



Social Responsibilities Round Table Newsletter ALA

NEWSLETTER #52

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APRIL 1979

MAY 16 1979

LIBRARY

A CLOSER LOOK

MAY 16 1979

LIBRARY

ALA's 1977 decision to hold national meetings exclusively in ERA-ratified states was of invaluable support to the approximately 108 million American women who have yet to receive full legal recognition in this country. At the 1979 Midwinter Conference in Washington, D. C., by taking positive action on an important question, the Council recommitted itself to the position that women require equal rights.

With a sense for the dramatic, the Council deliberated upon and overturned the Executive Board's decision to return certain future meetings to non-ratified Chicago. Two primary considerations were debated in reaching this decision: one of money, the other of morality. Given the choice, the Council opted to support women's rights over lucre.

This heartwarming decision is now being challenged by a mail-vote of the membership. We remain optimistic that the convictions and principles of the organization will be upheld and reaffirmed through this ballot. Ours is part of a larger effort; if ERA is to become a reality, we must work to make it so.

Out of the 34 councilors identified as being SRRT members, a hearty majority of 28 voted to keep ALA meetings out of the non-ratified state of Illinois. Of the remaining six voices, 5 councilors voted to return to Chicago, and one was absent from the vote.

(continued on p. 4)

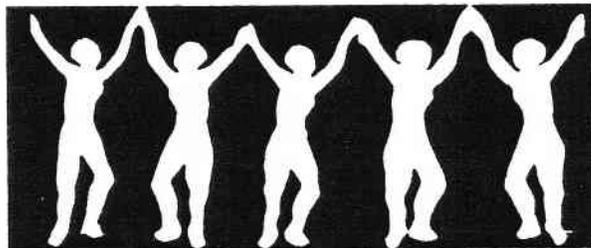
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CRUNCH NESTLE'S QUICK!

by Julie McCartney

The student officers of the Columbia School of Library Service provide a coffee service in their lounge, for which students pay a nominal fee. The choice of Nestle's products this year had gone unnoticed until January, when a student brought the issue of "baby-bottle disease" and the international boycott of Nestle's products to the attention of the officers.

THE PROBLEM

Declining birth rates and the trend towards breast-feeding in western countries have sent infant formula manufacturers looking



for new markets. They have found them mostly in the Third World, launching aggressive marketing campaigns to convince mothers that bottle-feeding is modern and scientific, breast-feeding backward and primitive.

Use of the infant formula requires pure water, a way to sterilize bottles and nipples, enough money to buy the necessary amount of formula,

and constant refrigeration. Because bottle-feeding can cost over 80% of their total income, many families over-dilute infant formula, which leads to malnutrition. They often must mix the formula with contaminated water, the only water available. Dr. Derrick Jelliffe,

On May 23, 1978, the Senate Subcommittee on Health, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, heard testimony on the infant formula problem. Dr. Allen Jackson of Jamaica spoke of the adverse impact which bottle-feeding has had on the health of infants in his country. He cited a recent study which showed that out of 69 tested baby bottles, only 10 contained the correct nutrient content as advised by manufacturers. He related this to the recent case of a mother who had brought her two severely malnourished babies to his hospital. Neither child had ever been breast-fed. The mother had brought a three day supply of formula for one infant and stretched it to feed both babies for two weeks. The four month old baby weighed 5 lbs.; the 18 month old weighed 8 lbs.

THE BOYCOTT

Church groups in America began the campaign by using stockholders' petitions and lawsuits to force some U. S. formula manufacturers to discontinue their promotion of infant formula to mothers who cannot afford to use it safely. But Nestle, the Swiss transnational which sells more than a third of all infant formula in the world, is immune to such pressures. The only way to reach Nestle is by boycott. Throughout the country, student groups, women's organizations, medical associations, food co-ops and civic organizations have become involved in the effort. Such widespread support is causing Nestle to consider the issue, yet the sale and promotion of the product continues

column.

mix the formula with contaminated water, the only water available. Dr. Derrick Jelliffe, Director of the School of Public Health at UCLA, estimates that each year more than 10 million infants fall victim to gastro-enteritis and malnutrition due to bottle-feeding under inappropriate conditions.

is causing Nestle to consider the issue, yet the sale and promotion of the product continues unabated. P 22

For more information on the boycott, contact the Infant Formula Action Coalition at 1701 University Ave. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

