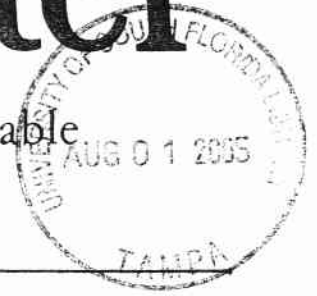


SRRT Newsletter

A Publication of the Social Responsibilities Round Table
of the American Library Association



December 1989

Number 94

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ALA WINS LAWSUIT AGAINST PART OF NEW PORNOGRAPHY LAW

By Daniel C. Tsang

The American Library Association and its legal arm, the Freedom to Read Foundation, have won an important lawsuit. On 16 May, Federal District Court Judge George H. Revercomb struck down as unconstitutional the record keeping, criminal presumption and parts of the forfeiture provisions of the Child Protection and Obscenity Enforcement Act of 1988 (*American Library Association v. Thornburgh* (U.S. District Court, D.C., Civil Case 89-0661)).

Ostensibly a law against child pornography, civil libertarians were concerned that certain provisions (including keeping records as to age and name of models portrayed, regardless of age) would create a chilling effect on the publication, republication, and distribution of work that was not legally obscene or pornographic. In addition, the forfeiture provisions could have allowed the seizure of entire libraries.

The judge did not strike down all post-conviction criminal forfeiture provisions; he held that such provisions may be applied only when a pattern of criminal activity had been proven.

Co-plaintiffs included the American Booksellers Association, the Magazine Publishers of America, the American Society of Magazine Photographers, the American Society of Magazine Editors, the Council for Periodical Distributors Association, the International Periodical Distributors Association, and the Satellite Broadcasting Communications Association.

The Bush administration has filed notice it intends to appeal Judge Revercomb's ruling. In Congress, a bill has also been introduced incorporating most of the same provisions ruled unconstitutional.

For further information, see: Milo Geyelin, "Publishers gain as court strikes down key aspects of a child pornography law," *Wall Street Journal* 18 May 1989, B9; "Foundation victorious in child protection and obscenity enforcement lawsuit," *Freedom to Read Foundation News*, 16:2-3, 1989, O2-8E; and Allan Parachini, "Administration to fight ruling on child porn statute," *Los Angeles Times*, 18 July 1989, pt. VI, 1, 4.

CALL FOR LIBRARIANS TO AID VICTIMS OF APARTHEID

The Solomon Mahlangu Freedom College (SOMAFCO), located in Mazimbu, Tanzania, is an education facility run by the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa. The school has over 1,000 students, all of whom are exiles from South Africa. SOMAFCO's chief mission is to provide a diverse, high-quality education to the victims of the apartheid system. The range of study covers nursery school through secondary school, and also includes an adult education program. Among the facilities at SOMAFCO are dormitories, a hospital, library, garment factory, carpentry workshop, small industries center, and agricultural facilities.

The library at SOMAFCO is considered crucial because most students there have never had access to any serious collection of information. The collection currently stands at approximately 10,000 volumes, all of which have been donated by the international community. However, there are few resources that allow serious research in vital areas such as medicine and health care, agricultural science, and the many technical sciences that are central to the school's mission.

The ANC has recently accepted a proposal for the installation of a CD-ROM workstation at the SOMAFCO library to help facilitate the school's research needs. The most appropriate CD-ROM databases for the SOMAFCO community are those in the hard sciences, such as MEDLINE, AGRICOLA and SCI.

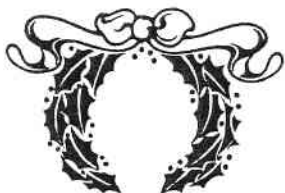
We are seeking solicitations and donations of any size to aid in the acquisition of:

- 1) An IBM-clone personal computer with a minimum of a 286 chip, 1 MB of RAM and a sizeable hard drive (20MB or more);
- 2) A dot matrix printer that can handle a heavy print load;
- 3) A standard CD-ROM disk drive;
- 4) Subscriptions or donations of MEDLINE, AGRICOLA, and SCI CD-ROM databases.
- 5) Round-trip transportation costs from New York to

Dar Es Salam.

