



**IFC ALA**

# on Intellectual freedom

*Edited by* LEROY CHARLES MERRITT, *Dean, University of Oregon School of Librarianship*

VOL. XVIII • November, 1969 • No. 6

## Authoritarians Are Censorious

Opinion research among students in the Indiana University Graduate Library School has revealed that individuals who show a tendency to agree with restrictive measures on intellectual freedom also tend to agree with attitudes characteristic of the authoritarian personality syndrome. The study was conducted by Charles H. Busha. It showed a positive correlation of .69 between censorship and authoritarian attitudes of students in the Master of Library Science degree program.

Questionnaires containing validated authoritarian and censorship attitude scales were mailed to 138 full-time master's students for completion. The students were not informed of the purpose of the survey. More than 100 not show that a large number of students agreed with either censorship measures or with authoritarian attitudes however, respondents whose attitudes corresponded highly with authoritarianism also showed a strong tolerance for censorship and restrictive measures on intellectual freedom. The students who strongly disagreed with authoritarian attitudes also expressed the most liberal views toward intellectual freedom.

Mr. Busha pointed out in his report of the opinion research that the authoritarian type of individual is driven by the fear of being weak and displays an intolerance of ambiguity. He also stated that the authoritarian is uncomfortable when faced with complex or uncertain situations which do not easily yield to understanding or to control and that anxiety about deviating from conventional moral standards is also characteristic of the authoritarian syndrome of attitudes. The report indicates that these factors might have influenced some of the students to agree with censorship measures and that they might also have influenced the timid self-censors found among librarians by Fiske in California who were prone to compromise and extremely cautious not to purchase any book which could offend certain individuals or groups in the community. According to Mr. Busha, further research in this area on a large-scale basis might prove more revealing.

Although the censorship study conducted at Indiana University was not an official project of the Graduate Library School, Mr. Busha, who is a doctoral student, received the assistance and cooperation of a number of faculty members and fellow doctoral students in validating the censorship scale used for the opinion research.

# Virginia Librarian Fired by City Manager

On Friday, July 25, Martinsville, Virginia City Manager Thomas Noland summarily fired librarian Ellis Hodgin after a stormy closed-door session in the latter's office. Noland has refused to give any reason for the sudden action against Hodgin, who, in a little over two years, has made the Martinsville Memorial Public Library hum with activity. Only last April, Hodgin was given a hefty \$1000 raise—\$300 more than he had asked for. On July 1, Hodgin began a series of Afro-American seminars led by a Chicago divinity student and on July 18, Hodgin joined two other plaintiffs in a suit against the Martinsville school board to compel it to cease a program of Bible teaching in the elementary grade school. As of this writing, Noland has refused to respond to inquiries from the press.

On Tuesday, July 29, Hodgin and Lauren Selden, executive director of the Virginia Civil Liberties Union, announced at a press conference in Martinsville that the ACLU would support the librarian in a suit asking for reinstatement, back pay, and substantial damages. Hodgin told the approximately 100 persons who attended that he had still not been able to find out the reasons for the action of the City Manager. Hodgin said, however, that the Manager did admit that he had no criticism to make of Hodgin as a librarian or as a person, insisting that the firing was an "administrative decision" which he would not discuss.

Several members of the audience asked permission to speak and without exception praised Hodgin and expressed their shock at his sudden dismissal. Mrs. Maxine B. Reagan, 70, president of the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship of Martinsville, spoke up strongly for Hodgin, as did Tyler Milner, coordinator of the Afro-American program, who said, "He is a man we need here in Martinsville and he should not be asked to leave." Dusty Rhodes, a student at nearby Patrick Henry Junior College, said, "Ellis has been trying to light a fire . . . to allow people to think. I think it's a shame if he's allowed to leave." Pugnacious little Rabbi Avery J. Grossfield said, "There's evil abroad in the country and in the city and we've got to get out and fight it!"

Hodgin shared an ironic note with the press after the conference was formally over. On the day he was fired he received in the mail a postcard from former ALA President Mary V. Gaver. She had been driving through the area a few days before, heard Hodgin on his weekly radio program, and wrote to express her admiration. By the end of the conference it was clear that Hodgin had no shortage of admiration although he would soon have a shortage of cash. He has one month's pay to collect,

the equivalent of another month's salary in savings, and then, if he can't find a library position quickly, he'll look for a job in one of Martinsville's many factories. —LJ, 1 September.

## A Call to Action

“. . . [U]nder the guidance of Ellis Hodgin, the Library is beginning to play an important part in the community and in the lives of its citizens," stated the Henry Court Journal in an article prepared one week before Ellis Hodgin was fired for "bad judgment."

According to Larry Selden, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Ellis has been fired as a result of his part in a suit filed against the Martinsville, Virginia School Board seeking the discontinuance of a weekly religious education program conducted in the Martinsville Public Schools. "In the total absence of any charges or any complaints (against Hodgin's performance as a librarian) there can be no question that Hodgin has been fired for one reason—his exercise of the constitutionality-protected right to seek legal redress in the courts of this land."

The sequence of events seems significant. Ellis Hodgin had been granted a \$1,000 raise and new contract last spring. On July 18 a suit seeking discontinuance of the religious education program was filed in federal court. Following is Ellis' story in his own words:

"Monday, July 21, was a national holiday (Moon Day) and on Tuesday, July 22, City Manager Thomas Noland appeared in my office and informed me that the City would no longer require my services as City Librarian as of Sept. 1. I would be allowed to resign with a good recommendation if I said nothing. When I asked as to his reason he replied that it was an administrative matter and that he felt he did not have to discuss it with me. I then asked him if it had anything to do with my job or professional conduct and he said that it did not. He stated that I had been guilty of 'bad judgment.' When I asked him to explain he once again stated that this was an 'administrative' matter. He asked that I advise him of my decision by Thursday, July 24. On July 25 he appeared at my office and asked for my decision. I told him that I needed more time than the Sept. 1 deadline and that legal counsel had stated that I was being treated quite unfairly and that a court case was a possibility if I were so minded. I told him I had no desire to do this. He then told me he would let me know about additional time on Monday, July 28. He re-appeared at my office within a few hours and demanded that I write out a resignation effective Sept. 1, or I would be fired on the spot. I refused and asked for time to consider. He fired me then. I held a press conference on July 29, 1969 and told various people who supported me as Librarian as to my future plans and what had happened. The American Civil Liberties

Union has agreed to take my case. My lawyer is Mr. Robert P. Dwoskin of Roanoke, Virginia."

While Ellis Hodgin has decided to fight for his rights in the courts of Virginia, he is still confronted with a more basic problem—one that involves his wife and two children—the bare, pragmatic necessity of living from day to day. Yet, during this period of financial difficulty and litigation, he has no recourse as a professional. There is at present no emergency fund upon which he might draw to maintain himself and his family. Thus, librarians active in the SRRT, the NYSRRT, the Intellectual Freedom Task Force, the Congress for Change and the National Call for Library Reform have banded together to act NOW. We propose the establishment of a nation-wide legal and support fund to assist not only Ellis Hodgin but any other librarian involved in similar controversies. The mechanical operation of this fund is being developed by an advisory committee of librarians whose constitutional and intellectual rights have similarly been violated.