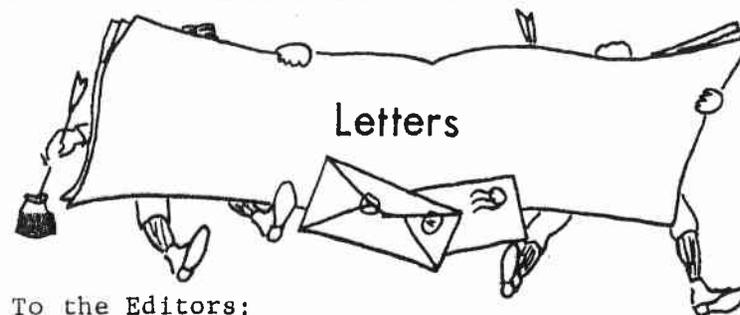
Exec Board Improvements

The Council at Midwinter spoke loud and clear: E. J. Josey was the popular choice. United at last, councilors voted him into a four year term on the executive board.

E. J. is well known as being vitally active in the movement toward a socially responsible ALA. He worked for the integration of southern libraries, founded the ALA black caucus, and as he continues his work, we are made more aware of who we are and who we may become.

The SRRT Newsletter Staff congratulates not only E. J., but also those hardworking individuals who had the political savvy to organize and win the election. We expect good things from the executive board with the addition of E. J. Josey.

(For interested readers, the March 1, 1979 issue of LJ gives a good comment on this election).



To the Editors:

It's lovely to know from Rosemary Rasmussen's review of Maryann Turner's superb and exciting Biblioteca Femina that we're famous! But it's unclear from her comment that our 1968-74 non-book library (see headline) still exists. The serials are alive and growing at the Special Collections Library, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois.

The subject files and special collections are at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

The pamphlets collection is at Princeton University.

Best of all, our serials microfilms, HERSTORY, and the microfilms from our subject files, WOMEN & LAW and WOMEN & HEALTH/MENTAL HEALTH, are in 255 libraries in 10 countries! The list of these libraries is available upon request with a SASE from WHRC, 2325 Oak St., Berkeley, CA 94708.

Sincerely,
Laura X, President
Women's History Research Center
2325 Oak Street, Berkeley, California 94708
(415)548-1770

task force news

ETHNIC

by David Cohen

At the A.L.A. Midwinter Conference held in Washington, D.C., the E.M.I.E. Task Force met and dealt with the following agenda:

- I. The program design for the Dallas conference, Monday, June 25, 1979, 9:30-11:30 A.M., will be:

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR ETHNIC COMMUNITY:
SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND RESEARCH
RESOURCES

It will be preceded by a business meeting of the Task Force and followed by a segment on Funding for Ethnicity.

- II. With respect to strategies for the Ethnicity Round Table:

1. Note was made of the following report in the LIBRARY JOURNAL, January 15, 1979, p. 157:

Working for Ethnic Communities --
In 1978, libraries came up with concrete strategies. California and Wisconsin planned for statewide service to their Spanish-speaking communities. The Houston Metropolitan Research Center stepped up efforts to document the history of Houston's Mexican-American population. Oklahoma got the biggest N. E. H. public library grant for its statewide educational effort about the state's varied ethnic

- IV. A legislative proposal to provide planning grants for library services to ethnic groups, drafted by Laurence Sherrill as Title VI of LSCA, was presented for consideration; with changes, this proposal will be submitted as part of the ethnicity memo to the White House Conference.

- V. Coordinator Cohen reported that:

1. EMIE Task Force Newsletter -- first issue is planned for Spring 1979.
2. Queens College Library Science Department is collaborating with Brooklyn P.L., New York P.L., and Queens Borough P.L., and has filed a funding proposal with the Library Training Section of the USOE to conduct a model training laboratory for public librarians to improve and expand services to the multiple ethnic groups in New York's neighborhoods. Word from the USOE on Ethnicity and Librarianship, Institute III, is expected in April 1979.
3. The second edition of the DIRECTORY OF ETHNIC PUBLISHERS AND OTHER RESOURCE ORGANIZATIONS, revised by Marjorie Joramo, is just coming off the press. Also, the DIRECTORY OF ETHNIC STUDIES LIBRARIANS has a new editor who is preparing a 2nd revised edition.

Postscript: Two visitors made reports of interest to those present. Holly Tank reported for the National Endowment for the Humanities; she indicated the priorities for grant funds available for NEH. Proposals were invited for portions of the \$2,000,000 available for funding

GAY

(continued from p. 3)

We're collecting suggestions for our program event at ALA's 1979 conference in Dallas. The program would be clearly relevant to librarians' professional interests--and should also be entertaining and fresh. What's your idea for what we might do?