The project will involve installation, class-by-class demonstrations and training for library personnel. Heavy usage is expected by both students and staff. Document delivery is to be facilitated by a developing network of libraries in the U.S. that are willing to FAX materials within a week of receiving citation requests. The ANC would like to begin this project in late January 1990.

For further information contact (immediately):
Joseph D. Reilly, 10 Harvey Road, Windsor, CT 06095.
Tel. (203)688-5845 (5pm-9pm)



BOOK DRIVE FOR SPANISH-SPEAKING POLITICAL REFUGEES

The Laredo Refugee Assistance Council seeks donations of reading materials for political refugees at the Immigration and Naturalization Service's detention center in Laredo, Texas. Individuals requesting political asylum may be detained from a few weeks to a year or more, and few activities are offered other than television or scheduled hours of recreation in a dusty, fenced yard. There is a library, but the materials are either too old or too specialized to be of much interest. The INS detention centers contain many young men and teenage boys, so sports magazines and other material appealing to this type of user group would be greatly appreciated, as would children's books, popular Spanish language novels, and other reading material.

For more information, contact: Lander L. Bethel, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Laredo (512)723-3424.

LIBRARIANS' URGENT ACTION NETWORK NEWS

The Librarians' Urgent Action Network began in July 1989, with 40 participants. So far, letters have been written on behalf of prisoners and victims of torture and persecution in the USSR, China, Peru, and South Africa. Two of the prisoners have been librarians: Wan Zhilin, from the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences, and Joyce Mabudafhasi, from the University of the North, Northern Transvaal, in South Africa. Ms. Mabudafhasi has just been released from prison and has had heavy restriction orders lifted.

Additional participants in the letter-writing campaign are welcome. Contact: Sallie Barringer, Trinity University Library, 715 Stadium Drive, San Antonio, TX 78284 (512)736-7343.

CLEAN UP TIAA-CREF

by Terry Link, Michigan State University

Most of us, if we had a choice, would never allow our tax dollars to be spent for some of the many uses our government leaders decide for us. Investment in more nuclear weapons when we still have hungry and sick people is something most of us find antithetical to the SRRT philosophy. Given the focuses of our many task forces, we would hardly invest our few precious coins in companies that are union busters, discriminate towards minorities, women, gays or lesbians; pollute our planet; or own mega-media firms. Yet every day many, if not most, of us have our money working for firms who do business with South Africa or are involved in nuclear weapons production or other forms of corporate irresponsibility. Since most of us don't have the extra bucks to be playing the stock market, we don't do it knowingly. We do it through our pension funds.

As one of more than a million individuals who is vested in retirement funds through TIAA-CREF, the country's largest pension fund (\$62 billion in 1988), I have become involved in a movement to get TIAA-CREF to offer a socially responsible alternative fund. This alternative would, at the least, be devoid of investments in firms either doing business in South Africa or who are involved in the production of nuclear weapons or are responsible for environmental degradation. To date, TIAA-CREF has yet to offer that alternative, although they admitted in a recent letter from Chairman Clifton Wharton that it "is under consideration." The major reason cited for not creating a separate fund is the belief that there is not enough interest in such an option: the Silent Majority again at work. TIAA-CREF does allow institutions that use TIAA-CREF to offer optional funds, and colleges and universities like Columbia, Manchester, Swarthmore, Hope, and others now offer that option.

In the recent past the so-called "socially responsible" funds have done as well or better than TIAA-CREF and other major funds. Articles in *Barrons* (30 Nov. 1987) and *Christian Science Monitor* (16 Sept. 1988) attest to this. There seems to be a trend towards more social responsiveness in pension fund investing, but without pressure from individual members like you and me the majority of the financial planning community is slow to realize the value of socially responsible investment. Regardless of which fund your retirement monies are hiding in, it's important to look into the investments of your fund. A quick look at current TIAA-CREF holdings (June 1989) will paint a more vivid picture of our unwitting involvement with corporate irresponsibility: \$596 million invested in tobacco firms; \$626 million invested in Exxon; \$7 million in Pittston Co. (the mining people); \$4 million in Elsevier; \$21 million in Nestle; and investments in FMC, a machinery and chemical manufacturer recently found guilty of intentionally destroying documents and evidence related to sex discrimination. These and countless other investment

decisions must be challenged. Depending upon your place of employment your options will vary. I withdrew my money from CREF (the stock portfolio portion of the fund) and placed all my money in TIAA (government bonds). Until my university offers an option--something I have been working on--it is the best I can do. If we want to see socially responsible changes in our corporate world, we can be most effective through the marketplace. Hit them where it hurts--in the pocketbook.

