

Women In Libraries

NEWSLETTER OF THE
ALA/SRRT FEMINIST
TASK FORCE

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ALA in CHICAGO

There are a disappointing number of conflicts in the schedule for the meetings of interest to women at the annual conference of the American Library Association in Chicago. Hopefully, turnout will still be good at all of them. The meetings of the Feminist Task Force are:

- Saturday 11:30 - 12:30 Open discussion of issues of pornography legislation.
Hyatt - New Orleans Room
- 8 - 10 p.m. The Gender Gap: Building on our Success for the Public Good.
Featured will be Dr. Marjorie Lansing who is credited with coining the phrase, "Gender Gap". Lansing will present an analysis of the successes of the 1984 election and chart a course for future gains by women in politics.
- Monday 4:30 - 5:30 Business meeting - Hyatt - Addams Room
- After 10 p.m. Women's Night Out - Opal Station, 6655 N. Clark
- Tuesday 9:30 - 11:00 Business Meeting - Americana Congress Hotel - Carter Room

Other meetings of interest to women:

- Saturday 9:00 - 11:00 ACRL Women's Studies Discussion Group - Palmer House - Chicago 1
- 9:30 - 11:00 Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship
Hyatt - Columbian Room
- 2:00 - 4:00 Library Union TF/FTF Cosponsored Program: Sexual Harassment
Midland Hotel - Presidential Ballroom
- Sunday 9:30 - 11:00 ACRL WSDG/ACRL Western European Specialists program
Hyatt - Toronto Room
- Monday 9:00 - 11:00 COSWL - Hyatt - Haymarket Room
- 11:30 - 12:30 COSWL - Hyatt - Water Tower Room
- 2:00 - 4:00 LAMA Women Administrators Discussion Group - Midland - Adams
- 4:30 - 5:30 ACRL WSDG - Americana Congress - Grant Park Room
- Tuesday 9:00 - 11:00 COSWL - Americana Congress - Lake Shore Room

CANDIDATES FOR ALA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gail Warner, Chair of the Feminist Task Force, took a phone poll on April 23, 1985, to see how much support she could find for a protest against the nomination of three white men for the ALA Executive Director position. The support was there; consequently, Warner wrote the following letter to President E.J. Josey and the Executive Board:

"As officers and members of the SRRT Feminist Task Force, we wish to express our deep and profound dismay at the recent announcement of the three finalists for ALA Executive Director

In a profession which employs an overwhelming number of women in proportion to men, we find it difficult to believe that the search committee was unable to locate qualified women and/or minority candidates. We question whether affirmative action procedures were carried out in a vigorous manner, and feel that the search committee may not have made use of active recruitment procedures.

In filling a position such as this, it is often necessary to contact and actively recruit outstanding candidates. A pool of only 26 responses seems to be a microscopic sample of the able administrators active in our profession.

Perhaps the fault lies in the search procedure itself. We would like to encourage the President and the Executive Board to review the overall search procedure at this time, with the idea that this current effort failed to draw out an adequate sample of qualified candidates. The shortcomings of the search should be a lesson to all of us.

We are sure that an honest and sincere examination of the search process will lead to the reopening of the position."

The letter was signed by eleven officers and members of FTF whom Warner had talked with. One of the signers also wrote a letter to "Reader Forum" in American Libraries. Sarah Watstein (New York University) made many of the same points and said, in part:

"A recent article in American Libraries (April 1985, p. 215) comments that this is 'one of the most prominent leadership posts in the library world.'" The search committee for the position has identified three white males as candidates for the post. In a profession which employs an overwhelming number of women in proportion to men, women and/or minority candidates were not identified.

We are left to ponder ... and question."

Warner reported that it was her understanding that the Executive Board was to meet from April 30 - May 2 and expected to reach a decision by the end of their meeting. One of the questions we should be thinking about and be ready to discuss in Chicago is, "What shall we do if they ignore the feminist protests?" It is interesting to ponder not only how it could have happened, but why it happened. We know there are qualified women in our profession; is it possible that they doubt their ability to do (or be considered for) such a big, prestigious, and well-paid job??

