ashamed of his French-speaking heritage. He explained that most French-speaking Americans have only an oral knowledge of French and that this has prevented the development of a significant body of American French literature.

The AIP Task Force is continuing to work on updating the Field Guide to Alternative Media, originally compiled by Pat Case. Publication is anticipated in late 1989.

AIP has restructured its organization from two co-coordinators to one coordinator who will serve a two-year term. Dan Tsang will continue as coordinator until until 1989, when Anne Zald will assume the position. Cathy Seitz will be the Field Guide project coordinator.

--Chris Sokol

* * * * *

REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY UNION TASK FORCE

1. Professional determination of work schedule by academic librarians: A program is being planned on this topic for the 5th National ACRL Conference (April 5-8, 1989, Cincinnati). We need your help to gather information on the current status of working conditions of academic librarians. Please contact Jeanene McNair if you are interested in working on this program.

The program proposes to review collective bargaining agreements and their codification of working conditions. Have union contracts protected the rights of librarians to determine their own work schedules and appropriate place to complete their assignments? Does your collective bargaining agreement include statements on working conditions: 1) protection of academic freedom; 2) annual job assignment; 3) recognition that there are place specific and non-place specific responsibilities, and the librarian determines the appropriate time and place for the latter?

2. LUTF index of librarian working conditions in collective bargaining agreements: The task force is exploring the possibility of indexing union contracts for working conditions that apply specifically to librarians. Frequently librarians are one of many types of employees covered by the collective bargaining agreement. Searches for the term librarian will find only specific clauses limited to librarians, but not all the working conditions guaranteed for the librarian. This level of indexing would require a grass-roots effort. Librarians covered by indivi-

dual contracts would need to interpret their collective bargaining agreements to index the articles that cover librarians. The first topics to be indexed are those covering the determination of work schedules by academic librarians. This will be done in preparation for the ACRL Conference program. If you are interested in working on this project, please contact Jeanene McNair.

3. Professionalism vs. unionism: A program on this topic is being planned for ALA Annual in Dallas.

4. LUTF by-laws: Draft copies were distributed in New Orleans. We will try to finalize them at Midwinter. If you would like a copy, please contact Jeanene McNair. One proposal discussed was that LUTF become a union of discussion groups from various ALA sections. If you are interested in organizing a discussion group on collective bargaining for librarians within AASL, ACRL, or PLA, step forward now!

5. LUTF mailing list: If you received the recent LUTF New Orleans agenda, you are on our mailing list. If not, contact Jeanene McNair so your name can be added. If you are a SRRT member in good standing then you are a member of the Library Union Task Force.

--Jeanene McNair

* * * * *

MANY THANKS. . .

. . . to Sandy Berman and all the other nice people in Minnesota who kept the editor supplied with "grist" during the last two years. Space considerations allowed the use of only a small part of this material, but it is much appreciated.

--J.K.



NATIONAL SECURITY IN THE NUCLEAR AGE

by Ernest B. Dane

In June 1988 the "National Security in the Nuclear Age" proposal and booklist for America's libraries reached its fourth anniversary, an apt time to review the project's origin and progress up through ALA 1988 at New Orleans.

The idea of launching this public education effort grew out of the "World After Nuclear War" conference held in Washington late in 1983. The meeting's dramatic "Nuclear Winter" revelations were so disturbing that I decided to retire immediately from the U.S. Foreign Service and to turn my attention to educating the public about the realities of the nuclear era. At first, my focus was on students and schools, but in May 1984 I decided to aim at adult education and to work through libraries.

It was clear from the outset that persuading librarians to take national security seriously was a prerequisite to any impact on public awareness. I therefore took the initial June 1984 draft of the proposal/booklist to several prominent librarians in the Washington area. These meetings impressed me deeply with the importance of political balance as an essential to librarian acceptance of the proposal.

ALA Midwinter at Washington in January 1985 was my first ALA conference. I had already established contact with Elizabeth Morrisett, and was much encouraged by her speedy PIE Task Force endorsement, followed by taking me to SRRT's Action Council to obtain its endorsement later the same day. It was at this conference that distribution of the project booklist began.