For more information on the Clean Up TIAA-CREF campaign contact Terry Link, MSU Library, East Lansing, MI 48824-1048 or Neil Wollman, Box 27, Manchester College, N. Manchester, IN 46962.

GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE 1990 RESOURCE GUIDE

Do you live in Chicago or have you visited the Windy City? We'd like to know your favorite hotel, restaurants, bars, bookstores, museums, etc. We'll include your comments in our very own "Gay/Lesbian Task Force Resource Guide to Chicago" for ALA Annual Conference 1990. Send your entries to Leon Bey, Program Chair, G/LTF 1990, P.O. Box 1203, Dayton, OH 45401-1203. Deadline is December 30, 1989. The Guide will be available after January 15, 1990 (if we get enough entries) by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the above address.

We especially need Bed and Breakfast locations in the Chicago area and a hotel we could designate as the "official" G/LTF hotel for the Annual Conference. Remember, lodgings must be reasonably priced, centrally located, have convenient transportation available, and be gay and lesbian friendly. We want to give our business to businesses that are comfortable with gay men and lesbians.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN TASK FORCE

1. Design and coordinate the production and sale of a commemorative pin celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force. We're the oldest professional gay and lesbian organization in the United States! If you're interested in helping with this activity, contact Leon Bey, Program Chair, G/LTF, P.O. Box 1203, Dayton, OH 45401-1203. Deadline: December 30, 1990.

2. Design and coordinate the production of a souvenir program of the 20th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force for ALA Annual Conference, Chicago, 1990. We need a real go-getter to solicit ads from gay and lesbian publishers in the U.S. You'll need to also contact gay and lesbian businesses in our host city for support and ads. Contact Leon Bey at the above address.

3. Chicago-area contacts are needed to help

locate and coordinate entertainment for the 20th anniversary of the Gay and Lesbian Task Force gala to be held at ALA Annual Conference 1990. Free or low-cost entertainment (chorus, pianist, jazz combo, vocalist, etc.) is desired. We're open to your ideas. Contact Leon Bey at the above address.

4. Do you have a contact with an employee of a gay or lesbian publisher? We need your help to make connections with all the gay and lesbian publishers in the U.S. We want to invite them personally to donate money and books to help the Gay and Lesbian Task Force celebrate our 20th anniversary in Chicago in 1990. If you can make the contact, you'll save our limited number of volunteers much time and energy. Contact Leon Bey at the above address.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH/WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The National Women's History Project catalog offers a variety of material with which to celebrate Black History Month (February) and National Women's History Month (March). For a copy of the catalog, send \$1.00 to:
National Women's History Project
7738 Bell Road
Winsor, CA 95492-8515
(707)838-6000

PUBLISHING WITH ALA

For a copy of the 1989-90 edition of "How to Publish in ALA Periodicals" send a 45-cent stamped envelope (9" x 12") to:
How to Publish in ALA Periodicals
ALA Publishing Services
American Library Association
50 E. Huron St.
Chicago, IL 60611

NEW AND REVISED LC SUBJECT HEADINGS OF INTEREST

Gay clergy
Gay youth
New Left

"Labor and laboring classes" is now:
Labor movement
Working class

"Native labor" is now:
Indigenous labor

LETTERS

It is an oft quoted truism in the publishing business that any review is a good review. The review by Stephen J. Stillwell of the first issue of Peace Review (Sept. issue, SRRTN) must surely have been intended to test this aphorism.

He starts by suggesting that the periodical itself is not needed because "such material is already offered by the Arms Control Association, the United States Institute of Peace, the Union of Concerned Scientists, ACCESS, the Canadian Institute for International Peace and Security and others."

