

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It's now official! The ALA Awards Committee has approved our State IFC Project Award, and Elliott Goldstein, the president of Social Issues Resources Series, Inc. (SIRS), has donated \$1,000 to fund it. We'll present the first award at the 1984 ALA Annual Conference in Dallas. Thanks to Larry Miller (whose idea this was), and to the committee he chaired, which also included Judith Sessions and Karen Tallman, for developing the award criteria and shepherding the proposal through the bureaucracy. Thanks also to Mr. Goldstein and SIRS for their generous support of intellectual freedom programs.

The new award was approved at the ALA Midwinter Conference, but that wasn't the only significant IFRT event to occur in San Antonio. In order to improve the Round Table's operations, the Executive Committee discussed and then unanimously approved a series of proposals for revision of the bylaws. When members receive their IFRT ballots (and by the time you receive this you should have them), they will have the opportunity to vote on amendments which do the following:

- 1) Provide for succession in case of a midterm vacancy in an elected office (there are no such provisions now, and this was a problem last year when a Director resigned).
- 2) Redefine the Executive Committee (who's on it, and who votes).
- 3) Define and assign roles to the standing committees.
- 4) Eliminate the requirement that the Nominating Committee be elected at the annual meeting (this "election" has long been a mere formality--one candidate per slot).
- 5) Describe the roles of liaisons, and provide for continuity in those appointments.
- 6) Make other minor technical changes.

San Antonio Intellectual Freedom Strategy Session: "The Front-line Librarian and the Local Library: Focal Point of Intellectual Freedom Strategy for the 1980s!" Unfortunately--at least from my point of view--the much-heralded strategy session held just before Midwinter was less than a rousing success. Although the group developed a set of tactical maneuvers, we did not produce any definitive strategy to promote the concept of intellectual freedom among librarians, trustees, support staff, and friends, or any general plan of defense. We did not even attempt to describe the roles of the various components of the ALA intellectual freedom network. For example, although the state intellectual freedom committees are expected to carry the ball for local programs and problems, their members and chairs may not be ALA members and thus may have no commitment to ALA programs or policies. Also, we have not determined how the division intellectual freedom committees mesh with the system. Indeed, despite the fact that school libraries are a major target of censors, the American Association of School Libraries was not represented at the strategy session. For our part, it is difficult--nay, impossible--to plan IFRT activities without knowing whether we are trespassing on another unit's ill-defined turf.

1983 ALA Annual Conference: Our combined membership and program meeting looks very promising. We'll hear from our Immroth Award winner, Nat Hentoff, hold our traditional and popular "Roll Call of the States"; and then conduct a two-level program. One level, consisting of discussions of case studies led by facilitators, will address intellectual freedom issues facing reference, tech. services, and academic librarians; the second, meeting simultaneously, will be a "Swap and Shop" for state intellectual freedom committee members and chairs. (See later in the Newsletter for schedule and Immroth Award information.)

(Message from the Chair, continued)

1984 Annual Conference Program: The IFRT Executive Committee has agreed to co-sponsor a program at the Dallas conference directed at developing interpersonal communication skills to help librarians defuse potential censorship incidents. Dorothy Broderick, originator of the program, is asking for volunteers to serve as session leaders. (For details, see the message from Dorothy later in this Newsletter).

Farewell: Despite hassles and headaches, I have enjoyed serving as your chair this year. I am grateful for the help and support I have had from the entire Executive Committee, particularly the World's Greatest Cub Fan\*, and from everyone in OIF: Judy, Bob, Jacki, Betty, and Rita. I have also appreciated the response and comments I have received from you, the members. Your input makes this organization an effective force in the fight for intellectual freedom. Thanks to everyone!

Sue Kamm, 1982-83 IFRT Chairman

GREETINGS--AND A PLEA--FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

In this new role I will be making a large number of committee appointments shortly before and/or after the Los Angeles conference. If you are interested in serving on any--or on a specific--IFRT committee or as a liaison, please let me know as soon as possible.

Contact me at the Cabell County Public Library, 455 Ninth Street Plaza, Huntington, West Virginia 25701, or call me at 304-523-9451. I'm peripatetic; don't expect to catch me in, but if you call or write, I'll be in touch soon.

The 1984 Dallas meeting should be especially significant for the IFRT because it will mark the first presentation of our State IFC Project Award, thanks (again) to the generosity of Elliott Goldstein and SIRS.