MONEY NEEDED

The FTF membership will be asked to approve an increase in subscription price for Women In Libraries. Leslie Kahn, the editor responsible for the business end of this venture, suggests \$5 for individuals, \$8 for institutions, and \$10 for invoiced or foreign subscriptions. The combination of the new postal rates and an increase in printing costs makes this an urgent issue to us.

BOOK BANNING IN ENGLAND

One of the items on the FTF agenda for Chicago is "Book Banning - England." In order to acquaint you with the issue, here is a summary of an article entitled "Royal Book Ban" which Betty-Carol Sellen (Brooklyn College) sent to WIL...sorry, no cite is available. Apparently, eight directors and one worker from a non-profit gay and feminist community bookshop called "Gay's the Word" face criminal charges of conspiracy to import obscene material. And all United States consignments to the shop have been detained at port! The seized books include titles by feminist authors Marge Piercy, Djuna Barnes, and Judy Grahn. British law allows Customs and Excise to seize books (or other imports) and detain them indefinitely before issuing a seizure notice. Approximately \$10,000 worth of imports are presently being detained at port, an action which seriously threatens the financial solvency of the bookshop. If found guilty of the charges against them, the defendants could face fines and penalties plus two years in prison. Nevertheless, Gay's the Word is determined to fight. The roster of its defenders includes both mainstream and radical publishers, writers, members of the Parliament, and the National Council of Civil Liberties. The General Secretary of NCCL, Larry Gostin, feels the case is both a gay rights case and a civil liberties case. NCCL will do the legal defense for the bookshop at a price tag of \$60,000. Gay's the Word is accepting contributions to help with their defense. Please send checks payable to Defend Gay's the Word Campaign, 38, Mount Pleasant, London, WC1, England.

PAY EQUITY BIBLIOGRAPHY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The American Library Association's Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship is preparing an annotated bibliography of books, articles, pamphlets and dissertations on pay equity from 1982 through 1984. This bibliography will update Equal Pay for Comparable Worth: An Annotated Bibliography, which was compiled by the staff of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation and printed and distributed by the ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources.

To date, more than 400 citations have been identified and volunteers are now needed to help annotate these citations. Each volunteer will be sent a list of ten to fifteen citations to annotate, a sample annotation, and a set of guidelines. If needed, photocopies of articles can be provided.

All annotations will be acknowledged with the author's name. Final editing will be done by the project editor, Helen Josephine. The bibliography is expected to be approximately sixty pages and will be published in late 1985. Volunteers should contact Margaret Myers, Director, ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611, (312) 944-6780.

WISCONSIN WOMEN LIBRARY WORKERS PITCH

Wisconsin Women Library Workers, unable to peddle its wares at a small press exhibit booth because of ALA regulations, will nonetheless have a variety of items for sale at the Chicago conference. No well-dressed feminist librarian should be without a WLW tee shirt, available in a panoply of eye-catching colors for \$6 each. Children's sizes are also available; and the larger adult sizes can double as nightshirts. In addition to their bold button with the slogan "fight back," WVLW has a new button honoring women's music; both are 75¢. Also new is The Music of Women: a Selection Guide, an annotated guide to recorded women's music and a real bargain at \$3. Five postcards in the classic Muriel Fuller Memorial Postcard Series are available individually or as a set. And finally, the popular notepads, out of stock for over a year, are back! Look for WVLW members at the meetings of ALA women's groups and at the "Women's Night Out." Or write WVLW, PO Box 1425, Madison, WI 53701, for info. on ordering by mail.

ARTIST NEEDED

The Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship seeks a feminist artist to design a commemorative poster for its 1976 - 1986 Tenth Year Anniversary Celebration to begin at the American Library Association Annual Conference in New York in 1986.

Please submit designs (in color if possible) for consideration at the Annual Conference in Chicago July 5 - 11, 1985. Designs should be submitted to Katharine Phenix, COSWL, 906 Ogden Street, Denver, CO 80218, (303) 837-0330. The Winning Artist will receive a substantial cash award.