Although the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee has proposed *A Program of Action in Support of the Library Bill of Rights* which will involve setting up a Freedom to Read Foundation to aid persons under attack, this must be brought before the Executive Board for approval in November. At this time, should meaningful action be taken, we proposed to turn the funds collected over to ALA; otherwise, we will continue to expand this separate support fund.

IF YOU ARE AS APPALLED AS WE ARE BY THE INACTION OF OUR PROFESSION ON THIS VITAL ISSUE, WE URGE YOU TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR CONCERN IN A CONCRETE MANNER. SEND A CONTRIBUTION TO:  
NATIONAL FREEDOM FUND FOR LIBRARIANS

P. O. Box 10174  
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15232

### Secret Scandal

This issue is crucial when we come to the great secret scandal of school libraries, censorship. We are witnessing a time when the increasing sophistication of elementary school children is moving them toward the reading of adult and controversial books, but schools are slow and afraid to recognize this fact. It is high time the public library lowered the age for an adult card, or eliminated the children's card altogether, in order to preserve and expand access to its collections. Schools are far more vulnerable to community pressure, and even the most liberal school administrator lacks the escape clause of the public library—that it has an adult collection for the entire community, not for a segregated age group. —Evelyn Geller in *SLJ*, September.

## Intellectual Freedom

For your consideration and comments, *Clips & Quotes* is publishing in its entirety a statement prepared by the DCLA Intellectual Freedom Committee, and passed by the DCLA Executive Board:

The District of Columbia Library Association is concerned that recent attacks upon the underground press in the District and surrounding areas constitute a danger to freedom of press and expression. Those of you who have followed events in the local press will recall that during the Spring, Montgomery County Circuit Court Judge James H. Pugh ordered a grand jury investigation of the Washington *Free Press* for possible violation of Maryland's anti-subversive laws. This triggered reaction from the *Free Press* (March 15 edition) in the form of a cartoon judged obscene by area police jurisdictions, and a strongly worded written attack on Judge Pugh. J. Brinton Dillingham, a *Free Press* vendor, was arrested for distributing obscene literature, and has since been found guilty and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment by both the Bethesda People's Court and the Montgomery Circuit Court. Dillingham has appealed the sentence. On September 5, meanwhile, Donald Pearson was arrested by Arlington police for selling an issue of *Quicksilver Times* on grounds that it contained obscene matter. *QT*, a bi-weekly distributed in Washington from an office at 1932 17th Street, N.W., is a newcomer to the local underground press.

During the summer, the American Civil Liberties Union entered the *Free Press* case with efforts in the courts to enjoin the police departments in the District, Virginia, and Maryland from "harassing, intimidating, persecuting, and attempting to suppress the publication" of the *Free Press*. The *Washington Post* and the ACLU have taken the position that the efforts of local officials to suppress the distribution of the *Free Press* under the charge of obscenity is unconstitutional. An editorial in the *Post* of June 16, 1969, states: "The Supreme Court has been scrupulous to forbid the suppression of any sort of political criticism on a pretext by offended officials that they deem it obscene. . . . This method of suppression cannot be allowed to stand without putting into the hands of the prurient-minded a means of suppressing whatever they may choose to call prurient."

Although in these cases there is no direct threat to library freedoms, librarians do have a professional stake in the freedom of expression of political and social ideas, and DCLA opposes on principle any effort to restrict constitutional guarantees of these freedoms by overly-zealous public officials. In this sense it therefore endorses the efforts of the American Civil Liberties Union to protect the right of the area underground press to make known its political views. —DCLA *Clips and Quotes*, October.

# 'Evergreen Review' Curbed by LA Library

Los Angeles Library Commissioners have placed all copies of the controversial *Evergreen Review* in "protective custody" for three months, following a public furor over circulation of the magazine on the open shelves.

The unanimous action came yesterday at the end of a tumultuous two-hour board session at which one citizen labeled the periodical "garbage." Library employees urged the board to defend its right against censorship.

Commissioners said the move to make the magazine available temporarily on request only was made because of "publicity" over the incident.

The commissioners said copies of the magazine now would be subjected to theft or mutilation if left on the open shelves.

A second motion calling for a review of each issue of all future library magazines was not acted upon.

The hue and cry over the often erotic *Evergreen Review* resulted from a letter to the commission by newly elected City Councilman Donald D. Lorenzen.

Lorenzen asked that the publication be placed on an "adults only" basis at West Valley Library in his Third District, after reading a June issue, containing a story entitled "The Offending Party."

City Librarian Harold L. Hamill, however, urged the board to "take no action" on Lorenzen's request.

"Pressure from an individual or group," said Hamill, "to deny access to any item in the library's collection . . . is in itself an act of censorship." —*LA Herald-Examiner*, 14 Augst.

On 15 August 31 members of the staff of the Honold Library for the Claremont Colleges, Claremont, California addressed a petition to the Los Angeles Library Commission protesting the ban of *Evergreen Review* from the open shelves of the LAPL.

On 10 October the Associated Press was able to report that the Library Commission had restored the magazine to the open shelves. "It is the parent who has the right to restrict children's reading, not the librarian," said Edis Martancik, adult book coordinator. A complete press release on this and other selection matters follows:

## PRESS RELEASE

The Los Angeles Board of Library Commissioners today (October 8) took several actions relating to the selection and use of periodicals in the Los Angeles Public Library.

The Library staff was ordered to immediately launch a study to determine what changes or alterations can be made in Library policies and operating procedures

to establish greater parental responsibility with regard to the use of the city's public libraries by youths under the age of 18.

Library Commissioner Mrs. Evelle Younger moved that the study be made. She noted that recently adopted State laws have set up new standards regarding the distribution of "harmful material" to minors. Mrs. Younger asked that the Library see if it can place the responsibility for a child's reading habits more directly where it belongs, with the parent.

In a separate action, Library Commissioner Albert S. Raubenheimer presented a motion calling upon the Library staff to conduct "more frequent reviews" of periodicals, especially those whose character seems to be undergoing radical change. Dr. Raubenheimer said that he did not feel the Library should continue subscribing to a magazine if it changes so much that it no longer merits a place in the Library.

The third and final action by the Library Commission was to remove the matter of the *Evergreen Review* from the October 15 agenda. By a vote of 3 to 0 (Library Commissioner Pat Galati abstaining and Library Commission President Eileen Kenyon absent), the Commission decided not to take up the *Evergreen Review* at this time.

On August 13 the Library Commission voted to place the controversial magazine on restricted shelves for a 90-day period to avoid mutilation and theft. The action was taken, according to Library Commissioners, in order to protect the publication which had become the object of a considerable controversy. If the Library Commission does not take up the matter again, the publication can be returned to the open shelves on November 13.