Thanks to all of you for the help and support you will give me.

James B. Nelson, IFRT Chair-Elect

COALITIONS FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM--A MESSAGE FROM DAN SIEBERSMA

The ALA/IFC Task Force on Coalitions will be sponsoring a training session at ALA in LA for everyone interested in building coalitions in support of intellectual freedom. "Building Coalitions to Protect the Freedom to Read and the Right to Know: Strategies for the Eighties" will cover all aspects of coalition building. Starting with the basic question of why coalitions should be formed, the training session will progress through recruiting members and governing coalitions to fund-raising activities and coalition financing.

Education of the public will be covered, including programming, publications, and lobbying. The session participants will then meet in smaller groups to discuss the needs of beginning coalitions and support for existing groups.

This training session is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2:00-4:00 pm in the Washington Room of the Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Dan Siebersma  
Director, George Amos Memorial Library  
412 S. Gillette Ave.  
Gillette, Wyoming 82716

DEVELOPING COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS: A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS AND VOLUNTEERS

Dorothy Broderick is putting together a program for the 1984 ALA Conference in Dallas that has the potential for being a major contribution to one of the most important (but most neglected) aspects of the defense of intellectual freedom: communication. Because we are (or should be!) the "grass roots" organization of dedicated activists, Dorothy is looking to the IFRT for people to serve as facilitators who will themselves be trained at the Washington 1984 Midwinter and will then use their experience, wisdom, and training in the Dallas Conference program for helping librarians develop their abilities to talk--and listen--to the potential censor, to defuse potentially nasty confrontations and to demonstrate the necessity of open access. In the words of Professor Broderick:

In nominating people, please try to find members who are not now very active in the Association. Since one of our goals is to build a grass roots movement, we should be looking for people who are ready to become active, and those who can share what they learn in their work situations and with local library organizations. The people selected must promise to spend an entire day at the Washington 1984 Midwinter being trained; they must promise to attend the Dallas conference--all at their own expense.

Perhaps the most important quality to look for in the people who volunteer or are nominated is their willingness to change behavior patterns. While undergoing group leader facilitator training is not the equivalent of therapy, it does require an openness and flexibility that is not present in everyone, even among people we really like. Since the success of the program will rest upon the qualities of the facilitators, we must search for the very best.

If you are (don't be modest!) or know someone who is one of the "very best"--someone who not only has the necessary qualities, but who can make the serious commitment involved--please contact Dorothy Broderick at P.O. Box 6569  
University, AL 35486.

1983 JOHN PHILLIP IMMROTH MEMORIAL AWARD FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

Speaking of the very best, Nat Hentoff, writer, crusader, and special friend of libraries and librarians, is this year's winner of the IFRT's Immroth Award, given to an activist for intellectual freedom who has made a notable contribution to the cause, both in terms of personal courage and positive action. It consists of \$500 and a citation, and this year will be presented to Hentoff on Monday, June 27, early in our program and membership meeting.

Nat Hentoff first became known as one of the nation's best jazz critics and chroniclers, as associate editor of Downbeat, cofounder and editor of The Jazz Review, and through several important books, including The Jazz Makers, Journey into Jazz, and Jazz Is. He has written eloquently on education and civil rights, and his The First Freedom: The Tumultuous History of Free Speech in America won the Hugh Hefner First Amendment Award in 1980. Hentoff is also a popular and highly respected author for young adults, his YA novels including Does this School have Capital Punishment? (ALA Best Book for YA, 1981) and, most recently, and relevantly, The Day They Came to Arrest the Book. Currently a staff writer for the Village Voice and The New Yorker, he is a board member of the ACLU and the NYCLU, and he is much in demand as a speaker and campaigner for freedom of access in libraries and schools. For many years he has devoted himself tirelessly and generously to our cause; he is a most worthy addition to our Immroth heroes, who

(Immroth Award, continued)

have included Steve Pico (1982), Sonja Coleman (1978), and Elizabeth Phillips (1979).

This year's Immroth Award Committee chair has been Anne Martel (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign); she will present the award in Los Angeles. Remember that honoring our most effective freedom fighters is one of the best ways of publicizing the cause; let us know if you have a candidate.

