



OIF ALA

# on Intellectual freedom

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## An Edifying Lesson In Playing It Cool

Recently, in Maryland, a public library was challenged by an irate father, chairman of a Knights of Columbus Committee for Decent Literature, whose 18-year-old daughter had borrowed a novel which he said he found "down-right filthy." Charges of pornography were raised. A county legislative body spoke of stripping the library of all pornographic material. Articles in the newspapers gave the story full coverage, using the word "smut" in the headlines.

Here were all the ingredients for an embarrassing situation if not worse: an "objectionable" book, an outraged parent, who is also a "decent literature" watchdog, an elected official who spoke apparently without weighing his words, and newspaper articles emphasizing emotion arousing words.

This is just the kind of situation in which librarians can easily panic and library boards jump the tracks.

But that didn't happen this time in Maryland. The librarian kept her head. She remembered the Library Bill of Rights, the Freedom to Read Statement, and her own library's book selection policies. She referred to these documents and to the procedure used in selecting the book in question in answering an inquiry from the county legislative body. She was backed up by a wise and experienced library board which knew its rights and responsibilities.

No one knows, of course, if the incident is closed or if it will trigger other action. Like the batter who stands close to the plate and is always in danger of taking a beanball, the librarian, attentive to his responsibility, is always a ready target for those fearful people in any community who make mistakes like Chicken Little's who thought when a leaf fell on her head the sky was falling. The terrified suppressor of books believes that the presence of one he disapproves of will corrupt the citizenry.

Incidentally, there is no evidence that the reading the 18-year-old daughter did taught her anything she didn't know or led her to unbridled, or even bridled, depravity.

So the lesson is there for all of us. When the censor makes his pitch, play it cool.

*Edwin Castagna*

# Library Book Called Smut

I

BEL AIR, Md.—A book labeled by a decent literature committeeman as “filth and smut simply for the sake of smut” was purchased by the Harford county library on the basis of four book reviews that made it “sound appealing and worthwhile,” the county commissioners were told yesterday.

Miss Roenna Fahrney, library administrator, quoted library staff members as saying that they would probably not have purchased the book, *A Horse Is Dead*, if they had been able to read it beforehand.

In a letter of explanation sought by the commissioners, Miss Fahrney said the staff is not large enough to read the approximately 8,000 books which it buys each year prior to purchase and must rely on sources which prepare reviews for libraries.

The controversy over Robert Klane’s novel stems from a letter of protest to commissioner John H. O’Neill from Edward J. Nohe, chairman of the Committee for Decent Literature in the Knights of Columbus, Bel Air council.

He said he found the book, drawn from the library by his 18-year-old daughter, to be “downright filthy in the language used and the situations portrayed.

“When I expressed revulsion,” he added, “I was informed by my daughter that ‘the library has lots of books where they talk worse than that one.’”

In explanation Miss Fahrney said she does not find the book palatable “but I defend the right of people to read it who find it funny, and many do.”

Purely pornographic materials are eliminated automatically under the book selection policy, she noted, but serious works which present an honest picture of some problem or aspect of life are not necessarily excluded because of coarse language or frankness.

Mr. O’Neill said the Board of Commissioners “would like to go on record” in favor of emptying library shelves of pornographic material.”—*Baltimore Sun*, 15 October.

II

The commissioners reaffirmed their opposition to keeping a book on the Bel Air library shelves described by a Decent Literature committeeman as “filth and smut simply for the sake of smut.”

The book, Robert Klane’s *A Horse Is Dead* is “Not fit to be disseminated through our public library system,” Commission Chairman G. H. Cobourn said, adding that a county official would check to see if it is still on a shelf.—*Baltimore Sun*, 16 October.

III

BEL AIR, Md.—The controversy over Robert Klane’s novel *The Horse Is Dead* is a dead issue, at least in the eyes of the Harford County Board of Library Trustees.

The county commissioners were notified yesterday that the board “declines to instruct the library staff to remove from circulation the novel, described by a Committee for Decent Literature members as ‘filth and smut simply for the sake of smut.’”

Miss Eloise H. Wilson, board president, said in a letter to the commissioners that the decision “is in no way to be construed as an approval by the board, or by the staff, of this particular book.”

The commissioners, whose attention had been drawn to the book by Edward J. Nohe, chairman of the Committee for Decent Literature in the local Knights of Columbus chapter, recently announced their opposition to keeping the novel on the Bel Air library shelves.

The board of trustees, however, supported the position taken by Miss Roenna Fahrney, library administrator, who explained the book selection policy to the commissioners in early October, following Mr. Nohe’s complaint.

Purely pornographic materials are eliminated automatically, she said, but serious works which present an honest picture of some problem or aspect of life are not necessarily excluded because of coarse language or frankness.—*Baltimore Sun*, 30 October.

## Cal’s Academic Senate Defies Regents on Cleaver

BERKELEY, Calif.—A resolution criticizing the University of California regents and asking that Eldridge Cleaver, Black Panther information minister, be allowed to lecture on the Berkeley campus has won overwhelming support of the university’s Academic Senate.

By a 668 to 114 vote, with 21 abstentions, the Senate adopted Thursday night a six-part resolution in favor of proceeding with plans to hold the course “on or off campus” with Cleaver giving his proposed 10 lectures on racism.

The resolution directs “the committee on courses to take all steps to encourage course and credit status for that program.”

The regents voted to limit the militant Negro, an ex-convict to one lecture in a class for credit.

After the resolution was introduced, University President Charles Hitch warned the faculty group that confrontation with the regents might “destroy the university as we have known it.”—*Eugene Register Guard*, 4 October.

## UCLA's Too

In a 215-29 vote the Academic Senate yesterday approved a resolution urging the Board of Regents to repeal resolutions abridging Academic Senate autonomy over courses and curricula approval.

The Regental resolutions, passed at the Sept. 20 meeting here, stemmed from opposition to Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver's appointment as a guest lecturer in an experimental course at UC Berkeley.

The Regent's resolution limited guest lecturers to one appearance per quarter in courses given for credit and instructed UC President Charles J. Hitch to "initiate an exploration . . . of the appropriate role of the administration in approving courses and curricula."

The Academic Senate resolution maintained that the Sept. 20 resolutions were contrary to the Standing Orders of the Regents which grants the Academic Senate authority and supervision of all courses and curricula. The resolution further notes that the Regental resolutions are "contrary as well to that spirit of free inquiry and teaching which has made this one of the great universities of the world."—UCLA *Daily Bruin*, 1 October.

## Movie Classification Is Here

After years of bitter debate, the motion picture industry has agreed to start restricting admission to some of its films.

Beginning Nov. 1 young people will be barred from films considered unsuitable—chiefly those heavy with sex and violence.

From that date all films from major studios—as well as reissued films—will be classified by the industry in one of four categories:

G—for general audiences.

M—for mature audiences. (Parents will be urged to decide whether their children should see an M film.)

R—young persons not admitted unless accompanied by parent or adult guardian.

X—young persons not admitted under any circumstances.

The cutoff age for R and X films varies, depending upon the state, between 16 and 18. In New York it will be 17.

Once a rating has been given it must appear prominently in all advertisements and at the box office. Thus no one should be in doubt as to whether a particular film is suitable for a child.

Theater managers will be responsible for enforcing the restrictions, which have been agreed to by the National Association of Theater Owners.—New York *News*, 4 October.

## No 'Life' in St. Tammany

The St. Tammany Parish School Board last week restored Newsweek to the list of periodicals to be placed in school libraries but took no action concerning three other periodicals which it recently deleted from the list.

The three others are Life, Look and Saturday Evening Post.

The board cast a unanimous vote in favor of a motion which read: "That the board subscribe to Newsweek and instruct the staff to formulate guidelines for approval when subscriptions come up in the future."—Slidell-St. Tammany (La.) *Times*, 5 September.

### Freedom of the Press

A bibliography of some 8,000 books, pamphlets, journals, articles, films, court decisions, and other material relating to the press in English-speaking countries, from the beginning of printing to the present, comprises the 576 pages of *Freedom of the Press: An Annotated Bibliography* by Ralph E. McCoy (\$25.00), published on December 12 by Southern Illinois University Press.

The word "press" in the title of this annotated bibliography is used generically, for the entries which include censorship and its opposite, the freedom of expression, as found in all media of mass communication. Geographically, the book includes entries for the United States, Great Britain, Ireland, Canada, India, Australia, and other present and former Commonwealth countries.

Reaching 400 years into the past, the volume annotates the contents of all entries, going as far back as the earliest report of book burning (William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament 1525-26) and taking note of espionage trials, obscenity cases, blacklisting, religious controversies, and all other known suppressed and controversial developments in the field.