City Librarian Harold L. Hamill noted that the decision as to whether the magazine goes on open or restricted shelves will be in the hands of the librarian in charge of the department or branch library. If it is believed that the magazine will be unduly mutilated or subjected to frequent theft, the librarian in charge may remove it to a restricted area.

The *Evergreen Review* matter had been tabled by the Commission until the October 15 meeting. It was pointed out, however, that a majority of the Commissioners could bring the matter up at any time.

Hamill said that he would consult with his staff regarding the study to involve more parental responsibility in the use of libraries. It had been suggested that the parent of a minor be asked to sign a library card application assuming responsibility for what is read. Staff members pointed out that there were a great many problems involving technical details, forms and records, finances, legal wording and operational procedures. A date was not specified for the return of the report although Hamill said the study would be undertaken immediately.

# Commission on Obscenity and Pornography

PROGRESS REPORT

## Introduction

This is a progress report to the Congress and the President. It reports no findings. It makes no recommendations. Either would be premature at this time in view of the extensive study and research assignments Congress gave to the Commission. It simply reports the manner in which the Commission is carrying out its assignments, and the directions its studies, investigations and research are taking. The Commission plans to report its findings and recommendations in the summer of 1970 as directed by Congress.

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## Conclusions

This brief description of the current status of the Commission's work indicates the many specific tasks being undertaken to fulfill its assignments: to analyze the legal problems and develop useful definitions; to ascertain volume of traffic and patterns of distribution; to study effects; and to recommend action. The presentation does not adequately reflect the degree of integration among the work of the various panels. The work of the various panels is intentionally coordinated, however, and one research project often serves several of the panels and several goals simultaneously.

One example of the integration of the work of the several panels may be found in the instance of the national survey. The Legal Panel requires information on community standards. The Traffic Panel requires information on how many people have been exposed to what kinds of material. The Effects Panel requires information on behavioral and attitudinal correlates of exposure to erotic materials. These three different information requirements are joined together in a single research project—a national sample survey.

Congress assigned to the Commission a tremendous task that is complicated by the primitive state of knowledge in this very complex area. The Commission feels that it is making progress in its program to remedy this lack of information. The direction of our studies will continue to be flexible as we seek the best means of securing the information needed for the recommendations requested by Congress. Although the Commission cannot exhaust the studies that need to be made in this huge and difficult area within the limited time and funds available, the Commission believes it will be able to make significant contributions by the summer of 1970 when it plans to make its report and recommendations in accordance with the assigned deadline.

All members of the Commission concur in the foregoing Progress Report as accurately reflecting the Commission's activities. A separate Statement by Commissioner Morton A. Hill will be attached, together with a brief response by the other members of the Commission.

Report Approved June 5, 1969  
WILLIAM B. LOCKHART  
Chairman

## Regents Fire UCLA Communist

Miss Angela Davis, an acknowledged member of the Communist party, has been dismissed from her post as acting assistant professor of philosophy on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California.

University regents, after two executive sessions, took the action in the face of a legal battle that some believed would be carried all the way to the Supreme Court.

Miss Davis, a 25-year-old Negro, majored in French literature at Brandeis University and was graduated from Brandeis, magna cum laude and a Phi Beta Kappa, in 1965.

After graduate work in West Germany, she studied on the San Diego campus of the University of California under Dr. Herbert Marcuse, the philosopher and worldwide idol of new left campus radicals, and was a teaching assistant there before being hired for the Los Angeles campus last spring. She was employed to teach such courses as dialectical materialism and existentialism.

Her employment, supported by Prof. Donald Kalish, chairman of the philosophy department at the Los Angeles campus, led to a statement on July 1 in the campus newspaper implying that she was a Communist. Later in July, the university regents directed Chancellor Charles E. Young to ask Miss Davis whether she was a Communist. Her reply to his letter acknowledged party membership but questioned his authority to ask the question or "to deprive me of employment on such grounds." —Portland *Oregonian*, 21 September.

### Free Speech

Passing out handbills on the sidewalk in front of a store is an act protected by the constitutional right of free speech, the State Supreme Court has ruled. The opinion concerned Donald R. Lane, a labor official who distributed handbills in front of a Concord market in a labor dispute. Although Lane was arrested on private property, the court held that right of free speech applied because the store invited public patronage through use of the sidewalk. —Los Angeles *Times*, 21 August.

### The Seven Minutes

by Irving Wallace presents in fictional form most of what the continuing battle over censorship and intellectual freedom is all about. This is where it's at. Read it for enjoyment of a good courtroom story and for an understanding of the psychological, sociological and political forces underlying the spate of new legislation, arrests and intimidations, convictions, and appeals to the higher courts. LCM.

## Librarians for 321.8

Because we believe that democratic procedures are essential to the healthy functioning of any association, and as we hold that change should be possible when the members of the association desire it, and because representative democracy in the association is subverted when responsibility for Council actions cannot be ascertained, and when stated objectives are not allowed by appropriate fiscal action, and when action against members who do not support the Bill of Rights of the organization is not forthcoming, and, further, when the elected officers of the association ignore the clear mandate of its members, we have banded together to urge all candidates for Council and President to support the following minimum platform:

Whereas Article III, Section 3c, of the bylaws of the American Library Association indicates only that the professional address of each nominee shall be given on the official ballot; and that in practice biographical notes on nominees have been supplied with the ballot; and that this publication is not provided for within the bylaws; we believe this publication of information about nominees should be expanded immediately to include personal statements by the nominees on professional issues and concerns. Knowledge of nominees' beliefs and attitudes gained from such a statement would enable members to vote more intelligently and responsibly. Such action does not require Council approval.

We further believe that if intelligent decisions concerning the leadership of the Association are to be made, the membership must be aware of the voting records of individual Council members on all matters of policy concerning the Association. We, therefore, ask that a roll call vote of Council members be taken at the request of any Council member so desiring, and that the results of these votes be published in the *Bulletin* of the American Library Association.

Whereas President Dix has said that intellectual freedom is the first priority of the American Library Association,

we believe that this concern should be reflected in the budget of the Association.

We therefore propose:

1. That the staff of the Intellectual Freedom Office be enlarged by at least four full-time staff members.
2. That the Intellectual Freedom Office be provided with funds sufficient to engaged in an active, nationwide informational program and campaign in opposition to all forms of censorship and in full support of intellectual freedom through the press, television, radio, and any other appropriate media.
3. That an adequate supporting fund be created to help librarians and libraries in their effort to maintain intellectual freedom.
4. And further, that those libraries and librarians, including trustees and other American Library Association members, who by their actions do not support the Library Bill of Rights, be suspended from the Association as provided in Article III of the Constitution. Wide publicity of such action should be taken through the *Bulletin* of the Association and through paid advertisements in the regular library press.

Also, the membership of the Association of College and Research Librarians adopted a resolution on academic status for librarians and its implementation; and, the general membership overwhelmingly adopted a resolution calling for professional standards and their enforcement for all librarians. We, therefore, specifically urge that these resolutions be immediately adopted by the Council. The failure of the Council to act upon these resolutions at their annual meeting in Atlantic City drastically points to the need for a change in the membership of that Council in order to make it more responsive to the expressed desires of ALA members.

