

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Final arrangements have been completed for Annual Conference and it appears that we will be presenting a stellar program. As I stated in the last newsletter, one of my goals was to increase membership to IFRT. Under the leadership of Larry Miller our membership has increased 11.8 percent from 661 to 738.

Other accomplishments have been the establishment of the Eli Oboler Award for recognition of an outstanding published article on intellectual freedom, a classy membership brochure that will be ready by Annual Conference, and the selection of William North as the 1985 recipient of the Immroth Award. The North Carolina Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee will be the second recipient of the SIRS State Program Award, and IFRT will submit two nominations for ALA Councilor-at-Large. The names of Gene Lanier and Laurence Miller were submitted to the ALA Nominating Committee.

A special thank you goes out to Elliot Goldstein and Social Issues Resources Series (SIRS) for underwriting the membership brochure.

Serving as chair of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table for the past year has been a tremendous honor for me. The achievements and success of this year must be attributed to each of you who have completed your duties and responsibilities beyond the call of duty. Thank you for making this a special year for me. Without the expert guidance of Judith Krug and her assistant, Nancy Herman, my job would have been extremely difficult.

--Pamela G. Bonnell
Chair, IFRT
Plano Public Library System
Plano, Texas

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-CHAIR

The Eli Oboler Memorial Award: Although we are still working out the details (which means the funding), we expect to put this important award up for final approval at the Annual Conference in Chicago. Eli was one of the library profession's most valuable activists for intellectual freedom for many decades, and his most lasting contributions to the cause came by way of his writing. It is fitting, then, that the IFRT award named after him will honor the best piece of writing on the subject published within the two-year period ending the December before the Annual Conference at which the award will be granted. It will be a biennial award, and we hope to give the first one in New York in 1986. This should prove to be an excellent way to honor some vital work and also to spread the vital word.

Pornography and Censorship: As you probably know, the ALA has joined the Indiana Library Association-Library Trustees Association and other interested parties in filing as friend of the court in the suit against the Indianapolis porn-as-violation-of-civil-rights ordinance. Although Judge Sarah Barker's decision last fall in Indianapolis added up to a resounding victory for our side, Mayor Hudnut and his fellow crusaders (an unlikely coalition of feminists and the Religious Right) have appealed to the Seventh Circuit in Chicago. Briefs were filed on April 1, appropriately enough. The intellectual freedom joint program in New York will be on the same difficult subject, that is, "Sex, Censorship, and Social Change" (current working title). We are very anxious that members of all parts of our profession understand the relevance of the topic to their particular fields, and we still welcome suggestions concerning the program. There are serious legal and social conflicts afoot concerning obscenity/pornography in the areas of children's, young adults', and adults' library materials, so it shouldn't be difficult to see that relevance. We should have the basic outlines of the program hammered out by the end of the Chicago conference.

Volunteerism: I have the names of some excellent folk who want to be involved in IFRT, but we can always use more. Although I quake at the prospect of stepping into the shoes of the brilliant General Bonnell, I do look forward to a challenging and exciting year for the IFRT, and anyone who wants to play an active role during the 1985-86 year is most welcome.

--John Swan
Vice Chair/Chair Elect
IFRT

ANNUAL CONFERENCE DATES AND TIMES

Friday, July 5	IFRT, Division IF Coms., IFC Joint Program Planning Committee	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Friday, July 5	IFRT Executive Board	4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 6	IFRT Coalition Task Force	8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday, July 6	IFRT, Division IF Coms., <u>IFC Program</u>	9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Saturday, July 6	IFRT Membership Promotion Committee	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 7	IFRT Organization & Bylaws Committee	9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Sunday, July 7	IFRT, Division IF Coms., IFC	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday, July 8	IFRT <u>Membership & Program</u>	9:30 - 11:00 a.m.
Monday, July 8	IFRT Membership Promotion Committee	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Monday, July 8	IFRT Executive Board	2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

IFRT MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM MEETING

Monday morning, July 8, will feature the 1985 Immroth Memorial Award to William D. North, senior vice-president and general counsel, National Association of Realtors, former trustee and president of Freedom to Read Foundation and the 1985 IFRT SIRS State Program Award to North Carolina Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Another favorite — "Roll Call of the States" will share state triumphs and challenges of Chapter IFCs.

"CAUTION: THIS PROGRAM IS RATED X: VIDEOCASSETTES AND THE MPAA RATING SYSTEM: THE IMPACT ON LIBRARIES"

This program should certainly attract a large audience Saturday morning. It is particularly timely since ALA Council passed the resolution on videocassettes.

Our co-sponsors are ALTA Intellectual Freedom Committee/ALSC Intellectual Freedom Committee/YASD Intellectual Freedom Committee/and the Intellectual Freedom Committee.

Speakers: Richard D. Heffner, Classification and Rating Administration Board, Motion Picture Association of America; Mary Hutchings Reed, ALA Legal Counsel, Sidley and Austin; and Grace P. Slocum, Library Administrator.

IFRT MEMBERSHIP AND PROGRAM MEETING (cont'd)

Speakers will discuss the history, purpose and future of the MPAA rating system; legal implications for libraries and the effects of state legislation; and the librarian's point of view concerning policy on labeling and rights of access.

SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 1985-86

Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect:

Barbara Jones
Laurence Miller

Board of Directors (2):

Amanda Bible
Paul Cors
Elliott Goldstein
Carol Liu

Treasurer:

Judith Bradley
William Roberts

IFRT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair: Pamela G. Bonnell

Directors: Ginny Moore Cruse (1985)

Vice Chair/Chair Elect:

John Swan

Gene D. Lanier (1986)

Secretary: Judith A. Sessions

Anne Martell (1986)

Treasurer: Amanda Bible

Sam G. Whitten (1985)

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

It's been fun, folks! Working with General Bonnell is like being in the center of the non-stop whirlwind—and when she's as committed to a cause as she is to IFRT, she transcends superlatives.

We Dallasites are still mourning the demise of the Joe Bob Briggs column, one of the most popular features of the Dallas Times Herald. The fictional Briggs, the nemesis of the sanctimonious set, had managed to offend just about every special interest group in the country during his career as the drive-in movie critic and general redneck commentator on world events. A recent column parodied the popular "We are the World" famine-relief song; 300 irate readers met at the Times Herald editorial offices, and Joe Bob's column was axed. In retaliation, Joe Bob quit. It's hard enough finding humor these days, especially in this area, and now the job will be a bit more difficult.

Thanks to those of you who responded to the hypothetical library manager's problem in the previous issue. The answers were thoughtful, wise, and very sensible. We especially valued the response from Jim Dwyer of Northern Arizona University Library. He suggested that the library, having had Playboy arbitrarily removed from its shelves, keep track of the number of interlibrary loan requests for articles from Playboy and use this number as a reason for maintaining the subscription—or for cancelling it.

I am relocating to Washington, D.C. in June; the confusion inherent with any move will prevent me from attending ALA, but my thoughts and good wishes are with all of you.

--Judith A. Bradley