### THE MEDIA COALITION

A word (courtesy of Judy Krug, Director of the Office for Intellectual Freedom, and our indispensable point-woman in the struggle) about an important ally: The Media Coalition was established to monitor legislation spawned by the landmark Supreme Court obscenity decisions of 1973. It is supported by five trade organizations: the American Booksellers Association, the Association of American Publishers, the Council for Periodical Distributors Associations, the International Periodical Distributors Association, and the National Association of College Stores. Through their state-level contacts and various reporting services, the members of the Media Coalition maintain an effective watchdogging network.

The OIF cooperates with the Media Coalition because many of the bills that affect its members also affect libraries and librarians. When the state legislatures are in session, the OIF regularly receives reports from the Coalition concerning pending legislation which may affect First Amendment rights. In turn, the OIF sends these reports to the IFC chair in the state that is involved. Recently, there has been a spate of "Ferber type" bills resulting from the Supreme Court's decision last July in People v. Ferber, which held that child pornography (very broadly and vaguely defined as "depictions of sexual activity involving children") is not protected by the First Amendment. The Media Coalition has been extremely useful in helping the OIF and the state committees keep pace with these new bills and laws. (Personal testimonial from your Indiana editor: As state IFC chair, I received the Media Coalition report on our state's "Ferber" bill from the OIF as soon as it was put on the agenda; with the help of the OIF and the state association legislative committee, we were able to develop a position quickly and are introducing an affirmative defense amendment in the next session.)

### MORE GOOD WORDS FROM JUDITH KRUG AND THE OFFICE FOR INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

The Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom is the best source of current information on and analysis of censorship issues and incidents because of the network of resources that supports it. Judy reminds us that we in the IFRT are part of that network, and we should be watching for stories that are relevant to the Newsletter, clipping those stories, and sending them to the ALA-OIF

50 East Huron St.  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

### OBOLER DICTA

We have word that our former chair, Eli Oboler, recently retired Idaho State U. Library Director and one of the profession's most eloquent spokesmen for the cause of freedom of speech, is seriously ill. For many of us, his is a familiar and valued name, but for those who haven't read him, and for their salutary effect on all of us, here are a few words from his 1974 book, The Fear of the Word: Censorship and Sex, a good sample of what have fondly been termed Oboler dicta:

(Oboler dicta, continued)

Who is the censor? He is Cato, and St. Paul, and St. Augustine, and Pope Paul IV, and Martin Luther. He is Savonarola, and Torquemada, and Calvin, and Cromwell. He is Cotton Mather, Thomas Bowdler,...Chief Justice Cockburn, Anthony Comstock,...Joseph Stalin, Charles de Gaulle, Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield,...and President Richard Nixon....The Censor is Queen Victoria, Carry Nation,...He is Catholic, Jewish, Protestant. He is Morman, Christian Scientist, Seventh Day Adventist....He is deistic and atheistic and agnostic....At various times he has worn skins, and armor, and monk's robes, and a tuxedo, and a suit "right off the rack."

He is Everyman, sometime, everywhere--and, to some extent always, he is the man or woman in your mirror!

(Get well soon, Eli; we need you!)

ALA AND LA--AND IFRT: AN IFRT-RELATED LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (As of 5/13)

Executive Committee (and any interested members of the IFRT)

Sunday, June 26 9 am-11 am Room 205, Los Angeles Convention and Exhibit Center  
Monday, June 27 4:30-5:30 pm Cleveland Room, Hilton Hotel

Program and Membership Meeting (our biggie: Nat Hentoff, Roll-Call of States, Front-line Workshops, State IFC Discussions...be there!)

Monday, June 27 9:30 am-12:30 pm Room 216C, LA Convention and Exhibit Center

Intellectual Freedom Committee/Division IFCs/IFRT

Friday, June 24 (Program Planning) 11:30-12:30 Room 214B, LA Convention...Center

Saturday, June 25 (JOINT PROGRAM) 9 am-12:30 Room 217, LA Convention...Center

(The JOINT PROGRAM grew out of the important San Antonio Strategy Session before Midwinter; it is an orientation/workshop program on THE FRONT LINE LIBRARIAN AND THE LOCAL LIBRARY: TIPS (HOW TO) ON FIGHTING CENSORSHIP IN THE 1980S THROUGH THE MEDIA, LOBBYING, AND LEGISLATION, AND THE LAW. Be there, too!)