We feel that it is necessary that in this time of change, both in the profession and in the society it serves, that both Council and membership of the American Library Association be brought more fully into the policy deliberations on issues affecting our profession. To this end, it is necessary that the membership and Council meetings be allotted sufficient time for deliberation on important issues and that discussion not be constrained by considerations of available time or conflict with other meetings.

We believe that this minimum program is a necessary first step for any change in the American Library Association. We so strongly believe this that we ask all nominees for Council positions, and the Presidency of the Association to let us know publicly that they support this platform. Furthermore, we expect to have at least one candidate for every Council position and the Presidency running on this platform. We plan to inform the membership which nominees have not taken a public stand in favor of these important proposed changes.

In order to succeed in electing at least twenty-four Council members and a President in favor of change, we will need the immediate support of all concerned American Library Association members. If you agree with us that these modest changes, at least, are necessary, if you were as shocked as we were by the do-nothing actions of our Council last June, and if you would like to have a Council that cares about the desires of the members, then write to us now letting us know that you will be one of the one hundred necessary to sign our petition to give the members a chance to express themselves in the spring election. Also write to the *Library Journal*, the *Wilson Library Bulletin* and the *ALA Bulletin* to let them know that you do want a democratic library association.

LIBRARIANS FOR 321.8 . . .

JOHN FORSMAN, Chairman, Federal City College  
TRISH RALEY, Secretary, Library of Congress  
519-A Independence Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003  
Phone 202-547-9166

## Rafferty vs. Alioto Over 'Soul on Ice'

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A warning by California School Supt. Max Rafferty that he may decertify public school teachers who use books by two Negro writers in their classes brought the reply from San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto: "We don't want you as our censor."

Rafferty announced last week that teachers using the books *Soul on Ice* by Eldridge Cleaver and *Dutchman* by Leroi Jones could suffer loss of their teachers certificates.

Rafferty says the books contain what he calls obscene four-letter words and pornographic phrases. He maintains that a teacher using either book in class could be decertified for violating the second part of the State Education Code provision that instructors shall teach students to "avoid idleness, profanity and falsehood."

At least one city school superintendent, Robert E. Jenkins of San Francisco, removed the two books from the school system's approved reading list.

But Alioto wrote Jenkins that Rafferty's "effort to censor local curriculum, to over-rule local school boards and to ban books must be resisted."

"The two books he so arbitrarily banned," Alioto's letter continued, "may be offensive but the right of teachers to recommend their use in class and the right of the local board of education to authorize their classroom use are clear and inalienable."

At a news conference Monday Alioto said, "We are in effect telling Dr. Rafferty 'hands off—we don't want you as our censor.'" —Portland *Oregonian*, 27 August.

### Cornering the Market

Last fall, A. L. Draper, mayor of Umatilla in Eastern Oregon, banned *Playboy* magazine from the city. Unfortunately his crusade backfired. When the news leaked out, students from all over the state sent him gift subscriptions. He now receives 40 copies of the magazine each month. —*Old Oregon*, September–October.

## Richmond City Attorney to be Obscenity Judge

The public library of Richmond, California will let the City Attorney give the final word on whether a book is to be excluded from the collection for reasons of obscenity or pornography, according to a new policy adopted by the Richmond Library Commission. This, says the Commission, "will make it easier for the librarians to perform their duties. They will no longer make the subjective decision on what is or is not 'sensationalism,' and the decision on what is and what is not pornography will not be settled by a small group of citizens, but by our City Attorney."

The new policy was a move intended to alleviate the much publicized row over the library's subscription to the *Berkeley Barb* and *Avant Garde*—a row which led to the resignation of the city librarian, John Forsman, and to an ad placed in the May 1 issue of *LJ*, by AFSCME local 1675, urging a boycott of the vacant position by librarians.

In a recent letter to *LJ*, Mrs. Marian Gant, chairman of the Commission, stressed the fact that the new policy on obscenity had been worked out with the active collaboration of union members on the library staff. These, she pointed out, belong to the East Bay Municipal Employees Union Local 390. The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, which placed the boycott ad, does not represent any members of the library staff, she charged.

Evidently considering the new policy to have settled the censorship issue, Mrs. Gant went on to say that "the Commission and the citizens of Richmond wish to put this dispute behind them and to go on to find a librarian who is willing to accept the challenge of a growing and changing library in a growing and changing city."

And also, presumably, one who is willing to let the City Attorney tell him if a given book or magazine is "literature" or "obscenity." —*LJ*, 1 September.

## Death Threats in Farmingdale

The police and the FBI have been unable as yet to determine who sent the "execution order" to seven persons supporting the Farmingdale Public Library in Long Island against John Birchers and other right-wing elements who have been working toward its destruction. Among the seven who were told that they had been "tried and convicted of crimes against the nation" and would be "executed at the proper time unless they publicly admit their crimes" was Orrin Dow, director of the library, who has fought a long and broadly publicized battle against censorship and extremist paranoia in Farmingdale. The letters, bearing the insignia of the Minutemen, were postmarked New York and reached their destinations June 12 and 13. Not long after, Mr. Dow retold his story at the ALA Conference's "Battlefield Report" sponsored by the Intellectual Freedom Committee. At least one Bircher, *WLB* was told, is highly displeased with this action, and the library, limping along after two budget defeats, is further threatened. —*Wilson Library Bulletin*, September.

## Pornography Peril Doubted

Mental health professionals report overwhelmingly in a nationwide poll they do not believe pornography promotes violence, rape or other antisocial sexual behavior.

The questionnaire found that four out of five psychiatrists and psychologists had never encountered cases in which obscene photographs and movies or salacious pamphlets, books or comic strips impelled the viewer to engage in sexual assault.

On the other hand, the majority saw no benefit in pornography as a safety valve to drain off sexual drive or as therapy for people fearing sexual inadequacy.

Some 3,400 clinicians responded to the survey conducted by Dr. K. Michael Lipkin, University of Chicago, assistant professor of psychiatry, and Dr. Donald E. Carns, Northwestern University, assistant professor of sociology.

Almost 84 per cent of the respondents said persons exposed to pornography are no more likely to engage in antisocial sexual acts than persons not exposed.

An even greater percentage (86.1) believe people who vigorously seek to suppress pornography are often motivated by unresolved sexual problems of their own.

Two out of three said censorship is socially harmful "because it contributes to a climate of oppression and inhibition within which creative individuals cannot express themselves adequately."

Seven out of 10 expressed concern that censorship

will suppress true art along with trash and that the primary problem in censorship is to find qualified persons to exercise their judgment over materials.

Nevertheless eliminating censorship would not reduce the desire for pornographic materials, two out of three said.

Slightly more than half believed that some form of censorship should be applied to pornography and that the major responsibility lies with the family.

