



June 1994

Number 112

ISSN 0749-1670

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Greetings from Texas. Things are going along nicely here. Tom is going to teach management this summer at UNT Library School -- watch out!

On the SRRT 94/95 budget -- all task forces except the Task Force on Israeli Censorship and Palestinian Libraries have submitted budget plans for the next fiscal year which have been accepted by Action Council. The TF/ICPL's first request was rejected by Action Council. The Task Force is expected to submit a revised version at Annual.

There is a committee working on revising the *ALA Code of Ethics*. I sent them a letter on the proposed draft. I raised, perhaps unwisely, the following issue with them: "The thing that first struck me about this Code was that there is no geographic restriction on it. As written, the Code states that it is imperative for librarians to oppose censorship in the United States, South Africa, Russia, Israel, etc. This ideal is contrary to the sentiment expressed by large numbers of our Association's members

in the discussions over the Israeli Censorship Resolution passed in San Francisco and rescinded in New Orleans. I would support the universality of the Code but wish to

point out that should ALA make a universal statement then it must be applied universally." Prior attempts at universal application have lead to charges of anti-Semitism which would undoubtedly be renewed should a second attempt at "universal" application be attempted.

On Friday 31 January 1969 at the Midwinter Meeting in Atlantic City, Dorothy Bendix presided over the first meeting of the Social Responsibilities in Libraries Round Table. The name was later shortened to SRRT. William DeJohn was selected to be the first co-ordinator of Action Council. I am sure that those of us who have come into ALA since then are thankful to these two and the other pathfinders who established this Round Table -- a home and a voice for so many who might not otherwise have one. At the General Membership Meeting in Miami, we will be celebrating this event. There are supposed to be 25th anniversary ribbons available to attach to your conference badge. I have not seen them yet. They should be available at a most of the SRRT meetings and the ALA Offices. Several of the task forces will be hitting the silver mark over the next two years. The Coretta Scott King Book Awards, originally outside of SRRT, but now part of our happy and still growing family, are also celebrating their 25th anniversary this year. All members of SRRT join me in congratulating them on this milestone and applaud their members for all the effort they have put into that successful program. Let us all show them how much we are behind them by coming to the Awards Breakfast this year.

--Stephen J. Stillwell, jr., Action Council Coordinator

CONTENTS

From the Coordinator.....1
Task Force News.....2-6
Editor's Inbox..... 9
Book Reviews.....9

TASK FORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT

About 270 copies of *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, compiled by Byron Anderson and published for the task force by CRISES Press, were distributed at the CRISES Alternative Press exhibit booth at the Midwinter meeting in Los Angeles. Funds for 400 copies were made available by SRRT, and the remaining copies are available from CRISES Press, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville FL 32608; (904) 335-2200. Please enclose \$2.00 for shipping and handling.

Food for Thought: Free Speech Buffet will provide free speech and free food on the beach in Miami. This year's task force reception, highlighting Florida's independent publishers and alternative media producers, will be held poolside and beachside at the Traymore Hotel on Friday, June 24, 6:00-10:00 PM. Continuing the tradition started in San Francisco and continued in New Orleans, the task force plans a festive conference opener with publication samples, lively conversation, and a cash bar. The Traymore is conveniently located, just a fifteen minute walk from the convention center. (The hotel is on a shuttle route, but the shuttle may not yet be operating on Friday evening.) For more information, contact program chair Charles Willett: (904) 335-2200.

Should *Books in Print* instead be titled *Some Books in Print*? Too often treated as ephemera, "allowed" in library foyer distribution racks but not in the stacks, or not acquired because reviews are lacking, local and regional materials represent both opportunity and responsibility. *Local and Regional Publications: Are They In Your Library?* will be offered as the AIP Task Force program on Sunday, June 26, 9:30-11:00 AM. The session will feature samples, recommendations, and plenty of enthusiasm from speakers Jim Danky, Dorothy Jenkins Fields, Sam Boldrick, and Esperanza B. de Varona. Whether they're ethnic press productions, newspapers issued by social advocacy organizations, or videos created to address hot topics, "Think globally, collect locally!"

The task force business meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26, 8:00-9:00 AM, just prior to the program. The agenda include a discussion of a second, enlarged edition of *Alternative Publishers of Books in North America*, now being compiled by Byron Anderson, which updates information in the earlier volume and adds more publishers recommended by task force members. Publication is planned for 1995; a broad discussion of a proposed comprehensive review journal, prepared by librarians for librarians under the aegis of the task force, with the tentative title *Uncensored*. Persons interested in joining the task force are cordially invited to this meeting.