The first and third of these organizations do sterling work in their field, which has to do with arms control and in the case of UCS with the technical aspects of nuclear power. ACCESS is a resource center for defense and arms control information. Defense and arms control information and technical studies regarding nuclear power have only a tenuous relation to peace. The United States Institute for Peace is not listed as a publisher of peace related journals. The last is, of course, in another country.

Stillwell then casts doubt as to the scholarship of our authors, writing that the articles "would not be accepted by most of the journals in the field." Since he appears ignorant of what the field of peace studies embraces, we can question his judgment. Readers of the review only will not know that the lead article is based on a book which was chosen as the Distinguished Scholarly Publication of the American Sociological Association in 1988, the second article is by a distinguished Stanford historian, and so on. He then complains that the articles lack footnotes, although he has read the editorial which states that the magazine is not intended for a scholarly readership.

He then gets thoroughly petty about some typographical and copy editing failures. Little problems at start-up are common to peace related magazines which are inevitably started on a shoestring. In part that's because so many people, like Stillwell, do not yet perceive that peace is a respectable and lively field of intellectual work and that the work is deserving of a wider readership.

--John L. Harris, Editor

Peace Review: The International Quarterly of World Peace

2439 Birch St., Suite 8
Palo Alto, CA 94306

REVIEWS

SEEDS: ENDING U.S. AND WORLD HUNGER. Ed. by Tom Peterson. Seeds Magazine, 1977-. ISSN 0194-4495. 12 issues/year (magazine and newsletter in alternate months). Individuals \$16; institutions and foreign \$24. Publisher's address: 222 East Lake Drive, Decatur, GA 30030.

This bimonthly magazine includes articles

covering the issues of hunger and poverty on local, national, and international levels. Many articles focus on self-help activities in developing countries that encourage the efforts of local people rather than depending on foreign assistance. Of special interest is the "How to" section which gives practical information on many local activities such as setting up a soup kitchen, establishing a trade organization, or volunteering overseas.

The Bulletin Board section includes a list of events, resources, employment opportunities and travel/learning opportunities. There is also a book review section.

Variant titles include SEEDS or SEEDS MAGAZINE.

--Elaine Brekke, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

CONTEMPORARY SOCIAL ISSUES: A BIBLIOGRAPHIC SERIES. Reference & Research Services, 1986-. ISSN 0887-3569. Annual sub. \$40; \$15 per issue. Publisher's address: Reference & Research Services, 511 Lincoln St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

As the title and subtitle indicate, items in this series collect and organize up-to-date bibliographic information on social issues of current interest. Issued quarterly since 1986, each issue gathers together 600-900 bibliographic references on a single topic. A variety of views and facets of a topic are represented. The materials cited are recent and arranged in categories which users will find helpful. For example, Number 9, "Reproductive Rights," (issued Jan. 1988) provides more than 800 references dating from 1979 to 1987. Categories include "General-Legal and Ethical Aspects," "Abortion" (with subcategories "Minors and Abortion" and "Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Movements"), "Fetal Rights," "Paternal Rights," "Reproductive Technologies," "Sterilization and Reproductive Rights" and "Resources." Each section lists books and periodical articles as well as government documents and pamphlets. The resources section cites other bibliographies and contains an excellent directory of appropriate organizations. Some of the topics covered would be difficult to find elsewhere.

Other issues examined include Number 8, "Biotechnology and Society," Number 12, "The Homeless in America," and Number 14, "International Debt and the Third World." Each number follows the same user-friendly format.

Articles are cited from popular as well as scholarly sources. Smaller libraries may find they do not own many of the resources listed. Still, this valuable series is recommended and appropriate in high school, public, and academic libraries.

--Mark Goniwiecha, R.F. Kennedy Library, University of Guam

WOMEN AND POLITICS. Haworth Press. ISSN 0195-7732. Quarterly. Individuals \$32; institutions \$75; libraries \$132. Publisher's address: 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13902.

Women and Politics "brings theory and practice together to describe, explain, predict, and assess the impact of politics on women and of women on politics." This is a highly philosophical and amazingly practical feminist journal of gender, politics, and policy. Topics covered have included feminism and epistemology, women's political participation, the Moral Majority, and Marxism and feminism in the USSR. The "Perspectives" section offers public discussion on issues of concern. The extensive book reviews underscore the journal's international scope. Multiple viewpoints and disciplines, as well as the broad coverage, make this a recommended title.