Following up on this successful launching among peace-oriented librarians, Elizabeth and I made a bid for broad support at ALA Chicago in July 1985. We drafted a Membership Resolution, and all went well at the membership level, but the Resolutions Committee blocked it from being considered by Council. This was a setback, but, also at Chicago,

SRRT's Dan Tsang suggested that the proposal/booklist be submitted to the ERIC database. The ERIC idea bore fruit later in 1985, and this enhanced the project's visibility. Then, in October 1985, I sent a copy to Father Theodore Hesburgh, who had chaired the U.S. immigration reform commission I had worked on 1978-1981. Father Hesburgh responded with the most helpful idea so far: take the proposal to the League of Women Voters.

Remarkably, the League endorsed the proposal/booklist within a few days of receiving it, and requested 1200 copies for distribution to their complete national mailing list of state and local chapter presidents. Next they asked for 1300 more copies for a second mailing to other key league members. These wonderful LWV moves set us up for ALA New York in June 1986, where Elizabeth and I finally succeeded in pushing a very supportive resolution through both Membership and ALA Council.

In May 1987 the LWV distributed 2500 more copies of the updated proposal to its local chapter leaders, and at ALA San Francisco in 1987 and New Orleans in 1988 I have continued to put out free handout updates of the project's single page short booklist. This version is now printed on both sides and includes 22 of the most important, up-to-date titles on the complete list. At New Orleans I also distributed 300 copies of Dr. Natalie Goldring's recent booklet, A Concerned Citizen's Introduction to National Security, and 150 copies of the new single page version of Defense Monitor from Washington's Center for Defense Information.

Since 1985 I have also been attending an increasing number of other meetings and conferences dealing with the project's subject or its promotion on an ever broader scale. These include two AAAS meetings, the 1987 and 1988 conferences of the International Society of Political Psychology, the December 1987 CATO

symposium on "Containment (of the Soviet Union) and its Alternatives," the January 1988 International Scientific Symposium on a Nuclear Test Ban at Las Vegas, and the April 1988 PLA Conference at Pittsburgh. In addition, in October 1987 I visited the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, and in May 1988 met with the director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in Geneva.

In spite of recent encouraging developments in U.S.-Soviet relations, and the historic arms control breakthrough of the INF Treaty and a possible strategic weapons agreement, I believe this public education concept retains its validity. The American people remain perilously uninformed both about military security issues and about the impact of our strategic policies on the economic, educational, and social foundations of our security in the broadest sense. I therefore plan to continue issuing and circulating monthly updates of the proposal/booklist, attending gatherings of librarians and others, and promoting public interest in this enduringly important subject.

* * * * *

IN MEMORIAM

OLIVER KIRKPATRICK

It is our sad duty to report the passing of Oliver Kirkpatrick. Oliver was an outstanding librarian who was active on many fronts, including the early organization of SRRT and the founding of the Black Caucus. ALA Membership adopted a memorial resolution on July 13, which said in part: "Oliver served as a role model to many of us in his dedication to library services to all people, in his spirit of fun, and in his intuitive sense of fairness and justice, and. . . enriched our lives with his presence, contributions, courage, dignity, integrity, grace, and humanity." The resolution was moved by E.J. Josey and seconded by Jody Bush and Miles M. Jackson.

WHO SAID THIS?

"A library in our society is an empowering, liberating institution."

Answer: Noel Peattie, in the Peattie-Swan debate July 10.

* * * * *

REPORT FROM THE PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE TASK FORCE

News from New Orleans: Stephen Stillwell will succeed Elizabeth Morrissett as coordinator.

Bill Delzell of American International College gave an interesting presentation on his work, "Radical Pacifism during the Truman Era: An Annotated Bibliography."

ACRL's Law and Political Science Section is interested in co-sponsoring a program in Chicago (summer 1990) on "Information Sources in Arms Control and Disarmament."

SIRS, Inc. has agreed to sponsor our official ALA award. The award will honor a library which in the course of its educational and social mission or a librarian who in the course of his/her professional activities has contributed significantly to the advancement of knowledge related to issues of international peace and security. The contribution may take the form of a bibliography, historical research, or a non-print media creation. A jury has been established. For further details on the award or the task force, contact Stephen Stillwell (address elsewhere in this issue).

--Stephen Stillwell



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The terms of elected members of Action Council expire at the end of Annual Conference in the year shown following each name. The newsletter editor and task force liaisons are members ex officio.

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Elmer Holmes Bobst Library
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70 Washington Square South
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