Sunday, June 26 (Joint Meeting) 8 am-11 am Room 201, LA Convention...Center

Tuesday, June 28 (Coalition Task Force) 2-4 pm Washington Room, Hilton Hotel

(For information on this vital session, see the Message from Dan Siebersma, p. 2)

INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM DATELINE

October 21, 1982: In a 7-0 ruling, the New York State Court of Appeals reversed itself and bowed to the U.S. Supreme Court's Ferber decision by upholding New York's child pornography law, which bans films and photographs of children in sexual acts even if they are not obscene. Meanwhile, many other states are following the Ferber decision with their own sweeping child pornography laws, many passing (as in Indiana) with the kind of unanimous fervor reserved for motherhood and apple-pie issues--often, unfortunately, with wording that could pose a real danger to intellectual freedom. The pending federal legislation in the "kiddieporn" area may, however, be more enlightened, because Senator Specter (R.-Pa.) has altered his proposed bill to leave room for defense if a book in question, taken as a whole, has "redeeming social value."

January 24, 1983: In a controversial attempt to restrict the political advocacy of groups receiving federal funding, the OMB published a proposed revision to Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations." This would have made unallowable the cost of political advocacy, whether direct or indirect, but it was promptly subjected to extensive public and congressional criticism and was withdrawn this spring in favor of a new document being prepared for publication this summer.

(Intellectual Freedom Dateline, continued)

March 15, 1983: Governor Janklow of South Dakota signed into H.B. 1298, protecting the confidentiality of library records in that state. Also in March, Governor Orr of Indiana signed into law reformed public records legislation for our state, which contains a library exemption introduced by our IFC. A year ago in May, Wisconsin's confidentiality statute went into effect, and Washington (state) recently acquired one, so now there are sixteen states with library confidentiality statutes on the books: California, Connecticut, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Meanwhile, however, the Iowa Supreme Court affirmed a lower court decision granting Division of Criminal Investigation agents the right to examine circulation records in the Des Moines Public Library, as part of their investigation of a series of cattle mutilations, in the theory that the records on witchcraft books will provide leads. The court ruled that the state library confidentiality statute was inapplicable.

Other News: The nine-month long campaign to have four homosexual titles removed or restricted in the Niles (Michigan) Community Library continues, despite the fact that Anne Frese, Niles Director, and her board and friends have held their ground and rallied a majority in the community to the cause of free access. For her efforts, Mrs. Frese was recently notified by Phyllis Schlafly's Eagle Forum Stop Textbook Censorship Committee that she is on their "hit list."...The New York Library Association has joined with the State of New York, the NYCLU, and other plaintiffs to challenge the Justice Department's designation of three Canadian films as "foreign political propaganda!" According to the Justice Dept., the films, one on nuclear war (IF YOU LOVE THIS PLANET, with Helen Caldicott, and nominated for an Academy Award) and two on the effects of acid rain, must be shown with this label and the names of the groups showing the films have to be supplied to the government.

THESE ARE NEWS-FILLED TIMES FOR IF FANS--FOR MORE, SEE THE NEWSLETTER ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM, PUBLISHED BY THE ALA INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE AND THE OIF

#### IFRT QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

Sue Kamm, outgoing chair of the IFRT, has done an extensive analysis of the 70 responses she received to the questionnaire that went out with the November Newsletter. There is much that is illuminating about our attitudes in her analysis; those seeking a full report should contact her (P.O. Box 26467, Los Angeles, CA 90026; 213-665-7664). She was able to make good use of the results at the San Antonio strategy session.

A few highlights: By an overwhelming margin, IFRT members feel we should be providing support against pressure groups and other censors....Members generally sense an increase in the number of censorship incidents recently, especially against literature and other material for the young....They naturally expect an increase in the future, also...The Office for Intellectual Freedom/Intellectual Freedom Committee ALA units were ranked as highly effective in all categories, providing support and disseminating information--higher in general than state IFCs....Legislative lobbying, followed by coalition-building and publication of educational materials, had the highest priority for allocation of IFRT resources. There were also many articulate suggestions as to how the IFRT should increase its effectiveness and about issues and problems which the organization should confront.

TWO NEW ALA-OIF PUBLICATIONS: CENSORSHIP LITIGATION AND THE SCHOOLS, the results of a colloquium of distinguished legal minds in the field (\$17.50), and soon to be made available, the long-awaited INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM MANUAL, REVISED EDITION (\$15.00).

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