The book is complemented with a subject index which offers easy reference to court decisions which have reshaped Anglo-American laws and our response to plays, movies, such books as D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and John Cleland's *Fanny Hill*, and decisions on libel and invasion of privacy. Robert B. Downs, Dean of Library Administration, University of Illinois and a distinguished authority on the champion of intellectual freedom, has provided a Foreword.

Ralph McCoy has been Director of University Libraries at Southern Illinois University since 1955. His previous books are *Personnel Administration for Libraries* and *History of Labor and Unionism in The United States: A Bibliography*.

## No Gregory, No Bond

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (CPS)—Georgia legislator Julian Bond, scheduled to address University of Tennessee students October 2, refused to appear in Knoxville because students there had been forbidden to invite Dick Gregory to the campus a week earlier.

"If the Chancellor of the University thinks the students are too simple-minded to hear Gregory, they are obviously too simple-minded to hear me," said Bond. "I certainly don't want to poison student minds."

Chancellor Charles H. Weaver had denied a student speaker's program permission to invite Gregory, saying he had "nothing to say to the University community" and that his appearance would be "an outrage and an insult to many citizens of this state."

About Bond's cancellation, Weaver only said, "I am sorry that he is not coming."

"It's not a matter of Gregory himself," Bond said. "It's a matter of students being allowed to make their own decisions. I wouldn't care if it were Harry Truman or George Wallace being denied permission. The issue would be the same—freedom of choice."—*UCLA Daily Bruin*, 7 October.

## U.S. Changes War on Smut

WASHINGTON—The Post Office has abandoned censorship as a weapon in the war against smut and is training its guns only on dealers who mail pornography to people who complain.

The main goal of this new strategy, Harry B. Montague, chief postal inspector says, is to keep advertisements for smut out of the hands of children and young people.

Mr. Montague indicates the heat is off consenting individuals who use the mails to exchange obscene photographs and reading matter.

Mr. Montague said that since 1957, the courts and the Justice Department have hindered the Post Office in its fight against pornography, and battle lines have had to be withdrawn.

Mr. Montague now largely relies on individual protests from the public.

He and the 1,080 "Post Office policemen" across the nation have been helped by a six-month-old Federal anti-pandering law.

Acting under this statute, the Post Office has received since April nearly 75,000 complaints about material which recipients said they had received through the mails and which was "erotically arousing or sexually provocative."

The new law makes it possible for individuals to demand that pornography peddlers be ordered to remove their name from any mailing list the peddler owns or controls.

Violations are referred to the Justice Department, which can apply to Federal courts to force compliance with the law.

Pornography dealers, on the other hand, are not completely displeased with the measure. It has a reverse effect—weeding out from their mailing lists those who object to pornography and leaving on them the names of persons who may have an interest in ordering from dealer catalogues.

Because of limitations placed on them by the courts or by administrative decision—Mr. Montague emphasizes that the Post Office is no longer in the censorship business—postal inspectors now "channel all their efforts into dealer cases."

Records indicate, however, that far less time is now spent on chasing down alleged obscenity than is given mail fraud.—*Baltimore Sun*, 12 October.

## Covina Teacher Loses Job

A Covina, Calif., High School teacher with 14 years' experience in this south Los Angeles suburb has been fired for allowing classroom readings of an essay which contained what some called "obscene" language.

Harrison Bryan, Jr., is taking his dismissal to the courts. Charges of "immoral conduct" were formally filed against him on July 11, but a court date is several months away.

Dr. R. James Teal, president of the school board in this community, said Bryan's action in allowing classroom reading of the essay *The Student as Nigger*, which originally appeared in a Canadian teachers' publication, was "inappropriate and not tolerable in the school system."—*American Teacher*, September.

### Nicodemus and the Hounddog

The NAACP yesterday filed a protest with the school district over a library book being used at Oak Park Elementary School.

Irvin Brown, local NAACP president, made the protest in telegrams to Dr. William E. Morris, board president, and Dr. Dana Williams, superintendent.

Brown said the book ridicules Negroes, and he asked that any book at any library in the system "that tends to ridicule minority groups" be removed.

The book Brown is critical of is *Nicodemus and the Hounddog*.—*Corpus Christie Caller*, 12 October.

## “ER” in Philly (Cont.)

The Free Library is renewing subscription to the *Evergreen Review* for its central facility on Logan Square and its Northeast Regional Library.

The magazine will be kept on closed shelves and be available only to persons over 18.

Subscriptions for branch libraries in Wynnefield and West Oak Lane are being canceled when they run out in December.

The decision to retain two of four copies of the avant garde publication was announced yesterday by Emerson Greenaway, director of the Free Library.

Greenaway said the *Evergreen Review* will be retained at the central and regional libraries because it publishes “articles and plays of importance which should be represented in our collection.”

He noted that more than 200 public and college libraries get the *Evergreen Review*.

“What most people forget,” he said, “is that in a metropolitan library system like the Free Library of Philadelphia, we have a responsibility not only to the present but to future researchers who are interested in studying what was published and what was read in various decades.

“If we don’t collect them, there will be no record.”

He noted, for example, that it’s no longer possible to obtain 1910 copies of the *Police Gazette*. “All such publications contribute to an understanding of society,” he said.

Greenaway said there will always be “heat” on libraries from censors. He conceded that some observers might construe the decision to drop two subscriptions to the *Evergreen Review* as a “victory for the book burners.”

He said, however, that it was decided not to offer the magazine to branch libraries because “their reference collections are not of the same magnitude as those at the central and regional libraries.”

The librarian declared that his own literary tastes do not run in the direction of the *Evergreen Review*.

“I personally don’t care for this kind of literature,” he said. “There are other books I’d rather read. But do people have the right to deprive others of what they want to read? As long as society is not threatened, I don’t think so.

“Unfortunately, we often find that book critics don’t read books. To such people it comes as a shock to find out what is going on in the world of books.”

In part, the problem reflects the generation gap, Greenaway said. “The younger generation is not as bothered by what it reads as we (of the older generation) are,” he explained.

And it is important to note, Greenaway continued, that it is young people today who are the big library users.—*Philadelphia Bulletin*, 27 October.

## Ft. Lauderdale Mayor Censures Library

The Ft. Lauderdale library’s book selection has come under fire from Mayor Edmund Burry who claims some books in the library are obscene.

The charge was made yesterday as commissioners passed an ordinance—modeled after a New York State law upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court—making it illegal to sell or circulate obscene magazines, books, motion pictures or other obscene material to minors.

Burry noted that there are books in the library that might be illegal under the new ordinance.

The mayor said Marshall Smith—one of his appointees—had resigned from the library board because of the book selection policy.

Burry said Smith called his attention to a book, *Shoot It*, which the mayor said was worse than anything he had heard in the Army during his World War I days.

“There must be something wrong with our library board,” Commissioner Fred E. Welker commented.

Commissioner Allen Forbes pointed out some people think certain Bible passages are obscene; that much depends upon an individual reader’s viewpoint.

City Atty. Dean Andrews commented that “there have been big changes in moral standards over the past 20 years” to account for language used in contemporary writing.

“I want this looked into,” Burry snapped.

New Yorker magazine recently carried excerpts from *Shoot It*. Language is mild compared with that of ordinary conversation on the street among hippies in the East Village section of New York City.

Chief Librarian Leo Meirose said the book in question is “a serious attempt to analyze a human being to see what makes him tick, in this case a particularly frustrated and aimless human being which is within the realm of creative literature.”—*Fort Lauderdale News*, 16 October.

## Obscene, ‘The Fox’

POPLAR BLUFF, Mo.—Circuit Court Judge Rex Henson ruled Tuesday the motion picture *The Fox*, based on a D. H. Lawrence novel, is obscene.

Judge Henson enjoined the Rodgers Theater from exhibiting the film and ordered the sheriff’s department to seize the theater’s print pending a final decision in the case.

The court order was sought by Butler County Prosecuting Attorney William C. Batson, Jr., on grounds that the film is obscene under definitions formulated by the U.S. Supreme Court.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 9 October.

# 'Barb' Loses in Richmond

I

## Barb's Fate Back to Council

The fate of the *Berkeley Barb* and *Avant Garde* publications now under attack by a women's group as being unfit for children to read in the public library, is in the hands of the City Council today.

The five-member Library Commission, after nearly two hours of debate yesterday, tossed the matter back after it failed to agree on any kind of a compromise.

Factions of the commission appeared to agree that the minimum age for holders of an adult library card could be raised to the ninth grade level. Adult cards now are given eighth graders.

Where members split was on how the two publications should be displayed, either openly on the shelves as at present or behind the counter of the reference desk where they could be asked for.—*Richmond Independent*, 1 October.

II

## Librarian Bans Barb in Richmond

*The Berkeley Barb*, the Bay Area's most strident journalistic voice, was banned yesterday from the Richmond library system.