WOMEN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS

The time to act is NOW...University Microfilms has agreed to microfilm Women's Review of Books once they receive ten requests from libraries. If you want this fine serial for posterity, send your inquiry in to Blake Ratcliffe, UMI. If you're near the Wellesley Center for Research on Women, you can pick up a form from Linda Gardiner and then all you have to do is fill in the blanks.

SEX SEGREGATION IN LIBRARIANSHIP

Betty Jo Irvine (Indiana University) send WIL advance book information about her new book to be published this summer by Greenwood Press. Entitled Sex Segregation in Librarianship: Demographic and Career Patterns of Academic Library Administrators, it sounds like a book we will all want to read. The book description says, in part, "She explores why women have struggled so long for the status and recognition so easily achieved by their male counterparts. Included are data on the educational and occupational achievements of parents and spouses, the educational background of male and female librarians, and their professional affiliations and activities. Their career history is considered with regard to mobility patterns, middle management and executive positions, and mentorship and role models." Watch for it!

NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTIONS

Nuclear freeze has been an issue on the minds of many individuals and groups for the past several years. To call attention to the opposition that people feel to the nuclear arms buildup, many groups have passed resolutions calling for a nuclear freeze from both the U.S. and Soviet governments. Organizations such as Physicians for Social Responsibility, the Union of Concerned Scientists, Educators for Social Responsibility, the Children's Defense Fund, and many others have supported efforts to prevent the possibility of a nuclear war and have called for a nuclear freeze.

In an effort to determine the level of discussion on nuclear freeze resolutions within state library associations, the ALA Peace Information Exchange Task Force (SRRT) sent out a questionnaire to the 56 library associations listed in the ALA Handbook. There were a total of 36 responses to this questionnaire and its follow-up for a response rate of 64%. The questionnaire attempted to determine whether the library association had passed a resolution calling for a nuclear freeze and, if not, where the association stood in terms of even discussing such a resolution.

Of the 36 library associations which responded, seven reported that they had already passed a nuclear freeze resolution. These included the library associations of California, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington. One state library association is in the process of drafting a nuclear freeze resolution, although it was not sure when the draft would be voted on.

NUCLEAR FREEZE RESOLUTIONS (continued)

Three associations reported that there might be discussion of a freeze resolution within the next year. Three reported that there definitely would be discussion of a nuclear freeze resolution within the year and one library association stated that the freeze resolution was going to be a topic on the agenda for the next board meeting. Six associations reported that there had been no discussion of a freeze resolution, and that it was unlikely that it would come up on the agenda within the next two years. Ten library associations did not feel that a nuclear freeze resolution had a place on the agenda of a state library association. In three of these cases, this expression came from board members. Another library association which expressed this sentiment had also passed a statement resolving that its libraries and librarians had "an obligation to provide information and arguments from all points of view on the nuclear arms race." The library associations of both South Dakota and Wisconsin had placed nuclear freeze resolutions on the agenda during 1984. In both cases, the resolution was voted down. Oklahoma referred its nuclear freeze resolution to its Social Responsibilities Round Table. In Pennsylvania, a freeze resolution was introduced, but a point of order regarding rules was called and no further discussion took place.

This is not a very strong statement from the library profession regarding an issue which has the potential of destroying all civilization.

The results of this survey will be on display in Chicago at the Peace Information Exchange Task Force program, according to Mary Rosenthal, Reference Librarian, for the Peace Information Exchange Task Force, who also sent WIL this article.

ISSUES OF PORNOGRAPHY LEGISLATION

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors is presently considering an anti-pornography proposal, according to an article in Newsweek, March 18, 1985, pages 58 through 67. This is a must read if you are planning to attend the FTF meeting on Saturday at ALA. Apparently, the L.A. proposal "would give every Los Angeles woman the legal right to sue everyone from the corner shop that sells Playboy to the plant foreman who shoves a picture of a violent rape at her during a break." The article discusses both sides of the issue, presents the results of a poll on the subject, lists the historical obscenity cases, and identifies many of the troubling and unanswerable questions.