Commenting on the findings, Dr. Daniel X. Freedman, chairman of the University of Chicago psychiatry department, said:

"While the results do not show if the clinicians had, in fact, systematically probed the subject of pornography, it is clear that the great majority are not impressed with an important role of pornography in the development of illnesses or antisocial sexual behavior."

The survey also sought to measure the effect of television and movie violence on violent behavior.

Three out of four said they did not believe one had anything to do with the other. —*Chicago News*, 22 August.

## ACLU Challenges Customs' Book Raid

American Civil Liberties Union lawyers, representing a Washington peace movement activist, yesterday filed a lawsuit against the Secretary of the Treasury challenging his right to seize books published in Vietnam.

The suit was filed in District Court here on behalf of Mrs. Suzanne Orrin. Mrs. Orrin claimed that on July 9, when she reached the U.S.-Canadian border after a peace conference in Toronto, her luggage was illegally searched and three books published in Vietnam seized.

She said customs officials told her the books would be destroyed and asked her to waive her rights in connection with the books so they could be burned. They also took her personal appointment book and photostated it after they searched her luggage, she said.

The lawsuit asks for an injunction preventing the burning of the books and demands they be returned to her. —*Washington News*, 27 August.

## Bully

Toward a brighter America: The Ukiah Public Library has five copies of Philip Roth's "Portnoy's Complaint," with 12 people on the waiting list. As soon as these have satisfied their curiosity, the five copies will be destroyed by burning as ordered by the Library's Trustees. Bully!—Caen, in *SF Chronicle*, 24 September.



## A Threat to Freedom of Teaching, Learning and Reading

Freedom to teach, freedom to learn and ultimately freedom to read are distinctly threatened by a recently developed, but in a years' time highly successful, campaign to prevent modern sex education from being given in schools. News about this campaign has been cropping up for many months in reports from various towns and states. More comprehensive reports have now appeared in *Look*, *Life* and in the September 14 *New York Times*, among other media.

Prominent in the campaign has been the extreme right-wing Christian Crusade, headed by Billy James Hargis, and later, the John Birch Society. Typically the opposition claims that those who promote a sex and family life curriculum are being "used by the Communists," or are Communists themselves.

School board members and teachers are, in this campaign, threatened and ostracized. Programs much demanded by parents have been abandoned or indefinitely postponed. Most state legislatures have passed or are considering laws to impose some form of restriction on the discretion of school authorities to provide education in the area of sex and the family. Many communities have been badly split by bitterly emotional quarrels over the issue. One of the most harmful effects of this emotionalism—aside from the fact that young people are deprived of accurate information about a vital part of their lives—is that it prevents serious discussion or debate about the best ways to handle sex education.

As summaries in the press have pointed out, the strident opposition does not represent the opinions and wishes of most parents. If the better-known public opinion polls are broadly reliable, a great majority of parents not only favor but demand sex education in the schools.

The phrase "sex education" is, of course, subject to various interpretations. The opposition puts it in the most vulgar, narrow and sensational light that is possible; horror stories, widely believed, though refutable, have been told about "sex education" in schools. In truth, however, educators—with publishers—have spent some years developing thoughtful text and a-v programs that present the subject responsibly, in its wider meanings and in form for successive grade levels.

### Too Good, Too Long

I feel encouraged by the rising interest in intellectual freedom. Anti-intellectual freedom has had it too good for too long. —Gerald R. Shields in *ALA Bulletin*, September.

Many, in so doing, have asked for the aid of the non-profit health organization SIECUS—Sex Information and Education Council of the United States. SIECUS' counsels and its publications have made it a prime target for extremist slanders.

What the educators are after—it should go without saying—is what most parents want: accurate teaching not only of physiology but of the overall role of sex in individual development; and a compassionate understanding of male-female relationships and family life, with emphasis on responsibility. Most parents know that a prepared program provides more accuracy, both biological and psychological, than the home can give; that it provides seriousness and respect not to be found in the streets; that it can help to save many young people from tragic encounters, disease, and perhaps broken lives.

To threaten the freedom to teach, learn and read in this area is shocking. But it is being done, and bookmen have a common concern with educators in fighting back. This includes not only textbook publishers, but general and religious publishers—the latter in many cases representing denominations that have led local communities towards healthy programs of sex education. —*Publishers' Weekly*, 22 September.

## Those Dirty Books

The latest Job Corps flap is the disclosure that a camp in New Jersey once bought some books with dirty sounding titles for the boys to read. The man who bought the books has been fired and the camp has been closed. But the former director says the experiment actually worked.

Some of the titles sound pretty sleazy. *Male Nymphomaniac* does not sound like great literature. But some of the erotic classics — *Fanny Hill* and *Candy* were also on the shelf.

One of the problems faced by the Job Corps in its early days was the lack of suitable reading material. Many of the students read at the primer level or less. But they were burly, worldly 17-year-olds, products of city slums. They were not grabbed by "Spot is the dog. See Spot run. Spot likes to jump. See Spot jump."

Wholesome teen-age literature was beyond their reading ability and their experience. But these youngsters share a universal interest in sex. They'll read about that.

And it's fatuous to talk about corrupting these kids through books. Most of them could write the books—if they could write.

The former director says that the boys, after cultivating a taste for reading something, went on to read something else. And that makes it all worth while. — *Eugene Register Guard*, 15 September.

## Business Boycotts Weekly Paper

PORT WASHINGTON — A printing firm said Wednesday its defense of freedom of the press has cost it the support of its last major advertiser.

William Schanen Jr., president of Port Publications, said Wisconsin Electric Co. withdrew its advertising because of an industrialist's campaign against his printing of an underground Milwaukee hippie newspaper, *Kaleidoscope*.

W. W. Blish, advertising manager for Wisconsin Electric Power, said he didn't believe in "supporting this kind of material, *Kaleidoscope*" and discussed it with other officers of his firm.

William Schanen Jr., president of Port Publications, commented on the utility's action by saying, "I don't think industry — particularly one that has to have support from all the people—was structured like that."

Schanen, 56, whose firm has been in the publishing business for nearly three decades, has remained stubborn in the face of an advertising boycott, arguing he is only a printer of *Kaleidoscope* and has no say in the publication's editorial comment.

Besides, Schanen adds, the boycott is a challenge to freedom of the press which he feels obligated to defend.

The firm publishes three suburban Milwaukee weekly newspapers, and prints some school newspapers and a newsletter for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Benjamin Grob, a Grafton industrialist, has urged advertisers to withhold their business from Schanen as long as he prints *Kaleidoscope*.

Schanen's newspapers have a circulation of about 11,000. He said advertising revenue has decreased from about \$1,000 a week to \$95 in the smaller papers, and from \$3,000 to \$600 in the largest of the trio.

There are a few new advertisers in support of his position, he said.

Also, 11 of the 16 members of the University of Wisconsin journalism faculty have signed a petition supporting Schanen.

*Kaleidoscope*, published by members of Milwaukee's hippie community, has been accused of obscene content, though it never has been ruled legally obscene. — *Capital Times*, 24 July.

### Box Score

New anti-obscenity legislation was passed by the following jurisdictions on the dates shown:  
3 September: Bountiful, Utah.