The ban was imposed by Librarian John Forsman after the City's Library Commission voted Monday night to evict the *Barb* as well as *Avant Garde*, a Los Angeles-based periodical.

The commission voted last August to support Forsman's view that these publications were appropriately stocked in the main library's periodicals room, which gives no access to children below the eighth-grade level.

The motion that led to a commission reversal of its stand was made by Commissioner Edwin Brooks.

The commission has only advisory jurisdiction. But Forsman said he was not inclined to place the issue before the City Council since three of his five Commissioners are against him.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, 9 October.

III

## Librarians Asked to Boycott Richmond

RICHMOND—The Freedom to Read Committee, using advertisements circulated statewide in library trade magazines, is asking librarians not to work in the Richmond Public Library because it is censored.

David Brunton, executive secretary of the California Library Association, representing the Freedom to Read Committee, said yesterday the removal of the *Berkeley*

*Barb* and *Avant Garde* from the Richmond library "is not a matter of obscenity. It is a political issue."

Mrs. Marion E. Gant, president of the Richmond Library Commission backed up Brunton saying, "The attack upon the library is politically motivated."

The Contra Costa Central Labor Council last night voted to take steps to end any censorship in the library operation.

Arthur Carter, council secretary, was authorized to investigate the duties and powers of the library commission. If it is empowered to remove, as well as select, books, the council will attempt to have the power revoked.

If the city council is of no help in solving the problem, the labor council is prepared to go to court to change the system whereby books can be removed from the library shelves, Carter said.—*Oakland Tribune*, 15 October.

IV

## Richmond FRC Demands Commissioners' Resignations

The Richmond censorship controversy boiled anew yesterday with a demand for the resignation of the three library commissioners who voted to remove the *Berkeley Barb* and *Avant Garde* magazine from the city library.

David Brunton, executive secretary of the California Library Association, said Richmond's Freedom to Read Committee was demanding the resignation of Edwin Brooks, Ethel Grimason and Emil Esola.

They outvoted Mrs. Marion Gant and JoNell Barnett last Tuesday to drop the two publications.

At a press conference at the Richmond library yesterday, Brunton chastised Brooks, Esola and Mrs. Grimason for not supporting a key clause of American libraries' "bill of rights," which says that censorship must be challenged.

Mrs. Gant charged that the John Birch Society organized the censorship campaign and warned that "the spectre of censorship is haunting other East Bay libraries, too."

Mrs. Gant said 1400 Richmond residents signed a petition to remove the *Berkeley Barb* and *Avant Garde* magazine. But of those 1400, only 160 had library cards themselves.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, 16 October.

### Ban on Film Overruled

The State Supreme Court unanimously condemned the actions of the Allegheny County District Attorney's office Tuesday and refused to uphold a ban on the film *Therese and Isabelle* in the Pittsburgh area. — *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 13 November.

## From the OIF

A major item of interest resulted from a controversy currently raging in several California communities around the Bay Area. You may have noted a small paragraph on page 58 of the September issue of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, reading in part, "... As we go to press, public librarian John Forsman (Richmond, California, Public Library) was braced to defend the presence of the *Berkeley Barb* on the open shelves at a hearing before the Richmond City Council of 12 August." The meeting did not solve the problem, and another was scheduled for August 26, this one arranged to allow speakers to present arguments and points of view on both the pro and con sides. The latter meeting was broadcast live by Station KPFA, a listener-sponsored radio station headquartered in Berkeley, California. As is the case with all live broadcasts, the meeting was recorded, and Station KPFA is now making the records available at \$5.00 per set. Records can be ordered from Station KPFA, 2207 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California 94704.

The Richmond controversy over the *Berkeley Barb* was precipitated by a group of women, originally identifying themselves as supporters, but not members, of the John Birch Society, and later refuting this. Voicing concerns about morality, the women stated that the removal of the *Berkeley Barb* from the open shelves of the library would solve many of the community's problems. Mr. Forsman, the head librarian, was approached, but all along the women seemed more interested in overthrowing the authority of both the librarian and the library board. The question was rapidly brought to the attention of the City Council, and the controversy has remained there for many weeks.

The recording of the August 26 Council meeting is interesting in content and in the possible uses to which it can be put. Many localities are confronted from time to time with problems of a similar nature. The problem revolves around one or a few publications which a specific group within the community would like to have removed from the library. The recording shows how one city tried to deal with the situation. Secondly, while the bone of contention at this specific time is the *Berkeley Barb*, the title can be replaced by any number of others, such as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Evergreen Review*, *Lord of the Flies*, etc. In other words, it is the same old story with a new title.

The actual speeches are fascinating. Those persons desiring removal of the publication advance the argument that community morality, especially of children, will suffer because this publication is on the shelves of the public library. They try to advocate removal of the *Berkeley Barb* as a means of solving a good many of the problems of the whole world. The persons speaking against removal raise the issue from the specific publi-

cation to the concept of intellectual freedom. They point out that if you remove one publication, a precedent is set, and the path is laid to remove all other publications which may not appeal to a particular group within a community.

The recording, which runs for approximately an hour, is appropriate for use on both the state and local levels. For librarians, it provides an excellent example of some of the problems that are most likely to come up in the near future and the tack that persons opposing intellectual freedom can and will take. For the non-librarian, it presents the issue from the point of view of community forces who wish to preserve the freedom to read in our libraries. The recording is a valuable addition to intellectual freedom materials, and is well worth the \$5.00.—Judith F. King.

## New Obscenity Laws

The Supreme Court's variable obscenity decision of 25 April, (Cf. NOIF, July, 1968, pp. 41) upholding a New York State law designed to prevent distribution of allegedly obscene printed material and motion pictures to children under seventeen, is having its predicted effect of new state and local obscenity legislation patterned on the New York law. We will have neither space nor patience to report each of these in full, but here is the current box score:

23 September, Denver, Colorado  
15 October, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida  
15 October, Mobile, Alabama  
25 October, Stanton, Virginia

### Help!

Our high school English class got to talking about the other day and the teacher said Shakespeare put some pretty dirty things in his plays, particularly "Hamlet" and the Falstaff plays. I went home and got out my parents' complete Shakespeare, and maybe I'm stupid or something, but I couldn't find anything dirty. How come?

J. D., Melbourne

Maybe you didn't look in the right places. Probably, though, the reason your search was unfruitful is the difference between the "dirty" words and slang terms of Shakespeare's time and ours. To quote Shakespearian scholar Eric Partridge, the Bard did indeed have a "dirty" mind but not a "filthy" one. If you're really interested in pursuing the matter, order a paperback copy of Partridge's "Shakespeare's Bawdy."—Cocoa, Fla. *Today*, 29 September.



## Librarian Opposes 'Subversive' Labels

Dr. Benjamin M. Spock's widely used book on baby care would be one of the first to be labeled under a recommendation by some St. Charles County groups for identifying the works of authors cited as subversive or belonging to subversive organizations.

This is the belief of Mrs. Nina Ladof, director of the St. Charles County library system, to whose board of trustees the proposal was made last week. Miss Lucille Meinert, board president, said a decision probably would be announced at a board meeting Nov. 19.

Under the proposal, labels would be placed on all books and publications "authored, published or edited by any individual or group of individuals having been cited by any federal or state fact-finding committee as subversive or un-American in nature or belonging to any organization so cited."

Mrs. Ladof said she understood that the labeling request did not refer to works by Karl Marx and other Communists, but only to those by American authors. Thus, all works by Dr. Spock, who recently was convicted by a United States District Court of antidraft activities and was investigated by the Senate internal security subcommittee, might have to be labeled as having been written by an author cited as un-American.

However, the real target of the groups, which include the St. Charles and Wentzville Lions clubs and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, the Wentzville Senior Citizens Club and American Legion Post plus eight county clergymen, is the leftist magazine *Ramparts*.

The county library system has had a subscription to the periodical since last January. Last May, six of the clergymen and Mrs. James Gittemeier, Republican committeewoman for Cuivre township, attempted to have the magazine barred from the library shelves, but without success.

The more recent petitions, most of which were dated in late May but not presented to the library board until last week, ask instead that "un-American" and "subversive" publications be "so explicitly labeled in a conspicuous manner for the information of library patrons." Several singled out *Ramparts* as having been cited by the California State Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities in 1967.

"We represent a cross-section of the county population and as taxpayers feel that if we want our library books and magazines labeled for what they are, it should be done. The library board is the servant of the people," Mrs. Gittemeier said.

"I don't think," she continued, "that labeling these works will in any way conflict with the right or freedom to read or detract from academic freedom. I believe it is good for a library to have a magazine like *Ramparts* on file to show how the other side thinks, but it should be identified as having been cited as subver-

sive so that young people, especially, can read it intelligently."

Mrs. Ladof said that she doubted that the petitions presented, containing about 30 signatures in all, represented a consensus in the county.