Our GAY MATERIALS CORE COLLECTION LIST is a buying guide for small and medium sized public libraries. It lists 12 basic gay books, six pamphlets, and Gayellow Pages. (Copies of the list are free for a stamped reply envelop). We were spurred to do this list when we found out that H.W. Wilson's PUBLIC LIBRARY CTALOG, even in 1977, recommends only two books on homosexuality: Merle Miller's On Being Different and the Wyden's very anti-gay Growing Up Straight. No matter how widely we distribute our core collection list it can never be as influential as Wilson's buying guide. So how can we get the PUBLIC LIBRARY CATALOG to serve up a better selection of gay materials? When we contacted PLC about this 2 years ago, we learned there's a complicated sort of jury of librarians who pass on all suggested titles-- so just sending in our recommended titles, which we did, doesn't help much. We'd like to recruit someone who knows what more can be done and who's willing to do it. If you're the one, please call or write! We welcome suggestions--so send us your list of those books and other titles you feel should be included. Tips: please give complete citation information on each item, including addresses of pamphlet publishers (but not book publishers). Include all relevant lesbian items. Articles



ERA

(continued from p. 1)

The following is a list of these councilors/SRRT members and how they voted:

YES

- Herbert Biblo - Chicago, IL
- Mary Biblo - Chicago, IL
- Fay Blake - Berkeley, CA
- Dorothy Broderick - New Brunswick, NJ
- Mary K. Chilton - New Brunswick, NJ
- Paul Cors - Laramie, WY
- Miriam Crawford - Philadelphia, PA
- Linda Crowe - Wheeling, IL
- Elizabeth Dickinson - Stockton, CA
(library is a member)
- Joan Durrance - Ann Arbor, MI
- William Emerson - Plaza del Ray, CA
- Judith Farley - Washington, D. C.
- Maurice Freedman - New York, NY
- Elizabeth Futas - Atlanta, GA
- Lillian Gerhardt - New York, NY
- Alice Ithrig - Oak Lawn, IL
- Clara S. Jones - Oakland, CA
- E. J. Josey - Albany, NY
- Nancy Kellum-Rose - San Francisco, CA
- Suzanne LeBarron - Minneapolis, MN
- Eric Moon - FLA
- Effie Lee Morris - San Francisco, CA
- Jacqueline G. Morris - Indianapolis, IN
- Peggy O'Donnell - Dallas, TX
- Patricia Pond - Pittsburgh, PA
- Rhea Rubin - Salem, OR
- Frank Schick - Silver Springs, MD
- Patricia Schuman - New York, NY

NO

- Charles Robinson - Towson, MD
- Jean-Anne South - Baltimore, MD
- Joseph Treyz - Madison, WI
- Sam Whitten - Austin, TX
- Ella Gaines Yates - Atlanta, GA

ABSENT OR NOT VOTING

- Frank Stevens - Arlington, VA

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can be book chapters as well as articles from non-gay periodicals (if we tried to list articles from gay periodicals the job would be unmanageable) Pamphlets include special gay issues of non-gay periodicals. Keep in mind that our GAY BIBLIOGRAPHY serves a huge audience--over 33,000 copies of the 5th edition have been distributed, and it's an audience diverse in interests, reading ability, etc. We'll also be grateful for suggestions about audio-visuals, periodicals, and directories/bibliographies to list. We'd rather hear about an item 10 times than miss hearing about it at all because everyone assumed we knew.

Recently we issued two short specialized lists, GAY RESOURCES FOR RELIGIOUS STUDY and GAY AIDS FOR COUNSELORS. One or two copies of either list are free for a stamped reply envelop; bulk rates 5c each counseling list, 8c each religion list. We're also preparing short lists on gay health and on gay civil rights.

Gay Task Force members Frances Hanckel and John Cunningham now have a contract with a major trade publisher's YA division for their book for teenagers about the gay experience. In their text, they're using anecdotes and reminiscences with the names changed, and they'd be grateful to get more of them. If you have a story to tell, or something to say, about being a gay adolescent (or knowing one) please send it along to the Gay Task Force for the authors.

Our list of GAY BOOKS IN FORMAT FOR THE BLIND AND PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED, first issued in 1976, will soon be revised. As before, copies will be free for a stamped reply envelope.

Barbara Gittings, Coordinator
ALA/SRRT Gay Task Force
P.O. Box 2383
Philadelphia PA 19103

(215) 382-3222

STAFF COMMENT

It is to ALA's credit that, in this administratively male-dominant profession, women of integrity and quality are able to run for, and even win, elected positions of leadership. Happily, this is the present state of affairs: two highly competent women are campaigning for a term as ALA vice-president/president-elect.