--Bleue Benton, Hillside Public Library, Hillside, IL

WOMEN & THERAPY: A FEMINIST QUARTERLY. Haworth Press. ISSN 0270-3149. Quarterly. Individuals \$32; institutions \$60; libraries \$95. Publisher's address: 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904.

Women and Therapy "is a quarterly journal designed to facilitate dialogue about therapy experiences among therapists, consumers, and researchers." The journal is feminist in orientation and views therapy as an educational, expanding process for personal growth." While this is a serious, professional journal, it is also quite accessible to women in general who wish to explore female psychology, therapy, and a better understanding of themselves. Articles include a wide range of topics: treatment of obesity, women and poverty, homophobia, and victim behavior. Book reviews cover both popular and technical titles. Women and Therapy is recommended for larger libraries and specialized collections, but is not limited to professional readers.

--Bleue Benton, Hillside Public Library, Hillside, IL

STRIP AIDS USA: A COLLECTION OF CARTOON ART TO BENEFIT PEOPLE WITH AIDS. Ed. by Trina Robbins, Bill Sienkiewicz, and Robert Triptow. Last Gasp, 1988. ISBN 0-86719-373-5. \$9.95 pbk. Publisher's address: 2180 Bryant St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

AIDS in comics? Who can laugh about this pandemic? Strip AIDS USA, a successor to the British edition, Strip AIDS UK, proves that one can both laugh and cry about AIDS. One-hundred fourteen cartoonists (not all gay) have donated their artwork to benefit people with AIDS. Proceeds from the book go to the San Francisco-based Shanti Foundation. As with any such collection, the quality--and political correctness--varies. For example, a graphic on the back cover

describes persons with AIDS as "victims," but other panels within the book empower readers to join in anti-AIDS political work. Familiar names are here: Tim Barela and Howard Cruse (both cartoonists for The Advocate), Gerard Donelan, Alison Bechdel, as is Gary Trudeau. Also, readers of Sandy Berman's earlier issues of the "Hennepin County Library Cataloging Bulletin," which ran Jackie Urbanovic's illustrations, will be happy to find her work in this volume. Other graphic artists poke fun at "mondo monogamy" and at safe sex in the year 2088. There is a mixture of ages and genders portrayed. There could be more people of color. A few panels show couples in bed. In all, this collective effort will help with educating readers who would otherwise not be reached with safe sex messages and might even move some to political action. Purchase this and support a cause as well.

--Dan Tsang, University of California, Irvine

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Clothespin Fever Press seeks manuscripts of chapter length (20 to 30 pages) for a new book on collection development of gay and lesbian materials. Entries should be double-spaced and include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Topics will cover all phases of collection development with emphasis on the particular problems inherent in collecting gay and lesbian materials. The book is aimed at the library school textbook market and will be published in 1991. Previously published papers are welcome as long as reprint rights are available. Send manuscripts to:

Clothespin Fever Press
5529 N. Figueroa
Los Angeles, CA 90042

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!DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: JANUARY 27!

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(216) 775-8285

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717 Normandy Drive
Iowa City, IA 52246
(407) 276-7854

Coretta Scott King Award

Henrietta M. Smith
1202 N.W. 2nd Street
Del Ray Beach, FL 33444
(407) 276-7854

Environment

Elizabeth Morrisett
Library Director
Alaska Pacific University
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 564-8284

4101 University Drive #546
Anchorage, AK 99508
(907) 563-3326
Mail: work

Feminist

Sherre Dryden
Central Library
Vanderbilt University
419 21st Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37240-0007
(615) 343-6043

1610A 19th Ave. South
Nashville, TN 37212
Mail: work

Gay and Lesbian

Helen K. Hill
John Vaughan Library
Northeastern State University
Tahlequah, OK 74464-2398
(918) 456-5511 ext. 3276

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New York City, NY 10001
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Harvard University
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-1408

42 Oldham Road
Arlington, MA 02174
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SRRT MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

As of 31 August 1989, SRRT had 905 personal members and 96 organizational members, for a total membership of 1,001—an increase of 1.8 percent over last year. SRRT is the fourth largest of ALA's 15 round tables.

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