"Labeling is an attempt to predispose a reader and, hence, a censor's tool," she said, citing the "freedom to read" statement of the American Library Association, of which she has been a member for 22 years.

"It is the function of the library to present all sides of an issue without comment—without attempting to tell people what to read or how to interpret what they read. What their children read is the responsibility of parents and to label a library book would, I believe, be an invasion of a parent's right to choose his child's reading matter."—St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*, 20 October.

## Vallejo Mayor Rebuffed 'Hippie Papers' Supported

The Vallejo Public Library Board voted unanimously last night, after a stormy session in City Council chambers, that *The Hippie Papers* controversial paperback compendium of the seamier side of youth life in America, would remain on library shelves, available to all subscribers.

The action was in direct defiance to Mayor Florence E. Douglas and her mayor's committee on decency in Vallejo. It also could have been predicted, because the library board last month gave every indication it intended to support Librarian Homer Fletcher and his staff over *The Hippie Papers* controversy.

The mayor, addressing the board briefly, said she and her committee could not understand why, in view of the fact the library board every year "asks the city council for more money; then would turn around and spend tax dollars on a book of this nature." She referred to it as pornographic, as did many speakers.—Vallejo Calif. *Times Herald* 8 November.

## Library Board Resolution

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the public library to make available the widest diversity of views and expressions, including those which may be unorthodox to or unpopular among any particular group, and

WHEREAS, the Vallejo Public Library provides library service to the entire community, not just to certain segments, and

WHEREAS, the selection of books and materials should be inclusive rather than exclusive because of the varying demands upon the collection, and



WHEREAS, censorship should be challenged by our library in the maintenance of its responsibility to provide public information and enlightenment, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that this Library Board firmly states that no books or library materials will be removed from the Vallejo Public Library due to coercion from individuals or groups seeking to impose their own standards or tastes upon the community at large. (7 November, 1968)

## Anti-Smut Ordinance Out

The State of California has pre-empted the field; hence the Vallejo City Council cannot legally enact an ordinance banning distribution of obscene literature, recordings or pictures.

And even if it could do so, any local ordinance should not be patterned after an ineptly written Saginaw, Mich., measure which conceivably could banish "to the darkest regions of the River Styx" many great masterpieces of art.

That is the gist of an opinion handed to the mayor and members of the city council last night by City Attorney Leland S. Fisher.

The opinion had been requested a week earlier by Mayor Florence E. Douglas—who obtained a copy of the Saginaw ordinance through the U.S. Conference of Mayors and later called it to the attention of the Mayor's Committee on Decency at its Oct. 25 meeting.—Vallejo *Times Herald*, 13 November.

### Plain Brown Wrapper

Last Monday Marion County Dist. Atty. Gary Gortmaker proposed an ordinance for the city of Salem which is designed, he says, to keep smut out of the hands of youngsters. I wish I could quote to you from the ordinance, but I can't. This is a family newspaper, and, besides, we don't want to lose our mailing privileges.

Suffice it to say that a city administrator hit it squarely when he termed the proposed law "the most erotic thing I've read in years." If you want to know more, you'll have to contact the district attorney's office. They'll send you a copy of the ordinance, in a plain brown wrapper.

You'd better hurry, however. The district attorney told the council that "the demand for more stringent regulations in this area is readily apparent and the need is immediate."

I think that means he has only a few copies left.—John Terry in Salem, Ore. *Capital Journal*, 19 October.

### MLA Adopts Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR INSURING INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM IN MISSOURI'S LIBRARIES (copy attached) were unanimously adopted as official Missouri Library Association policy by the members meeting in annual conference at Springfield, Missouri, on October 11, 1968. The MLA GUIDELINES spell out four areas of concern for intellectual freedom and outline specific responsibilities in each of them to be carried out by the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee. The GUIDELINES also suggest methods for handling censorship attempts including a report form and sample form for citizens request for reconsideration of library material.

Copies of the GUIDELINES are available from the Chairman of the MLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, 1862 Cliff Dr., Columbia, Mo. 65201.

## California Librarians Plan State Anti-Censorship Drive

California librarians are planning a state-wide anti-censorship campaign in the wake of attacks aimed at certain "underground" periodicals in the collections of northern California public libraries. Library commissioners in Richmond last week acceded to demands that the *Berkeley Barb* and *Avant Garde* be removed from the library's collection. Meanwhile, in Vallejo, censorship pressures were building against the presence in the library there of a publication called *The Hippie Papers*.

The censorship attack on the Richmond library was begun by a group of people who publicly identified themselves as supporters of the John Birch Society. When a group of local mothers took up the cause, the Birch-allied group withdrew.

Support for the library came from labor organizations and from the California Library Association. Closely allied with the CLA, an *ad hoc* Freedom to Read Committee started a fund-raising drive, aimed at publishers and others, that was so successful that, according to CLA executive director David W. Brunton, the librarians' anti-censorship efforts will now become state-wide. As part of these efforts, a recording of stormy public hearings in Richmond on the censorship issue is currently being produced for sale by San Francisco radio station KPFA, which taped the proceedings in Richmond.—PW, 21 October.

## “The Camp” in Philly

“I have a problem”—is the way a woman began describing her plight at last week’s meeting of the 15th District Police Community Workshop, Harbison Avenue and Levick Street.

The 40 people attending turned around to look when the woman stood up and raised a book in her hand, entitled *The Camp*. She explained, “My 14-year-old son came home last week from the library (Northeast Regional Branch, Cottman Avenue and Oakland Street) with this book and I thought nothing of it.

“My husband and I became curious when we read an excerpt on the outside cover. I read a few pages and got so mad I ripped the pages in the book,” she exclaimed.

The woman continued, by saying, “There is nothing but curse words in the book. How do you stop something like this?” asked the woman.

Capt. Martin Burns of the 15th District responded, “This is a moral issue and there is nothing we, as policemen, can do about it.”

The parent, a Lexington Park resident, with two children, asked that her name not be mentioned, because as she put it in her own words, “People who don’t understand would point you out as a prude.”

She then explained her encounter with the library officials. “I called up the library (Northeast Regional) and spoke to a Mr. Leon (Sol J. Leon, librarian-in-charge) who was quite angry and he hung up on me.

“I called him back a second time,” she persisted, “and we spoke for about an hour.

“I questioned how the book got into the library and how my son got a hold of.”

She related his reply as saying, “The law allows it.”

During the course of the conversation, the woman questioned who had chosen the book to be in the library.

Leon was described as saying that the book is only available in the Logan Square Library and the Northeast Regional Branch. She further related that he had said two librarians, one male and one female, had picked the book for the Northeast Regional Branch. “But he wouldn’t tell me who the librarians were,” she said.

The woman also called Emerson Greenaway, director of the Free Library of Philadelphia, and told him about the book her son had brought home from the library.

She then quoted Greenaway as saying, “That there was a sex revolution going on and that we should become accustomed to it.” He further added, “That it was my problem as a parent to direct my children.”

“Another argument I gave him,” she said, “was that the librarians who read these books become hardened and we become shocked when we see them.”

In referring to the language in the book, the woman questioned Greenaway saying, “I am a mother and I never say anything like that. But how do you explain to your son when he picks up a book in the library with words like that?”—*Mayfair Times*, 2 October.

## Now the GPO’s Doing It!

WASHINGTON—The government Printing Office declined to publish the Walker Report to the President’s Violence Commission because the author refused to permit deletions of frequent obscenities in the document.

James L. Harrison, the public printer, said he told commission representatives in a meeting here several days ago that he would not agree to put the report on public sale unless he could replace the obscenities with dash lines. But a commission spokesman said that Daniel Walker, the Chicago lawyer who wrote the report, refused to authorize the deletions.

The spokesman said Walker believed the obscenities, which were used by both police and demonstrators outside the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August, had been provocative, and removing them would “destroy the important tone of the report.”

The result of the disagreement is that the government apparently will not publish the report on violence during the convention for public distribution. But several paperback book publishers are racing to bring out editions on their own.

A commission staff man went to see Harrison on Nov. 22, Laitin said, but Harrison expressed reservations about the obscenities.

Harrison did not read the report, he said, but it was made clear at the meeting that the report contained frequent obscenities.

The official said he told the commission representative he would not publish the report for public sale unless he could replace the obscene words with dashes. “They were not agreeable to that,” Harrison said, and the matter was dropped.

Walker explained his position on the obscenities in a one-page comment, titled *About The Report*. It said:

“We have, with considerable reluctance, included the actual obscenities used by participants—demonstrators and police alike. Extremely obscene language was a contributing factor to the violence described in this report, and its frequency and intensity were such that to omit it would inevitably understate the effect it had.”