The undersigned, having attended ALA Midwinter, had the opportunity to meet and talk with both candidates. As a result of that experience, it is this writer's carefully considered opinion that Alice Ihrig is to be recommended for election to the leadership of ALA; her articulation of concerns and interests seems to best reflect the philosophy of SRRT. Best of luck, Alice!

Julie McCartney

ALSO...

The ALA Social Responsibilities Round Table Action Council has announced its support of Alice Ihrig in the 1979 election for vice-president/president-elect of the association.

INTRODUCTION

by Julie McCartney

SRRT members at Midwinter expressed concern that the White House Conference may well overlook people-related issues in its quest for a national library policy. From this concern emerged a task force with the charge of preparing a SRRT position paper on issues that should be addressed by conference delegates.

The following piece by David Ferguson is one of the contributions to this paper, which shall be available at the annual meeting in Dallas. David is editor of Box 749, a journal devoted to the publication and dissemination of printable arts.

thoughts on w.h. conf. '80

by David Ferguson

Libraries are buildings where people make books available to people. Their "product" is hard to measure. Libraries are responsible for keeping the culture, in its largest sense, available to all. They are the public memory. We are what we remember ourselves to be. We will become what we can imagine out of the meaning of what we remember.

It may well be impossible to evaluate the connection between the health of our libraries and the health and strength of the nation they serve. But it is certain that we, unlike other animals, think in words. Libraries contain the record of this habit, going back a few thousand years. Our ability to see and solve problems, public and private, depends on our being at home with language.

The less we understand the historic value of libraries to an open society, the greater the



YOU'RE INVITED...

At the ALA conference in Dallas, SRRT will sponsor a tenth anniversary celebration. The theme will be a redefinition of goals: "Where are we, where are we going?" On display will be a gallery of photos of the last ten years of SRRT. An open invitation is extended to SRRT members and all others for the June 27 meeting at 8 P.M. For further information, contact:

Joan Goddard
 Empire Brancy
 San Jose P. L.
 491 E. Empire
 San Jose, California 95112

ELITE

(continued from p. 6)

In virtually any bureaucracy there is a certain amount of deception, self- and public, which serves to keep the elite entrenched. Perhaps we can understand how this process

libraries to an open society, the greater the chance that we will accelerate the already well-documented decline in literacy across the board, continuing to move as a missile-bound giant toward a modern equivalent of that stone age mentality we like to think we left in the dust of our beginnings.

The right to read must not be subject to the mechanisms of the marketplace. Curtailed hours, the times and places where people can exercise that right, curtail freedom. Freedom has never been a passive state. It requires intelligent commitment.

Perhaps, if we put a little more of our money where our values are, we wouldn't have to put as much of our money where they aren't. Of course, if we have to prove the material worth of a value before we are willing to act upon it, that value will disappear.

Libraries require support, not just acceptance or the technical jargon of reorganization (applied so successfully to railroads). They have had their share of neglect, and while computers are a natural, worthwhile, even exciting tool for the improvement of service, the games computers play are no substitute for the more basic services libraries deliver.

Libraries are places where minds are met, places where the individual can evaluate the works of other individuals in that autonomy of their minds, thoughts alone with thoughts, free to be truthful. Libraries are one of the few places left to keep us honest and independent.

It is time that libraries resumed their rightful place in our national life as one of the most important institutions we make possible together. An informed citizenry remains the bottom line for democracy. Libraries are not a luxury, but, quietly and continuously, a foundation for the future.

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...to keep the circle entrenched.
Perhaps we can understand how this process works in Council by analyzing the term resolution:

Re: to do again or to act in a cyclical manner.

Sol: sun. source of illumination and power.

Ewe: an animal, typically female and often in the majority of the flock. Often led by rams, or things rammed through council. Both species are covered with wool, notably over the eyes.

Shun: to avoid.

Resoleweshun: a cyclical pattern in which the majority is led away from enlightenment and power.

Can anything be done to make the profession and its leaders practice what is preached? How do we monitor and discipline ourselves for not living up to our self-professed ideals? Can we implement these principles in our libraries from a grass-roots level? Will electing a broader range of people to Council and other groups make any difference? Might library collective bargaining units be effective pressure groups for the enforcement of ethical ideals? Where do we begin?

Well...maybe we could get Council to pass a resolution.