The new Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award was approved by the ALA Awards Committee and has been funded for 1994/95. A description of the award, named for the vigorous AIP coordinator, who died of AIDS in 1992, appears on p. 3 of this issue. The current jury chair is Sanford Berman, 4400 Morningside Road, Edina MN 55416; (612) 541-8570.

ENVIRONMENT

Libraries in the Balance: Bridges to Environmental Information is the title of the task force program for the Miami Annual Conference. The program will be held on Sunday, June 26, 9:00-11:00 AM. Some of the concerns to be addressed at the program include: Do libraries have the resources for environmental information activities in a time of budget cutbacks? How are libraries serving their customers? What role, if any, should libraries play as providers of the environmental information? Ideas and suggestions for the program should be given to Maria Jankowska by e-mail: majanko@raven.csr.v.uidaho.edu or by phone: (208) 885-6631.

The task force will hold two additional business/membership meetings in Miami, on Saturday, June 25, 9:00-10:00 AM and on Sunday, June 26, 2:00-3:00 PM.

Subscribers to *Green Library Journal: Environmental Topics in the Information World* are asked to contact Maria Jankowska at the above e-mail address or phone number, or by regular mail at: University of Idaho Library, Moscow ID 83844.

FEMINIST

The Feminist Task Force is pleased to announce this year's speaker for the Feminist Authors Breakfast at the Annual Conference in Miami. Mab Segrest is the author of *My Mama's Dead Squirrel* and co-editor of *Feminary: A Lesbian-Feminist Journal* and *The Third Wave: Feminist Essays on Racism. Memoir of a Race Traitor* (South End Press), latest book, is an autobiographical exploration of "white" consciousness in the U.S. civil rights movement. She will be speaking about her experiences as a lesbian organizing against the Klan and neo-Nazis.

Also speaking at the breakfast will be Segrest's editor, Lois Hayes, a member of the South End Press Collective. Hayes will speak about the press, how the collective works, and her experience in working with Segrest on the book *Memoir of a Race Traitor*. Ginny Daily, Archivist at Duke University, will speak on the relationship of small press authors and librarians/archivists.

The Feminist Authors Breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 26, 8:00-11:00 AM. The location has not yet been determined as of the newsletter deadline, but advance sales of tickets will be available through June 21 (\$12.00 each; \$7.50 for library school students). For tickets send check or money order to Dorothy Granger, FTF, Pacific Oaks College, 5 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena CA 91103; for more information, call her at (818) 397-1354. Tickets may also be purchased at the ALA Meal Ticket Counter through Saturday, June 25, at \$15.00 each.

GAY AND LESBIAN

The task force is looking to their usual busy and exciting Annual Conference. The agenda include elections for Steering Committee vacancies, a vote on changes to the by-laws, and a great program, as well

as the book awards, the Read-Aloud, and the usual meetings. Some details follow. Others, including locations of meetings, will be found in the final conference program in Miami.

Beyond Daddy's Roommate: The Evolving Market in Children's Books, will be held on Monday, June 27, 2:00-4:30 PM. Moderator Howard Reeves, editor at Hyperion Books for Children, will preside over a panel discussion of the evolving market in children's and young adult publishing related to lesbian and gay themes and characters. Panelists include Linda Perkins of Berkeley Public Library; Therese G. Bigelow of the Missouri State

Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award

Definition/purpose/criteria: To honor outstanding achievement in promoting the acquisition and use of alternative media in libraries. Such achievement may take the form of, but is not limited to: review and essay writing; public speaking; programming; compiling bibliographies; professional association activities; and organizing events.

Number and frequency: The award will be presented annually to a single individual on behalf of the Social Responsibilities Round Table (SRRT) Alternatives in Print Task Force, except that if no suitable candidate is found, no award will be given.

Jury: A jury chair and two members will be elected at the Summer Business Meeting of the AIP Task Force. Members may serve for a maximum of two consecutive years.

Nomination deadline: Nominations must be received by the Jury Chair by December 1st. Nominating letters should state the nominee's specific contributions and may be accompanied by further documentation (e.g. publications, press notices). Any current ALA member may submit a nomination. Task force officers and jury members are not eligible for consideration.

Screening: All nominating letters and ancillary materials will be immediately distributed to jury members on receipt. The jury will convene at the proximate ALA Midwinter Meeting to select a winner. Should meeting prove unfeasible, the jury will deliberate by telephone or mail, reaching a decision by the conclusion of the Midwinter Meeting. The jury chair will communicate the decision to: the SRRT Action Council Coordinator, ALA staff liaison, and the recipient. The jury's decision will be final.