Harrison said the printing office was required by law to publish official documents for use by a federal agency when it received an authorized request from the agency. But it is free to determine itself whether a document should be put on public sale, he said.—*Portland Oregonian*, 2 December.

## A Job Well Done; NJCRR Dissolves

If there seems to be a long period between issues of RR (the last one was in August 1967) there's a reason. Not much news to report. During the past year little censorial activity has been apparent in New Jersey. This has affected the NJCRR in several ways. RR, having little to write about, has kept quiet. The other arms of the committee, save the speakers bureau, have had virtually no work to do. Most of the members, having seen the censorship threat ease off, have lost their interest in performing an active role in the work of the committee.

This is as it should be. The NJCRR has functioned to meet a specific threat. In the absence of provocation the purpose of the Committee ceases to exist.

And provocation is largely absent. Yes, now and again the Decent Literature Committees still show films barred to minors, but few attend, and the response of those attending is generally mature. Yes, some towns are still burdened by implied boycotts of retailers, but we know of no town where *Catcher in the Rye*, *A Rage to Live*, etc., cannot be openly purchased. Yes, only last year the New Jersey Legislature enacted a law empowering a study commission to investigate "obscenity," but the commission never convened and, as we understand it, the \$10,000 granted it will be diverted to more useful purposes. It may be noteworthy that the Legislature's principal voice in these matters, Senator Mildred Bary Hughes, was not returned to office in the November general election.

It seems, indeed, that for the present there is little need for the NJCRR. Still, speakers continue to be requested and it is well to honor these requests. There are still requests, largely from other states for the final report of the Survey of Psychologists and Psychiatrists, and these will be complied with. There is a sum left in the treasury for publication of a number of issues of RR, and RR will continue to be published with issues appearing whenever there is an adequate accumulation of news. In this regard, all present subscribers will continue to receive RR as long as it continues to be published, probably for several years.—*The Readers' Right*, May, 1968, p. 1.

A meeting of the executive committee was held October 27. The Committee was nearly unanimous in its feeling that censorship in New Jersey had diminished to the point where inadequate membership interest remained to perform the work of the NJCRR. Not only had there been a singular lack of success in attracting new blood to participate in the work, those who had been working were finding it necessary to place the NJCRR near the bottom of their list of commitments.

Thus, even the modest goals related on page 1 could no longer be met. In the face of these circumstances, the following resolutions were unanimously passed.

The NJCRR will be dissolved after all pending committee business is disposed of. As of December 29, 1968, all funds remaining in the treasury will be donated to the Freedom of Expression Committee of the N. J. Chapter of the ACLU. Remaining copies of the survey will be handed over to the ACLU. The considerable file of newspaper clippings will be denoted to the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the N. J. Chapter of the American Library Association.

Those present at the meeting made it clear to each other that in the event of renewed organized attacks on their rights to read and be informed, they would be immediately available for reorganization. It was also suggested that RR announce that persons requiring assistance in this regard contact a branch office of the ACLU, whose Freedom of Expression Committee remains alert to the problem. Dr. Sanford Clarke also requested that RR announced that he will be available to assist in problems which might arise in the Morris County region.—*Ibid*, p. 7.

## Will History Repeat?

*Purity in Print: the Vice-Society Movement and Book Censorship in America.* By Paul S. Boyer. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons, 1968. 362 pp. \$7.95.

The author, a member of the History Department of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has not produced another legal history or analysis of censorship. His book places in historical perspective the so-called "vice societies" which flourished in the late 19th century and into the 1920's. It ends with their decline in the 1930's. Inevitably it cites some of the "landmark" judicial decisions in the censorship wars of those years. But its aim is to delineate the social and cultural circumstances, tastes, and taboos surrounding them.

Mr. Boyer interviewed many men, exemplified by Morris Ernst, Roger Baldwin, Donald Friede, and Upton Sinclair. He read widely in primary sources. He has written gracefully a well-documented and a useful book. He has included a few pages of photographs of such key figures as Anthony Comstock, H. L. Mencken, Radcliffe Hall, and Elinor Glyn, and reproductions of a few cartoons of the era. Overall his chronicle of publishers, writers, judges, lawyers, Customs Bureau officials, politicians, librarians, and organizations like the ACLU *vis a vis* the vice societies is engrossing reading.

In an excellent introduction to the book, the author suggests that we may be today "on the threshold of a period of greatly intensified censorship activity." If so, and if repetition of history is avoidable, it would be well to examine this account of an earlier period of similar enthusiasms.

Ione F. Pierron  
University of Oregon

## Editorial Epistle

Mr. Peter M. Doiron, Editor  
*Choice*  
100 Riverview Center  
Middletown, Conn. 06457  
Dear Mr. Doiron:

Thank you very much for your letter of 30 October and for calling my attention to the two articles concerning erotic literature in the October *Choice*. I might have missed them, for the term "Black Literature" has come to mean something else in today's pressure of the Negro for cultural recognition.

The series of bibliographical essays in *Choice* has along the way always seemed to be of particular value to the librarian interested in checking on how effective his day-to-day book selection has been.

So far as this particular essay by Bravard is concerned—there can be no question about the value of yours—I have difficulty latching on to a firm opinion of its usefulness. Apart from the fact that I don't see any or very many college librarians going about buying this genre on purpose, I am not able to convince myself they should, despite Bravard's brave argument. You may recall that Ervin Gaines said much the same for the large public library at the San Francisco Conference.

My point is that sexuality as such (except for works like Kinsey and Masters) is not a valid criterion of book selection, except for libraries like that of the Kinsey Institute. Just as it should not be a criterion for censorship. The values of literary criticism do not include the erotic, although the erotic might very well be included in a critically satisfactory book. The aesthetic experience is not the prurient (forgive me!) and the two must not be confused. *Fanny Hill* may well be the "finest erotic novel in English," but that one word damns it with faint praise.

To work at collecting the erotic trash of our day or any day would be as indefensible as collecting dime novels was during that day, and despite the fact that they have now become of research interest; but nobody, even now, reads them for their aesthetic values. The really good erotica will survive as literature, as indeed *Fanny Hill* has. Buying the rest would be extremely difficult to defend.

LeRoy Charles Merritt

### Back Files Available

An arrangement has been made between the American Library Association and University Microfilms whereby back files of the *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* are now available in microfilm or hard copy. Please address all inquiries for quotations to University Microfilms at 300 North Zeeb Road, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106.

## Mass. DA Seeks Ban

BOSTON—Atty. Gen. Elliot L. Richardson has asked a court ban on a book, *I Am Curious (Yellow)*."

He filed suit in Suffolk Superior Court to have the book declared "obscene, indecent and impure."

The book is published by Grove Press, Inc., New York.

It is based on the script and still photographs from the Swedish movie of the same name. Vilgot Sjoman, director of the movie, was identified by Richardson as author of the book.

The controversial movie has been widely shown in Europe but its admission to this country has been held up by U.S. Customs. A suit for admission of the movie is pending in New York.

The film is one of two by Sjoman on the same general theme. The second is *I Am Curious (Blue)*."

Richardson said his office believes the book is being distributed in Massachusetts and that the circumstances of its publication, sale, distribution and publicity "are such as to amount to a commercial exploitation of its prurient value to the exclusion of all other values."—*Worcester Telegram*, 6 October.

## De Sade Bookseller Cleared

The conviction of a former newsstand operator of selling obscene material—*The Complete Works* of Marquis de Sade—has been reversed by the Appellate Division of Superior Court.

The decision was handed down in a recent opinion by judges William A. Glen, James C. Toothaker and Robert W. Conyers, who make up the appellate bench of the Superior Court.

Their decision followed months of reviewing the nine-volume trial transcript, 650 pages of the two-volume works in question and more than 100 pages of briefs submitted by the prosecuting and defense attorneys in the case.

The appellate judges' ruling was in the case against Paul Henderson, 61, who operated a bookstand at 242 Broadway. Henderson was convicted by a Municipal Court jury Aug. 17, 1967, at the conclusion of a trial which lasted five weeks.

He was accused in a complaint of knowingly distributing obscene material. In reversing Henderson's conviction, the court did not question whether the books were obscene.

The judges' opinion stated that it did not appear that there was substantial evidence to support the jury's conclusion that the defendant "knowingly" distributed obscene matter.—*San Diego Tribune*, 15 October.

## Viewpoints, U.S.A.

WEST MILFORD—The Board of Education gave no indication of changing its mind on leaving the controversial book, *Viewpoints, U.S.A.* in the school system's curriculum after hearing numerous arguments, pro and con, from an audience of about 140 persons at Monday's meeting at Upper Greenwood Lake School.

However, the board appeared to at least leave the door open in the future for further discussion on such books when it noted it would consider adoption of a policy on controversial issues and materials.

*Viewpoints, U.S.A.* is considered by some parents to contain adverse opinions on the American governmental system by known Communists without pronounced indications of their leanings to the students.