## Memphis Restricts 'Portnoy'

*Portnoy's Complaint* will stay on the Memphis Public Library shelves, but the library board yesterday said those under 18 can't check it or other "questionable" books out without permission from a parent or teacher.

The ruling was part of a formal book-selection policy adopted by the board. The policy leaves book selection in the hands of the city's professional librarians, but rules out books which would be obscene under United States Supreme Court definitions.

Library director Lamar Wallis said the library has not previously bought such books.

Frank R. Ahlgren, retired editor of *The Commercial Appeal*, submitted the policy as chairman of a library board committee which investigated protests of Mayor Henry Loeb against Philip Roth's novel. — *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, 8 August.

## How Many Don't Ask?

Memphis Public Libraries have placed *Portnoy's Complaint* and similar books felt to be objectionable for young people off-limits to them but, so far, the new ruling has kept few teenagers from obtaining the book.

"In almost every case," Lamar Wallis, director of Memphis libraries, said today, "teenagers who were refused the book returned later with their parents and they checked it out for them."

Wallis pointed out that before the publicity given *Portnoy's Complaint* practically no interest in the book had been shown by young people. Now, he said, there is "some interest" being shown by youths, and they usually get the book despite the new ruling prohibiting persons under 18 from checking out such books. — *Memphis Press-Scimitar*, 14 August.

## Mail Detention Law Void

A three-judge federal court here has ruled unconstitutional a law which allowed the U.S. postmaster general to stop mail deliveries to suspected vendors of obscene material.

The ruling came Tuesday in a case brought by the government against The Book Bin at 123 Simpson St. NW.

The government had detained incoming mail to The Book Bin and wanted the three-judge panel to extend its power to detain mail. The government alleged obscene material was being sent through the mail by The Book Bin.

Deemed unconstitutional were sections of the law

which allow the postmaster to order mail addressed to suspected vendors returned to the senders and which allow courts to order such mail detained by the post office pending a hearing.

The three judges—U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Lewis R. Morgan and U.S. District Judges Frank Hoover and Newell Edenfield—unanimously agreed the statute does not meet constitutional tests.

They referred to a 1961 U.S. Supreme Court decision which allowed the restraint of materials suspected of being obscene only for the purpose of maintaining the “status quo.”

They said the statute in question goes “far beyond merely maintaining the status quo.”

The Supreme Court required a full review of the suspected material but the statute only required “probable cause” to believe the company was sending out obscene materials.

The judges said the statute provides “a chilling inhibition of First Amendment rights” by permitting a lengthy administrative process to determine obscenity. —Atlanta Journal, 10 September.

## “Jehovah’s Child” Fires Teacher

LOS ANGELES — Miss Leslie Hoag, Valley College English instructor, Tuesday was suspended from teaching in the Los Angeles Community College District.

The Board of Trustees notified her that in 20 days she would be dismissed unless she filed for a hearing in the Superior Court.

Miss Hoag was charged with insubordination, and she is charged specifically with having used the poem, *Jehovah’s Child*, authored by Mrs. Diana P. Metzger, in her English class at the college. —Monterey Park Californian, 14 August.

Mrs. Metzger had been fired in an earlier action, and on 20 August it was announced that the trustees had retained a private trial lawyer, a personal injury specialist to handle their case against Mrs. Metzger. It was an unusual action for a board which has access to free trial lawyers in the county counsel’s office and brought cries of fiscal irresponsibility from trustees Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and Frederic A. Wyatt.—LA Times, 20 August.

### North Country Libraries

for July–August, 1969 is devoted to the subject of intellectual freedom. Copies may be obtained from Editor Louise Hazelton at 20 Park St., Concord, New Hampshire 03301.

## Antiwar Bus Signs Upheld By Washington State Court

The State Supreme Court in Washington has ruled that constitutional protection against censorship extends to anti-Vietnam war signs displayed on public transit vehicles, the magazine *Fleet Owner* reports.

In a unanimous decision, the court upheld a county court decision ordering the City of Tacoma to display the antiwar signs sponsored by the Hillside Community Church.

The church signed a contract for display of 20 exterior signs in August, 1965. After four days of display, the City Manager, David Rowlands, ordered them removed. —New York Times, 30 August.

## No Library Money for Naked Strangers

Since nothing makes a book so popular as publicity, we’re wondering if you might let us use the Safety Valve to tell people that the Regional Library has not purchased *Naked Came the Strange* by those twenty-five gentlemen writing collectively under the pseudonym of Penelope Ashe. We admit to a great curiosity but are reluctant (at \$5.95 a copy) to use our meagre book funds to satisfy it.

After learning of the rather unique collaboration, we checked reviews and found no mention of the circumstances under which it was written, not even a “pseud.” after the author’s name. The *Library Journal* review was brief and to the point:

“This is a silly first novel of no value trying for the sex and games market. Gillian Blake, female half of the Gilly and Billy Show, a saccharine husband-and-wife radio program, has just discovered her husbands’ infidelities as the story begins, and she vows revenge. In each chapter Gillian, a hitherto faithful wife, seduces another man in her suburban community, destroying another life or another marriage. At the end, leaving a trail of carnage behind them, Gilly and Billy move from the suburbs back to New York City. The tone is flip, the humor weak, the development of motivation nil. No library needs this book.”

We hope our patrons will understand if we ask them in this instance not to depend on the library to supply this book, or, at least, let us wait until it can be bought at paperback prices.

MRS. ANNIE KOINZAN  
Book Selection Committee  
for the North Central  
Regional Library  
Wenatchee

—Wenatchee, Wash. *Daily World*, 14 August.

# Statement on Freedom to Read

Adopted by the East Chicago Public Library Board  
April 8, 1969

1. The purpose of the East Chicago Public Library is to provide to all qualified users of the library books, periodicals, films, recordings and other media for education, information and recreation. The library serves each user as an individual, not as a member of any group, and tries to obtain materials to fill every request so long as the material requested has some literary, historical, sociological or other value and does not fall within the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of obscenity, or does not promote racism from any angle.

2. The city is composed of people of diverse interest, beliefs, educational backgrounds and social consciousness. The library will try to obtain and make freely available to all individuals materials in their diverse interest fields, even though materials of interest to one person may be offensive on moral, political or religious grounds to others in the community. No one is required to read any book he finds offensive, but, on the other hand, no person should be empowered to deprive another person of material he wants to read by coercive censorship of the library's materials.

3. The freedom to read, to think and to make individual interpretations of what one reads, is essential to our democratic way of life. The free, unrestricted dissemination of ideas, with every idea competing for acceptance in the open market place of communications, must be protected from would be self-appointed arbiters of morals, politics or freedom of thought.