One of the great traditions of the library world is the annual pilgrimage to midwinter madness. Spared the diversion of programs and sunshine one has the opportunity to observe the rituals of ALA; one can hear the nightly jousting of roundtables or go to placement to watch the virgins trying to throw themselves into the volcano. The ultimate revelations, though, take place in the halls of Council. Council, ahhh, the heady connotations suggest a gathering of tribal elders. Where else can one go to hear the Grand Dragonette intone "I am your chairman."



SOURCE BOOK

"Raising Hell" is an investigator's handbook to the "fine art of uncovering corporate secrets, government lies and other dirty tricks." Written by Dan Noyes and published by Mother Jones magazine, the booklet is an indispensable 'how-to' containing a wealth of material on sources of information. Especially valuable to librarians are several pages of suggested titles for an investigative library (do you know how to research your local bank, how to check on elected officials, how about a \$4 paperback listing sources of information for federal investigators?) And the 32-page handbook is also valuable as inspiration and a practical guide to improve reports and papers (even the assigned kind!) written by library patrons of all ages.

Dan Noyes of the Center for Investigative Reporting in Oakland was one of the group that came together in Arizona after reporter Don Bolles was fire-bombed and died. Noyes says "knowing the facts is essential to education and organizing citizens so they can participate in the decision-making that affects their lives."

Best of all, the cost is only \$2.25 with reductions for quantity purchase. Or it's FREE with a subscription to Mother Jones, a magazine which itself has a deserved reputation for some of the best investigative reporting of recent years. Mother

Teaching Human Dignity: Social Change Lessons for Everyteacher, compiled by Miriam Wolf-Wasserman and Linda Hutchinson, is a compilation of over 60 first-hand accounts of lessons and school experiences that "worked."

Teaching Human Dignity places the responsibility for learning on the learners, their teachers, and their parents. Publicity for the book includes endorsements by Jonathan Kozol, Cesar Chavez and Julian Bond. And it's no wonder. This is a book socially-conscious librarians will want to offer education students and everyone else interested or worried about American education. The book was published as a collective endeavor by the Education Exploration Center, whose members, though lacking in experience as publishers and distributors, believe they can do a better job of getting the book into the hands of the community of learners than a major publisher would. The self-publishing venture represents the kind of 'people's enterprise' which the book recommends to others. It is designed to put readers in touch with contributors and with one another.

The book is a grassroots effort, with teachers across the country presenting social change curricula and ideas. It will be a welcome addition to education collections in libraries of all sizes.

Teaching Human Dignity, compiled by Wolf-Wasserman and Hutchinson. 331 pp. \$14.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper. from the Education Exploration Center, P.O. Box 7339, Minneapolis Minnesota 55407.



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me

I.

II

a magazine which itself has a deserved reputation for some of the best investigative reporting of recent years. Mother Jones exposed Ford's scandalous coverup of defects in its Pintos, leading to a homicide indictment against the company. And when is the last time you remember a left periodical which has won two National Magazine Awards ("the Oscar of publishing")?

Mother Jones can be an important addition to any periodical collection, and if it's not already on your shelves, a copy of "Raising Hell" is free with a \$8.88 subscription to the magazine, or it can be purchased separately:

To Subscribe:
Mother Jones
625 Third Street
San Francisco CA
94107

Pamphlet Purchase:
Raising Hell
607 Market Street
San Francisco CA
94105

\$8.88/year

\$2.25



LIBRARY POWER ELITE

by Jim Dwyer

This year's midwinter meetings were finally held in Washington because the Illinois legislature has tarried on the subject of ERA ratification and ALA is a boycotting organization in support of the amendment.

That the Council is largely composed of middle-aged, middle-class, male administrators has been pointed out often in the past. Although some aSRRTive REFORMAers have gotten themselves elected in recent years, the balance is still on the side of "management types." It is therefore surprising that many progressive resolutions regarding social issues have been approved by this body.

If one supposes that these are the same sort of people who are in positions of power within their own libraries as well as within the Association, one might assume that much progress is being made in the field 'mongst us fieldhands. But a question, instead of an assumption is in order. Are these proclamations being implemented or are they little more than lip service paid to forestall meaningful action?

Just why is it that ALA's declarations often seem to have so little effect in the field: is Council essentially a powerless debating forum? Are those elected to Council somehow different from their peers regarding positions on social issues? Or is it that our decision-makers, whether consciously or subliminally, tend to speak in favor of progressive measures in order to gain a good public image and divert potential controversy?

(continued on p. 5)

III.

coupon.

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