Last month, the book was suspended from use in the curriculum after Mrs. Mahan and others complained until the school board reviewed the book with the school administrators.

About a week later, the text was put back in the curriculum after the board said its meeting with the administrators led to that decision.

The board noted that in *Viewpoints'* writing are an aid to students in securing a broader education by reading both sides of a question thus helping them to be better able to form opinions on subjects in later life. The board considered the book as an asset to a well-rounded education.

Since that time, the state's Education Association in many local school boards and education associations, have commended the West Milford School Board for its action.—Paterson, N.J. *News*, 22 October.

## 'Violent' Reading Text Yanked From Schools

Materials used in a new reading project, criticized because they depict violence, will be pulled from Dade schools immediately, officials said Wednesday.

Six schools using the \$40,000 reading program were told to stop using the material until it can be analyzed and revised to remove objectionable material.

Dr. Leonard Britton, associate superintendent for instruction in the Dade school system, said if too much revision is required, the entire program will be scrapped. But he said he believes the program can be salvaged.

A Miami mother, Elizabeth Bettner, complained to school officials Tuesday that the workbooks depict too much violence. Her two young daughters use the program at Coconut Grove Elementary School.

Specifically, Mrs. Bettner objected to illustrations showing people hitting each other, a man robbing a

bank, use of the word "cop," a bum putting a gun in his victim's back, a child spilling gasoline on ants and a woman throwing a plate of food at a man.

Wednesday, school officials conferred with George H. Stern, executive vice president of the Behavioral Research Labs, Palo Alto, Calif., the series' publisher, and then agreed the workbooks needed censorship.

Stern offered no excuse for the illustrations but said the series contained more than 30,000 pictures of which "probably not a few hundred represent violence."

"I don't think the violence is extreme. It's available at every turn in life," he said.

But Stern said his company would agree to substituting illustrations for those which professional staff members in the Dade School System think are violent.

The series, written by M. W. Sullivan, a linguist, and called Project READ is a self-instruction programming device permitting children to work on their own and move ahead at their own rate of speed.—Miami *Herald*, 10 October.

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A \$40,000 experimental reading program, pulled from six Dade schools last week after parents objected to its violence, was reinstated for classroom use Wednesday.

A committee of school administrators, principals and teachers reviewed all 36,000 items in the 24-book series and omitted all references to violence, Dr. Leonard Britton, associate superintendent for instruction, told the Dade School Board.

The censors recommended 359 item changes—"slightly less than one per cent" of the reading material—to remove objectionable references, added Richard White, Dade's director of special reading services.—Miami *Herald*, 17 October.

The series has also come under fire in Orange, California (30 October).

## The Rimers of Eldritch

The old question of censorship or who will be allowed to see what was raised yesterday with the cancellation of a St. Petersburg Junior College (SPJC) production.

The play *The Rimers of Eldritch* by Lanford Wilson won an Obie Award in 1966 for its off-Broadway production. It has been in rehearsal for some three weeks by 17 SPJC students under director Kenneth McLean, instructor of speech and drama at the college. Yesterday SPJC officials categorically denied presentation of the play on campus. It was to be presented Oct. 11 and 12 in the Main auditorium.

Discussions are now under way by students involved in the production to present the drama elsewhere.—St. Petersburg *Times*, 4 October.

## 'Open City' Editor Guilty

John C. Bryan, 33, publisher of the underground hippie newspaper, *Open City*, Thursday was found guilty of a misdemeanor charge of printing and distributing obscene material.

A jury of nine men and three women, after a day and a half of deliberation, sustained the prosecution's contention that an advertisement published in July and containing the photograph of a nude woman in a provocative pose went beyond the limits of candor permitted by law. Sentence was \$1,000 fine or 180 days. The bearded publisher was permitted to remain at liberty under \$1,500 bail.

Bryan, of 4369 Melrose Ave., was arrested July 17 after a police officer purchased a copy of the publication across the street from police headquarters.

The controversial ad appeared on Page 5. It purported to announce the forthcoming appearance in the city of a singing group identified as the Asylum Choir. But during the week-long trial Dep. City Atty. Stanley H. Stone contended that the photograph was published only for its own morbid appeal.

Bryan himself and two other defense witnesses, Paul Ferguson, head of the English Department at Los Angeles City College, and Stanford Berman, UCLA research librarian, testified that under current moral and legal standards the material was not obscene. They identified numerous other publications supposedly containing similar pictures.—*L.A. Times*, 18 October.

## Community Standards Broadened in California

The legal rules for defining obscenity were broadened yesterday by the State Supreme Court as it reversed a conviction in a San Pablo topless dancing case.

The court, in its 5-to-2 decision, did not change the definition of obscenity. But it added two important footnotes to that definition.

The legal definition of obscenity is that "to the average person, applying contemporary standards, the predominant appeal of the matter, taken as a whole, is to prurient interest . . ."

Yesterday, the court made these additions:

It held that "contemporary standards" shall mean the standards applying throughout the state, rather than just in San Pablo. Consequently, a city of Mrs. Grundys cannot crack down more severely, nor can a city of libertines ease up more permissively, than state-wide standards allow.

It held that the prosecution must bring in expert witnesses to testify to what "contemporary standards" are. Since that wasn't done in San Pablo, the conviction was reversed.—*S.F. Chronicle*, 15 November.

## L.A. County Recants

*MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN.*  
October 29, 1968.

Because the State has pre-empted the field of controlling obscene literature; and

Since the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles cannot effectively pass ordinances restricting the sale and/or content of newspapers, books, plays, and motion pictures:

I MOVE the Los Angeles County Commission on Obscenity and Pornography be abolished effective at once and that the members be extended the gratitude of the Board of Supervisors for their service (Carried, 4-1.)

## And Recants!

The county Board of Supervisors today voted to keep the county's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography in business. The vote followed criticism by the commission's chairman of Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, who was accused of failing to vigorously prosecute anti-smut laws.

Younger was immediately defended by county supervisors who insisted the solution to the growing pornography problem rests with the courts and the State Legislature.

The supervisors—after a stormy session—voted not only to retain the commission, but to give it added staff assistance.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who proposed two weeks ago that the commission be abolished, joined in the motion, but criticized the citizens group for not doing an effective job.—*L.A. Times*, 14 November.

## Pornography Unit Hit

The move to abolish the Los Angeles County Commission on Obscenity and Pornography should be widely supported. I object to having my tax dollars used to finance some people's urge to act as censors.

My contacts with this commission have convinced me that it is not about to contribute to the solution of a serious legal, moral and intellectual problem.

The President has a commission studying the effects of pornography, the state legislature can make laws in this field and the police and public prosecutors can enforce reasonable laws. I would like to see my county taxes used for intelligent and reasonable purposes.

CHARLES M. WEISENBERG,  
Director of Public Relations  
Los Angeles Public Library

—*L.A. Times*, 5 November

(Other librarians please copy. LCM.)



## Wellesley Corrupted

They are burning witches again—this time in Wellesley. Some heretics put on a play designed to corrupt the morals of the little town and inflame its inhabitants to heaven only knows what.

The Wellesley revolt against the production of LeRoi Jones' play *The Slave* has all the earmarks of the puritanical thinking that sent many a "witch" to her death at the stake.

Possibly a high school was the wrong place for such a production—the play is fairly avant garde. But it is also a work of considerable art and as such is probably not suited to high school production where pure corn is staged for dotting parents. The point is that the hysterical reaction to the play was far more obscene than the play itself.

Consider the cries of "Kill him" directed toward the high school graduate reading from the play at the public hearing—that has elements of obscenity! The whole public hearing was more shameful than the play.

In any case, those in Wellesley who aren't too busy collecting firewood for the funeral pyres of the heretics can stay home and watch the play on National Education Television whose producers don't find sex as obscene as death.—Holyoke, Mass *Transcript-Telegram*, 12 September.

## North Carolina Catches Up

On February 19, 1968, the U.S. District Court declared North Carolina's Speaker Ban Law to be unconstitutional (FS, No. 13, March, 1968). Soon thereafter the Trustees of the University of North Carolina approved the following five regulations governing the appearance of visiting speakers:

1. Express effort shall be made to present all sides of controversial issues in a balanced program of public addresses.
2. When the Chancellor deems it appropriate, he shall require that the forum be presided over by a senior faculty member.
3. The right to question or challenge a point of view and to present the opposing point of view shall be assured.
4. Only student and University organizations which are recognized by the President and Chancellor may use campus facilities for the presentation of speakers.
5. Non-University organizations authorized through official channels to meet on the campus shall be specifically informed that the use of facilities must conform to State laws, and to these regulations.—*Free Speech*, November.