PORNOGRAPHY WORKSHOP GUIDE

WIL received a review copy of The Pornography Workshop for Women: a Leader's Handbook by Margaret Smith and Barbara Waisberg (Toronto: Birch Associates, 1984). The authors have developed a workshop as a way for women to explore and respond to the problem of pornography and have refined the handbook over a period of five years, based on the feedback from participants in their own workshops. This is a nuts-and-bolts approach to a workshop presentation and tells you exactly what to do when. In the workshop, women view pornographic examples in order to analyze the contents and messages. The participants analyze the values about women and about sex that pornography promotes, as well as the roots of those values. In addition, participants examine women's sexuality and discuss action against pornography in terms of building alternative visions of sexuality, as well as strategies for fighting the pornography industry. Some of the examples are Canadian, of course; in an example of community work by a women's group, it discusses pornography as a \$500 million industry in Canada. These are minor problems and do not diminish the work's primary purpose, which is to help guide women wanting to prepare a workshop on this important topic.

SHOULD STUDENTS BE FREE TO THINK?

The above question is the title to a shocking article in the May/June, 1985 issue of Peace & Freedom. The article, by Beverly Taylor, is an indictment of Mel and Norma Gabler who head The Education Research Analysts, a Texas-based censorship group which screens textbooks. They have a strong impact on the Texas Textbook Commission and, because the publishing industry looks to populous states like Texas for textbook direction, the Gablers have a disproportionate impact on which textbooks are made available to schools throughout the country. In fact, Professor Edward Jenkinson, author of Censors in the Classroom, calls the Gablers "the two most influential people in education today." The Washington Coalition Against Censorship has compiled a list of examples of the objections of the Gablers to some schoolbooks:

Ginn 360 Reader. Objected to the story "The Reluctant Dragon" because it implied a child knows better than his/her parents.

Five major dictionaries, including the American Heritage Dictionary, have been banned from Texas classrooms since 1977 and challenged in several other states. The Gablers object to the inclusion of "vulgar language" such as multiple definitions of "knock," "shack," and "ball" and the definition of "bed" as a transitive verb.

Magruder's American Government. Objected to the line, "year after year the Defense Department takes a very substantial slice of the federal budget." The Gablers said "this showed a subtle bias in favor of disarmament."

Poe's "Cask of Amontillado." This classic short story was objected to as "gruesome, negative, and violent."

Objected to a history textbook which discussed the civil rights movement and the slogan "Freedom!" because, according to the Gablers, "Everyone in this country has always been free unless they were in jail."

Objected to advanced mathematics texts because, "When a student reads in a math book that there are no absolutes, suddenly every value he's been taught is destroyed. And the next thing you know, the student turns to crime and drugs."

This is an issue of interest to Intellectual Freedom committees, but it is a feminist issue, too. Feminists know that NOT everyone in this country has always been free. It also is a general library issue. Why are such censors so influential in the textbook publishing industry? Taylor's article refers readers to the Intellectual Freedom Committee of any State Library Association for information on coalitions against censorship; please make sure that YOUR state association has such information.

FUNDING AVAILABLE

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation announces the availability of some scholarships for full or part-time study: 1) Career Advancement Scholarship Program for Women at least 25 years of age who will be within 24 months of completion of their program of study by the beginning of the scholarship. Applicant must demonstrate financial need and have a definite plan to use this training to improve career chances for advancement, or train for a new career, or to enter or re-enter the job market; and 2) Clairol Loving Care Scholarship awarded to women at least 30 years of age with same qualifications as above. Apply by 9/15/85 by sending SASE to Education Programs Dept., Business and Professional Women's Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

NONSEXIST CATALOGING

Here is a selection of entries (unfortunately, space is too limited to include all) from the Hennepin Cataloging Bulletin #76:

