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Marilyn Kaye
ALSC Newsletter
American Library Association
50 East Huron Street
Chicago IL 60611

Dear Marilyn:

Here are a few random thoughts on the proposal to alter the Newbery-Caldecott announcement procedure:

It seems to be acknowledged that the banquet has grown almost beyond control - in cost, magnificence, and importance. Certainly the food is never worth the exorbitant price, and the publishers might well use the money they spend feeding dozens of guests for better purposes: Promoting children's books in the media, perhaps; or sponsoring an author to appear in a library or a school in a place that's never had a real, live author.

Obviously, plenty of people cannot or will not pay the cost of the dinner themselves. On the other hand, it doesn't seem quite fair to the winning author and artist to destroy their night of glory.

How about a festive evening program at which the announcements are made with all proper fanfare and the speeches are delivered - to be followed by a reception for a nominal admission fee or maybe even paid for by the winning publishers?

Years ago CSD got rid of the months of pseudo-secrecy that followed the Newbery-Caldecott decisions. Perhaps ALSC could now fashion some kind of program, done with flair and dignity, and divest the proceedings of the slight aura of exclusiveness that many people feel surrounds the ceremonial banquet.

By the way, congratulations on becoming editor of the Newsletter.

Sincerely,



Ethel L. Heins
Editor

ELH:kmf

cc: Lillian N. Gerhardt

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