## Purdue Editor Fired Over Use of Obscenity

LAFAYETTE, Ind.—The editor of Purdue University's campus newspaper, the *Exponent*, was fired Friday by the school's administration for what it called a "failure to adhere" to responsibilities to the university community. The co-ed who is the publicity director of the newspaper said the dismissal was for permitting the use of "four-letter words" in the paper. The editor, senior William R. Smoot, II, of Maysville, Ky., said he believed that his criticism of the administration was the basic cause of the ouster.

The paper's staff members vowed to fight for Smoot's reinstatement and pledged to function without any editor until he is returned. The *Exponent* has a daily circulation of 8,300.—*Chicago Sun-Times*, 9 November.

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## Firing Held in Abeyance

The president of Purdue University Monday agreed to allow William R. Smoot II to remain editor of the university's newspaper.

University President Frederick L. Hovde made his announcement after meeting with the senior staff of the newspaper. They reportedly said that Smoot would continue as editor despite the administration's dictum.

Over the weekend, various student and faculty committees protested Smoot's removal.

Hovde said he appointed a review board to study the situation, and added, "This action holds in abeyance the unanimous judgment of my senior advisers to remove the editor of the *Exponent* from his office immediately." — *Chicago Sun-Times*, 12 November.

## Regents Reprimand Cardinal

The *Daily Cardinal* student newspaper's use of four-letter words drew a reprimand from the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents here Friday.

Coupled with the reprimand was a warning that future use of four-letter obscene words will bring "appropriate action" by the regents.

The decision of whether language used by the *Cardinal* is "considered by the standards of this country to be unacceptable for public use" is to be made by the newspaper's governing body, the Cardinal Board.

Regents also voted to "request the Cardinal Board of Control bring a plan with appropriate sanctions to prevent future violations of language standards" no later than the January meeting.—*Wis. State Journal*, 2 Nov.

Across the lake editors of the Michigan State University *State News* got into similar trouble for reporting the trouble in Madison. Solution: dock their salaries. Case still pending.

## Court of Appeals Clears Sex Film

A Swedish film, of which the sexual content is shown with "greater explicitness than any movie thus far exhibited in this country," was found yesterday by the United States Court of Appeals not to be obscene.

In a 2-to-1 decision, the Appeals Court overruled a Federal Court jury of seven men and five women, who had voted the film, *I Am Curious—Yellow*, obscene.

In a strong dissent, Chief Judge J. Edward Lumbard chided his colleagues from taking away from the jury "the power to pass on these not too difficult and complicated questions."

The majority opinion was written by Judge Paul R. Hays. Judge Henry J. Friendly concurred in a separate opinion. Judge Hays said:

"Whatever differences there may be in the application of obscenity standards, a motion picture, like a book, is clearly entitled to the protection of the First Amendment.

"We reverse the judgment on the ground that under standards established by the Supreme Court the showing of the picture cannot be inhibited."—*New York Times*, 27 November.

## Playboy Ban to Stand Pat

UMATILLA—Mayor A. L. Draper, with an eye toward Oregon's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), doesn't think a ban on *Playboy* magazine is anybody's business but Umatilla's.

"The majority of local folk support the council's action to keep indecent literature off public newsstands," Draper said, answering the ACLU's challenge to Umatilla's right to ban the magazine.

The city invoked a 27-year-old ordinance when the council was irked by *Playboy's* October edition, which pictured a man and woman in bed.

The council directed Police Chief Louis Colcord to pick up all copies of the magazine.

The action gained Umatilla national publicity and prompted the ACLU to call the city's action unconstitutional and unenforceable.

The council subsequently was assured by its city attorney the action is constitutional and unless it receives an order from the state attorney general it should hold fast against ACLU pressure.

"We're going to act tough," said Draper, who asserted as far as he is concerned the *Playboy* incident is a dead issue. There are indications Umatilla merchants will continue to keep *Playboy* off newsstands.

Asked whether any city officials are going to monitor future editions of the magazine, Draper replied, "I'm not, I've got better things to do with my time."—*Portland Oregonian*, 9 November.

## AACC Censors Press

ARNOLD, Md.—Anne Arundel Community College authorities stopped distribution of the year's first issue of the college newspaper, *The Trailblazer*, because of a headline "George Wallace Is Dead" and the use of an obscene word in the same article.

Five days later, the issue was distributed. A marker tape had been used by staff members to cover up the controversial headline and the word that appeared in some 2,500 copies.

William Gawthrop, editor in chief, today defended the use of the headline and the word in an article written by John Comphers, a student.

Its message was "racism has no place in today's society," the editor said.

"We live in a time when it is time to tell it like it is," Mr. Gawthrop added.—*Baltimore Sun*, 28 October.

## 'Pan' Producer Is Charged

Stuart A. Gordon, 21, student producer of the campus version of *Peter Pan*, was charged Monday in Criminal Court with "producing a lewd, obscene, and indecent performance" for public view.

Gordon, 15 W. Gilman St., a University of Wisconsin senior drama and arts major from Chicago, was released on his own signature for \$1,000 bail for preliminary hearing before Judge William L. Buenzli at 2 p.m., Oct. 17.

Dist. Atty. James Boll said sheriff's men still are trying to ascertain the identity of two coeds who danced nude in two performances of Gordon's *Peter Pan* on Oct. 1 after Boll had told University administration officials that the production was in violation of the state obscenity laws.—*Wisconsin State Journal*, 8 October.

## Code Words

A public school teacher in Bradenton, Fla., has been using a racist handbook to teach his high school students about values.

He said he wants his pupils to be able to analyze "anything anyone might try to sell them."

But can he tell the youngsters what those code words really mean? Can he tell them that when some people say "law and order" they mean it and when George Wallace says "law and order" he means "Keep the nigger in his place?" Can he tell them that when Lester Maddox says "constitutional government" he means that he should illegally preserve racial segregation in the schools?

Perhaps what the teacher needs in addition to the racist handbook is a translator. Any bigot will do. They all know what the code words mean.—*Atlanta Journal*, 12 October.

## Stan Bohrman Resigns Over Tempo Dispute

Stan Bohrman, co-host with Maria Cole of KHJ-TV's (Channel 9) daily two-way discussion series Tempo I, resigned from the program Wednesday, charging the station management with censorship.

Shortly before air time, Bohrman was instructed not to initiate the issue of Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver's hiring as a lecturer by UC Berkeley, a subject he has spoken freely on in the past few days.

Bohrman refused to go on the air under this condition, charging that management monitors the phone calls and therefore exerts a censorship on the program if he is not allowed to initiate a specific subject.

"It's a problem of personalities—and this includes Bob Dornan (host of Tempo II) as well—making the programs a platform for their own opinions," Sherwin continued. "The program is not to be used to monopolize any particular point of view or any particular issue."—*L.A. Times*, 20 September.

## de Sade Bookseller Fined

Logan Roots was fined \$500 and costs Friday by Court of Criminal Corrections Judge Richard E. Brown who found him guilty of knowingly possessing obscene literature for sale.

Roots, 60, of 426 DeBaliviere Ave., was tried on the charge last March 21 after waiving a jury trial.

He was charged March 7, 1968, after plainclothes police purchased from him in the Busy Bee Book Store, 422 DeBaliviere, a two-volume paperback set of *The Complete Marquis de Sade*.

Officers testified during the trial that Roots offered them the two-volume set as a "hotter item" after one of the officers had purchased another obscene paperback book.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat*, 22 September.

### C on C

Recently Bennett Cerf, chairman of the board of Random House, was a guest on New York Mayor John V. Lindsay's TV program (WNEW and WNYC). Among other topics, they discussed pornography and censorship, the rising cost of books and America's taste in books. The question "Do you think [pornography] should or can be stopped, or do you believe in censorship of any kind?" Cerf replied, "I certainly do not." He recalled former New York Mayor Jimmy Walker's famous remark, "I never yet have met a girl who was ruined by a book." According to Mr. Cerf, "If we would leave these nasty books alone, I think the public would very soon get sick of this kind of literature."—*P.W.*, 30 September.

### Veree Int'resting!

The sheriff of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, is in a real swivet. By law, he must sell a batch of magazines and books to satisfy court judgments against book dealers. The sheriff's problem: The publications are girlie and nudist magazines—both soft and hard porno. And Sheriff Edwin Purcell says he's afraid his auction may get raided for selling obscene literature!—*Chicago News*, 23 October.

## Obscenity Ruling in Britain Voided

LONDON, July 31—The fear of many British publishers that they faced the danger of prosecution under the obscenity laws was lifted today by a Court of Appeals decision.

The court quashed a judgment finding the American novel *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, by Hubert Selby, Jr., in violation of the Obscene Publications Act.

In recent months a number of American books scheduled for publication in Britain have been held back or trimmed to remove passages that might catch the prosecutor's eye.