Aid to Families with Dependent Children--Retrenchment
Anarcha-feminists
Assertiveness training for Women
Exercise for large women
Family violence--Intervention
Maternal health services--Retrenchment
Sexism in computer software
Woman battering--Intervention
Anger in women
Ear piercing
Female gangs
Men and abortion

The following entries used as authority the slide-tape show, Women as an under-served population, by Ellen Broidy and Neel Parikh:

Disabled women
Marital rape
Women's organizations
Women's shelters
Working class women

GIRLCOTT FOR NEW ZEALAND

On February 6, the U.S. Women's Movement began a national "girlcott"--a positive consumer action to buy New Zealand products, in protest against President Reagan's threatened trade reprisals against that country because of its refusal to permit U.S. ships carrying nuclear weapons to refuel in New Zealand ports. As of February 15, the girlcott was active in 23 major American cities.

New Zealand, the first country in the world to grant women suffrage, has now become the first nation to refuse access to a great power regarding nuclear weapons. Although that country has long been a nuclear-free zone, it was less than a year ago that the Parliament enacted the anti-nuclear law. In June, Marilyn Waring, a feminist member of the National Party, crossed party lines to give the anti-nuclear bill a one-vote majority. In support of Waring and in support of the idea that "A Feminist World is a Nuclear Free Zone," U.S. women are buying New Zealand products such as lamb, cheese, kiwifruit, strawberries, blueberries, butter, beer, wine, seafood, and wool. If you want to participate, look for the label which marks products from New Zealand and request them from the manager. In addition, you can write or send petitions to the White House, your Congresspeople; Rep. Stephen Solarz (D., Brooklyn), Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Asia, and to the editorial pages of local and national newspapers. For further information, contact Global Sisterhood, C/O Women's Action Alliance, 370 Lexington Ave., NY, NY 10017.

CENTURY BOOK CLUB

The Century Book Club is the national monthly book club for lesbians and gay men and their friends. Their offerings include fiction, nonfiction, gift books, and special editions, as well as interviews with authors, and book excerpts. If you are interested in this book club, write them at 1560 North La Brea Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90028.

MATERIALS OF INTEREST

Have you seen the 1985 catalog of the WEEA's publishing center, "Resources for Educational Equity"? It's 38 pages of resources for educational equity, including curriculum materials, career development, staff development, and specialized material. Order the catalog from Women's Educational Equity Act Publishing Center, 55 Chapel Street, Newton, MA 02160.

A Teacher's Guide to Abortion was originally designed to aid teachers who wish to present abortion information to their students. It is an excellent resource for any educator, health care professional, or concerned citizen who wishes to educate and inform people about reproductive freedom and abortion. Order a copy, price \$1.00, from The Abortion Education and Referral Service, 3255 Hennepin Ave., South, #227, Minneapolis, MN 55408.

Between Our Selves: Women of Color Newspaper, vol. 1, no. 1, Winter 1985, is a tabloid aimed at Afro-American, Arab-American, Asian-American, Latina, Native American women--ALL women of color--and serves as a place to discuss thoughts, activities, reports on organizing efforts, Third World Feminist, Herstories, and dreams. If you are interested in subscribing to this quarterly feminist newspaper by, for, and about women of color, the cost is \$10 for individuals, \$15 for institutions, and may be ordered from B.O.S., P.O. Box 1939, Washington, D.C. 20013.

Another tabloid, Southern Feminist, is in its second year. It claims to be the only newspaper currently covering a 12-state area from Virginia to Texas with a focus on women's rights issues, events, and activists. Order a sample issue of this fascinating, substantive and provocative newspaper: S.F., P.O. Box 1846, Athens, Georgia 30603.

Send articles or comments to Kay Jones, UNM Library, Albuquerque, NM 87131. WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, Newsletter of the American Library Association Social Responsibilities Round Table Feminist Task Force, is published 5 times a year from September to June. Subscriptions are \$4 for individuals, \$6 for institutions prepaid, and \$8 for institutions invoiced. Send checks, payable to WOMEN IN LIBRARIES, to:

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