4. Books selected for inclusion in the library's adult collection are considered on the basis of (1) the needs and interests of the library's qualified users; (2) the value of the material for education, information and recreation; (3) the overall purpose of the work and how well the author fulfills that purpose; and (4) the author's ability to express his ideas clearly. No worthwhile book will be excluded because certain words or passages may prove offensive to some people if the book, taken as a whole, is worthwhile. The only books always excluded are those that come within the U.S. Supreme Court's definition of obscenity; that is, if they appeal principally to the prurient interest, have no redeeming social or literary value, and pass the bounds of decency acceptable to society as a whole at a given time and place.

5. The library, as an educational institution, is required to provide material on all subjects of interest to the people of East Chicago, including educational materials on sex on adult and juvenile levels. In order to make this material freely and easily available to all who read it it must be stored in its usual classified location on open shelves with related materials. Only

then will the people who need the material most have free access to it.

6. It is the parent's job, not the library's to supervise a child's reading. It is impossible for librarians to know the entire contents of every book in the library, nor is there time for them to thoroughly supervise the reading of every young person who comes to the library. They cannot know every child, his reading and interest level, his level of maturity, or what his parents want him to read or not to read.

7. A knowledge of all political systems that have appealed to men throughout history is necessary to the maintenance of our democratic way of life. We cannot intelligently oppose or contradict a political system without a knowledge of its theories, practices and the reasons it appeals to people. Therefore, books on communism, socialism, fascism, monarchism and other isms have a place on the library's open shelves.

8. The professional staff of the library is charged with the duty of selecting materials for the library. This they do by applying knowledge obtained through specialized training in accredited library schools and experience in serving the public. Most books are selected from reviews, since librarians could not possibly read or examine the more than 29,000 titles published each year in the U.S. alone. Requests for specific titles by library users will be filled if the book requested meets the standards of quality usually followed. Gift books must meet the same standards before they will be accepted.

9. Labeling books, including putting them on closed shelves, is a form of censorship. If a book is worth including in the library's collection it belongs on the open shelves. Therefore, all books in the collection, with the exception of a few rare books, reference volumes and books in great demand which are shelved separately to avoid theft or mutilation, belong on open shelves where they will be easily and freely available to every East Chicago citizen.

## Libraries ban 'Pretenders'

Now that Gwen Davis' *The Pretenders* has made the best seller lists, libraries have had to decide whether to buy it or not.

Detroit area libraries, including Detroit Public, Bloomfield Township and Highland Park libraries have decided not to add it to their stacks.

Grosse Pointe Library has not made a firm decision yet, but according to a library spokesman, "it looks doubtful."

Robert Westbrook's *Magic Garden of Stanley Sweetheart* has not made the best seller lists, so the libraries have not made a decision on it.—*Detroit News*, 27 July.

## Church vs. State

Traditionally censors have been most active in the areas of politics, sex, and religion. While sex is getting the most attention now, as politics did in the McCarthy era, there is growing evidence that libraries will find themselves facing controversy over selection in the field of religion in the near future. This controversy will not, as has been the case in the past, be the result of conservative theologians' attempts to maintain doctrinal purity; rather, the attack will come from the opposite direction, as a result of the increasing activity of certain liberal groups who advocate an extremely rigorous concept of church-state separation that does not accept, and would like to see prohibited by law, any expenditure of public funds on anything connected with organized religion — presumably including library materials. While one cannot question the sincerity of most of these individuals' interpretation of the First Amendment of the Constitution (a few of them, unfortunately, do seem to be preaching liberty only in order to practice their own particular brand of religious bigotry), neither can one deny that if their view prevails publicly supported libraries will have imposed upon them a restraint upon their freedom of selection that can only be called censorship.

There is evidence that school libraries are already facing this problem. More than once this writer has been informed that the Elementary and Secondary Education Act contains an outright ban on the purchase of all library materials that would be classified in the Dewey 200's. This is false; a study of ESEA reveals a prohibition on the spending of funds on materials for use in "religious worship or instruction," but there is nothing in the language of the act that seems intended to prevent school libraries from buying objective non-doctrinal works on religious subjects. The misinterpretation appears to have been made at the state or local level; it may be honest misunderstanding, but one wonders if it is not a deliberate misinterpretation arising either out of intellectual laziness (i.e., a desire to avoid the mental effort involved in evaluating individual titles for their suitability for purchase) or moral cowardice (i.e., fear of being rebuked—or worse, having the money cut off—if some Federal official takes exception to some item purchased). Whatever the explanation the result is censorship.

No easy solution to this problem is apparent. Whenever two constitutional guarantees of liberty appear to conflict, resolution of the conflict without erosion of either liberty is extraordinarily difficult (consider, for example, the continuing debate over the apparent incompatibility of freedom of the press and the right to trial before an unprejudiced jury). Certainly separation of church and state is as basic a constitutional principle as freedom of speech and of the press, upon

which the library principle of selection is founded. Nevertheless, librarians should be aware that they are quite certain to face this issue within the next two or three years, and that it is not too soon now to begin an earnest search for a just solution to the problem.

—Paul B. Cors, Chairman  
Wyoming Library Assn. IFC

## Ban On Outside Literature At Schools Called Unlawful

The city solicitor's office has ruled unconstitutional the much-debated School Board rule which forbids outside literature from being distributed in the schools unless the school superintendent first approves it.

The solicitor's opinion says that the rule "is unconstitutional because the superintendent is given the absolute right to prohibit the distribution of announcements, without any guidelines to restrict his action."

In place of the existing regulation, the opinion proposed that the School Board approve a rule which would include guidelines to determine what is and what is not acceptable for distribution in schools.

Under the proposed rule, school principals, not the superintendent, would be given the authority to enforce the guidelines.

However, under the proposal, if a principal turned down a request, a student could appeal to the superintendent.—Baltimore Sun, 9 July.

## Rawlins Mayor Blacks Out News

Rawlins Mayor Kermit Rippee refused to lift the news blackout from city hall again yesterday, making Wednesday the third day in a row the city's chief executive has denied news to the press.

When asked by the *Daily Times* if he would release police reports to the press, the mayor replied, "I'll release them when I get around to it," and hung up the telephone.

The unexplained embargo against the news media began Monday afternoon when a *Daily Times* reporter requested police reports, which are normally released to the press by the police officer in charge.

The reporter was told by Police Clerk Goldie Mallett that nothing was to be released to the press unless "the mayor approved it first."

When asked again yesterday, Mrs. Mallett said, "No one has told me to release anything yet."

Wednesday the *Daily Times* editorially criticized the mayor for denying the press access to information in public files and for accusing a Rawlins policeman of neglecting his duties.—Rawlins, Wyo. *Times*, 11 September.

## Who Destroys the Cards . . .

By tradition, university campuses are centers where intellectual freedom is held to be of uppermost importance. Faculty and student members of the academic community have the freedom to consider all aspects of issues and to discuss them freely.

A recent incident on the Urbana campus of the University of Illinois threatened the intellectual freedom of the entire University community. During a weekend in February, shortly after the beginning of the second semester, cards in the catalogs of the University Library were removed and destroyed. In a random manner, cards were taken from the catalogs of three departmental libraries and the main card catalog. Although some of the cards were completely destroyed, a greater number were torn in pieces or partially burned; the remnants of these cards were recovered from various places on the campus.