Under British practice there can be no further trial in the *Last Exit* case. The publishers, Calder and Boyars, are free to start printing and distributing the novel once more. They said today that they would do so.—*N.Y. Times*, 1 August.

## Which Book?

POWAY—A state Department of Education official has replied by letter to charges made against the Poway Unified School District by unidentified residents.

District officials immediately termed the letter unfair and distorted.

The six-page letter was prepared and signed by the state's assistant superintendent of public instruction, Collier McDermon. It was delivered in Poway Friday.

The letter itemizes 15 charges made against the district by residents whose names are known only to the Department of Education.

Five of the charges could be neither confirmed nor denied, McDermon said. They were that district officials secretly tape-recorded all incoming phone calls, that there is a lack of patriotic teaching, that administrative personnel must sign undated resignations when they are employed, that a former librarian refused to place certain books in the library and that the district teaches so-called leftist material.

Among the charges "confirmed" by McDermon were: That "obscene and pornographic" books are available to students . . .

Dr. William Norin, district curriculum director, said the book cited by McDermon as an example of "obscene" material available on the library shelves was removed before the investigation.—*San Diego Tribune*, 9 September.

## Personal Use Only

COVINGTON, La. — The St. Tammany Parish School Board decided that four national publications, *Look*, *Life*, *Newsweek* and *Saturday Evening Post* would remain “deleted” from those magazines purchased by the school system for use in the libraries, “until appropriate guidelines are set up by Supt. Cyprian Schoen and his staff.”

The school board “deleted” these magazines at a meeting earlier in the year and last month agreed to review the action because of strong criticism from persons in attendance.

The matter was the subject of a 40-minute executive session prior to the start of business Wednesday, but was not discussed in open session until a letter on the subject was read by Charles Hill. Hill’s letter said that teachers should impart all facts on any subject to students and that the student can absorb what he needs.

Schoen said that the supervisors, librarians, and others would set up these guidelines, “and it might be that other magazines are deleted. It is our responsibility to guide our students and we will take the necessary steps to do what is best for our St. Tammany Parish children.”

He said that the board was not banning anything, only deleting, and on a question said that it was permissible for a child to bring one of the four deleted magazines to school for personal use.—*New Orleans Times-Picayune*, 16 August.

## “The Slave” Ruled Obscene

DEDHAM, Mass. (UPI)—District Court Judge Daniel A. Rider has ruled the controversial play *The Slave* by Leroi Jones obscene.

He also promised to honor complaints brought against anyone who participated “or who was responsible” for its production May 31 at Wellesley High School.

But at the same time, Rider Tuesday denied complaints brought against four persons, including two teachers, allegedly connected with the production.

The play includes several four-letter words and a bi-racial rape scene.

During a closed hearing two male members of the high school faculty testified as to what they saw and heard during the presentation.

“A crime has been committed. I find this to be an obscene play. I will entertain the issuance of complaints against anyone who participated or who was responsible for the production of this play,” Judge Rider ruled.

But he based his denial of complaints against the four because police failed to introduce evidence linking them with the play.—*Washington Post*, 12 September.

### Censorship

The Missouri Library Association *Quarterly’s* special issue on Censorship (September, 1968) is available at \$2 from Mr. Gerald Hubble, Stephens College Library, Columbia, Missouri 65201. Specific content of issue may be discerned in Current Bibliography on page 15.

## Florida, California Restraints

In Pompano Beach, Florida, Mayor Ed Stack called for a “better” screening of books and suggested issuing adult and minors’ library cards to make objectionable works inaccessible to children. The issue was Eldridge Cleaver’s *Soul On Ice* (McGraw-Hill), which was openly shelved at the public library until Stack complained to the city commissioners and librarian Mrs. Marion Schaaf. He said of the book, “it’s pure filth, so bad it’s sickening, the damndest thing I ever encountered.” The book was recommended in *LJ* (February 1, 1968) and the *SLJ* young adult column (April 1968, p. 150; *LJ*, April 15, p. 1822) for its “analysis of American society that cuts away what he [Cleaver] feels are the euphemism and myths that have cloaked our motives and actions at home and abroad.”

At Covina High School, Harrison Bryan, a civics teacher with the district for 14 years, was dismissed after students in his American Government and Problems class read aloud from an essay in *The Student as Nigger*, a Cal State Los Angeles student publication, because of its inclusion of several “objectionable” words.—*LJ*, 15 September.

## No End Yet

*The End of Obscenity; The Trials of Lady Chatterley, Tropic of Cancer, and Fanny Hill*, by Charles Rembar, Random House, 1968. xiii, 528 p. Appendix. Table of Judges. Index. \$8.95.

Sex, print, and liberty. These are the dominant—but not exclusive—themes. In tracing the course of the “value theory” from a mere idea to an accepted legal standard, attorney Rembar has also produced a lucid primer on law, supplied intriguing insights in the mind and method of the barrister, and chronicled stupendous events in both publishing and judicial history. Due largely to his own efforts, beginning in 1959 when he first agreed to defend *Lady Chatterley* for Grove Press, it is now the law of the land that no book, unless found to be “utterly without redeeming social value,” can be suppressed.

The tale is long and complicated, yet related by a writer at once witty, sagacious, and literate. It is, simply, a delight to read, enlivened by brisk and often comic courtroom episodes as well as stinging asides on the kind of law dispensed in Magistrates’ Courts, the psychology (indeed, psycho-pathology) of censors, the questionable “wisdom of legislators,” and the economics of the legal profession. (Even the footnotes are delicious!)

To Rembar’s tenacity, vision, and ultimate triumph all bookmen, librarians, and libertarians owe much. Still, at least two troublesome problems or questions arise from the work: First, while the author correctly and happily concludes that “so far as writers are concerned, there is no longer a law of obscenity,” he may have seriously underestimated the effect of the “pandering rule” enunciated (or, rather, re-enunciated) by the Supreme Court on March 21, 1966, in the Ginzburg case—the same day, incidentally, on which *Fanny Hill* was freed. Rembar declares the Ginzburg decision

## Risky

I do not agree with those who say books can work no evil. The assertion is an affront to intellect. Books have great influence, much of it bad. But the risk that inheres in reading books is precisely the risk that the First Amendment contemplates. All the conflict is in the mind itself, and this is the conflict we cherish.—Charles Rembar, *The End of Obscenity*, p. 391.

"negligible" as "an inhibiting force on speech and the press." However, an "exploratory study" undertaken in California one year after the Ginzburg judgment revealed "increasing legal activity aimed at obscene publications following the Supreme Court action" (Kenneth S. Devol, "The Ginzburg Decision: Reactions in California," *Journalism Quarterly*, v. 45, no. 2, Summer 1968, p. 271-8). Moreover, reports in the local press, *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom*, *Censorship Today*, ACLU organs, *P.W.*, and the national CDL magazine, strongly suggest that police and vigilante crusades against printed matter have not markedly abated. In short, although there has been a remarkable breakthrough in publishing (Rembar cites, as examples, *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, *Candy*, and the *Marquis de Sade*), the millenium is not yet here. Which leads to the second point, well-underscored throughout the book: our national obsession with sex-cum-sin. Perhaps this is a subject only fit for analysis by sociologists, psychiatrists, or philosophers. Frankly, it appears baffling—in an age of napalm, mass murder, concentration camps, and possible nuclear holocaust—that so much anxiety and energy are expended on what, in this perspective, seems relatively trivial. Further, the whole argument regarding the alleged pernicious effects of pornography on the moral fabric of society becomes increasingly ludicrous as more and more evidence arrives from little, Lutheran Denmark, which last summer abolished obscenity laws altogether and thus reduced the consumption of pornography (see, for example, "Porno Made in Daenemark," by Juliette Boisriveaud, in the West German monthly, *Pardi*, Juli 1968, p 46-7). There may be considerable truth in the contention by Maurice Girodias, one-time Olympia Press operator, that "pornography is simply a consequence of censorship. Suppress censorship and pornography will disappear."

Censorship remains. But surely less suffocating and perhaps less permanent, thanks to Mr. Rembar. And the commonsensical Danes.

—Sanford Berman  
Periodicals Librarian  
UCLA Research Library

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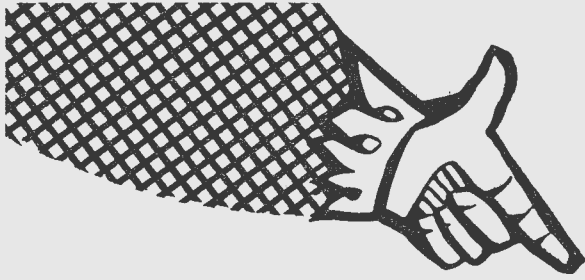
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**SPECIAL FEATURE:** Timothy Hayes, Mayor of Whoopup, Missouri, will present a luncheon address involving Censorship in Whoopup.

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