Approximately 15,000 cards from 25 sections of the catalog are thought to have been removed. Dr. Robert B. Downs, Dean of Library Administration, estimates that it will cost about \$25,000 to repair the loss. At the present time a special staff of professional librarians is working at reconstructing the cards. Restoring and reconstructing the catalog to its former state is an almost impossible task because there is no way of being certain what cards were taken.

Destroying the card catalog which is the index to the collection of books in the library is as effective a means of crippling a library as burning the physical volumes. With no means of access to them, books are lost as surely as if they were destroyed. The incident presents a serious threat to the intellectual freedom of all the persons who use the extensive resources of the University of Illinois Library.

Faculty and students on the Illinois campus were quick to see that their rights had been violated by this act of wanton destruction, and letters of protest appeared in the campus newspaper. The faculty Senate presented a resolution deploring the vandalism, stating that

destruction of knowledge is an act which is utterly foreign and repugnant to the University community and serves only to deprive students, faculty, and the public of irreplaceable and valuable educational opportunities . . .

The members of the Department of History went on record as "deploring and condemning the willful vandalism . . . and offering the services of the Department to devote time to helping restore the card catalog . . ." A student designed a poster condemning the action, and the University Foundation is offering a reward of \$1,190 for information leading to the identity of the vandal or vandals.

The seriousness with which this incident is viewed is indicative of the importance of the library in the maintenance of intellectual freedom in the university community. Attacks on the libraries and the card catalogs of academic institutions are a threat to the intellectual freedom of the entire university community.

— Mrs. Barbara Slanker and  
Robert Oram  
Illinois Library Assn. IFC

## Freedom of Speech Tested in London

The dismissal of a London School of Economics lecturer for supporting violence, upheld by an independent appeals tribunal, may set a precedent for British universities.

The unanimous decision by the three-man tribunal, in what has been regarded here as a test case, will have important significance to teachers in the question of academic freedom. In a sense a norm has been established indicating how far they can carry "freedom of speech and action" without risking their jobs.

Robin Blackburn, a young assistant lecturer in sociology, was fired by the standing committee of the court of governors of the London School of Economics (LSE) on April 29. The tribunal upholding that action found that he had committed acts of grave "misconduct" in two statements he made backing students who had pulled down security gates within the school on Jan. 24.

The first evidence of his support of violence, the tribunal found, came when Mr. Blackburn, at a debate sponsored by two left-wing movements, "Black Dwarf" and "Tribune," announced that the gates had been removed. He said he supported the action. His statements were greeted with an outburst of applause.

The second instance came when he again voiced his approval in a television interview on Jan. 30.

According to the appeals tribunal, these statements constituted a direct encouragement to further violence at a time of turmoil at the university.

It concluded that: "Giving the widest possible scope to the freedom to hold and promulgate any opinion whatsoever, that freedom cannot confer the right to act in a manner which is incompatible with the fundamental obligations of a teacher in a university and which encourages the breakdown of law and order on which this freedom is based."

The tribunal stressed that it would be wrong to consider Mr. Blackburn's dismissal as limiting in any way freedom of speech and opinion which were the lifeblood of a university. "No freedom is absolute."—*Christian Science Monitor*, 23 August.

### **The Challenges of Intellectual Freedom**

was the theme of the annual conference of the Nevada Library Association at Winnemucca, October 9-11. Keynote address was delivered on Friday by Mrs. Judith F. Krug, Director of the ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom, and was followed with discussion by LeRoy C. Merritt and James Meeks, Colorado State Librarians, moderated by University of Nevada Associate Librarian Kenneth Carpenter. All three visitors led afternoon sectional discussions. Convention banquet address was given by Edwain Castagna, Chairman, ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee on the topic: "The Loneliest Job in the Library: Book Selection in a Time When Anything Goes." Other state library associations please copy.

## **Recognition of the Problem**

Man has always been afraid of strange ideas. The killing of twins, the exposure of the deformed and the burning of witches are examples of man's rejection of ideas which have offended him. Even today the strange or unusual idea comes under attack. The bearded youths, the unknown in the village, the black in the "white neighborhood," the man with the sinister accent, the communist, are all examples of people who are somehow strange and must therefore be watched.

All of us are guilty of some of the prejudgments occasioned by what is strange to us. The politician knows this and uses it in his campaign to bring us into his corner when he calls his opponent: spendthrift — Red — bossist, or aligned with criminal elements.

Intellectual Freedom is concerned with the revulsion of some against ideas which have been reproduced in media. As such it has no real kinship with man's rejection of ideas as outlined above — and yet it does. For the problem of intellectual freedom is created by the rejection of what is strange, unacceptable or repulsive to some. It becomes a further problem when that "some" decides that everyone should be denied access to such ideas in print, film or other media and therefore takes steps to remove such ideas from circulation.

For Intellectual Freedom Committees this poses a real problem. For it demands the commission of some overt act of denial of ideas in media to all before one can appropriately take action. At that point, it is already too late. And all that can happen is that the

committee seek to punish the miscreant for his foolhardiness. Recriminations result but little has been done for the cause of creating a climate in which the common idea doesn't drive out the strange.

A good example in point is that of the Farmingdale (L.I.) N.Y. Public Library. There, a Trustee, offended by a periodical removed it so that others could not have access to it. This case was and is still being promoted nationwide as one in which Intellectual Freedom was violated in spite of the fact that no person removing or stealing an item could be said to have effectively removed it. The Intellectual Freedom groups publicized the Trustee involved to the point of getting him re-elected and perhaps aiding future candidates of his type to win in the future.

The Trustee's action had no legal basis either of the full board or of the authorities of the community. He had merely, then, personally removed a periodical without authorization. The librarian could have ordered another copy and made it available to his community. He might have requested the local law enforcement officers to recover the offending periodical from the Trustee. He might have had the Trustee arrested for theft.

What I am trying to say is that there is no threat to Intellectual Freedom in the isolated actions of individuals or groups of individuals who are not representative of the State or governing authority of institutions. The rantings of individuals, the picket lines around the movie house, even the burning of individual books (as was done by ESCRU in Chicago during "brotherhood week") does not represent anything worse than the right of those individuals to express themselves. But when they add the power of the law to "protect" us all or of the Trustee of a library or even a church governing body so that we are effectively denied access to ideas, then Intellectual Freedom has indeed been violated.

A climate of hysteria is of no aid to the cause of intellectual freedom. We, above all, should be promoters the freest exchange of ideas possible. We believe that in this exchange the good will drive out the bad. But the broadest and most pervasive attack on our freedom to read, see and think can only come from the implementers: the lawmakers, the Trustees and the individuals who perform the book selection functions in libraries across the nation. Each and all must be made to see the folly of blocking access to ideas. Each and all must be subjected to educational campaigns — not screams — which indicate clearly that the right road moves with the United States Constitution:

Congress shall enact no laws . . .

— Milton S. Byam,  
Chairman, New York Library Assoc.  
Intellectual Freedom Committee

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