Presentation: The award will be presented immediately prior to the AIP Task Force program at the ALA Annual Conference.

Form of award: \$500 cash and a framed certificate.

Donor: AIP Task Force

Library ; Roger Sutton, Executive Editor of the *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*, University of Illinois; Ken Giest, Director of Marketing, Farrar, Straus & Giroux; and Jacqueline Woodson, author of *The Dear One*, *Maizon*, *Last Summer with Maizon*, and *Maizon on Blue Hill*. Co-sponsors of the program include the American Association of School Librarians and the Association of Library Service to Children.

Immediately following the program, the book awards will be presented. The 1994 Gay and Lesbian Book Award for Literature will be presented to Leslie Feinberg for *Stone Butch Blues*; the nonfiction award winner is Phyllis Burke's *Family Values: Two Moms and Their Son*. The finalists for this year's book awards can be found in a box on this page.

The task force membership meeting on Monday, June 27, 9:30-11:00 AM will feature elections for steering committee vacancies: Male Co-chair (one year term); Female Co-chair (two-year term), and Secretary (two-year term). A new Program Planning Chair (two-year term) will also be appointed. In addition, a vote will be taken on a proposal to change the name of the task force to the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force. Voters will be required to be a current member of SRRT.

Plans will be under development for activities and celebrations surrounding the twenty-fifth anniversary of the GLTF, which will take place at the annual conference in Chicago in 1995. Information about any of the task force activities can be obtained from Wendy Thomas, GLTF Co-chair, Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe College, Cambridge MA 02138; voice: (617) 495-8647; fax: (617) 496-8340; e-mail: wendy@harvard.harvard.edu .

ISRAELI CENSORSHIP AND PALESTINIAN LIBRARIES

At the Midwinter meeting, task force members agreed that, in spite of the revocation of the Israeli censorship resolution at the 1993 Annual Conference in New Orleans and the signing of peace accords, there is still a need for continued work within ALA in support of Palestinian national and human rights and to explore ways to help

1994 GAY/LESBIAN BOOK AWARD FINALISTS

Literature:

Growing Up Gay: An Anthology for Young People edited by Bennet Singer (New Press)

The Last Generation by Cherrie Moraga (South End Press)

Scissors, Paper, Rock by Fenton Johnson (Pocket Books)

She's Always Like the Girls Best: Lesbian Plays by Claudia Allen (Third Side Press)

Stone Butch Blues by Leslie Feinberg (Firebrand Books)

Non-Fiction

Family Values: Two Moms and Their Son by Phyllis Burke (Random House)

The Lesbian and Gay Parenting Handbook: Creating and Raising Our Families by April Martin (Harper Perennial)

Lesbian Culture: An Anthology edited by Julia Penelope and Susan J. Wolfe (Crossing Press)

Lesbians, Gay Men and the Law by William B. Rubenstein (New Press)

Stonewall by Martin Duberman (Dutton)

Palestinian libraries. This summer a member of the task force will be visiting the West Bank and will meet with staff at various Palestinian institutions to ascertain their needs. Bir Zeit University is now on the Internet, and communications with staff there are much simpler now (the address can be obtained from David Williams, task force coordinator). Task force members resolved to continue their work despite pressures from within SRRT and ALA to dismantle the task force. Task force members and others who support the continued existence and work of the task force are encouraged to attend and speak out at the SRRT Action Council meeting in Miami and to express these sentiments to Stephen Stillwell, Action Council Coordinator. Contact Stillwell directly to find out when discussion of this issue may take place.

The Miami program will feature Prof. Cheryl A. Rubenberg, of the Political Science Department of Florida International University, and Dr. Majed Khader, of Marshall University Library. Rubenberg, a noted authority on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, is the author of numerous research articles and scholarly papers on the subject, along with two books, *Israel and the American National Interest: a Critical Examination* (1989), and *The Palestine Liberation Organization: Its institutional Infrastructure* (1985). She will report on the volatile situation in the Occupied Territories since the Oslo accords. Dr. Khader will report on the conditions of Palestinian libraries and research institutions and ways that American librarians can provide assistance to colleagues there. The program will take place on Monday, June 27, 9:30 AM and be followed by a task force business meeting.

of Library and Information Studies, will moderate the task force program in Miami entitled *Promoting Cooperation and Understanding Among Librarians in the U.S. and in Africa*. The program will take place on Monday, June 27, 2:00-4:00 PM. Speakers for the program are Lucy Kenyanjui, Principal Librarian at Kenya Polytechnic in Nairobi, who will give a brief account of Kenya's information condition and possible areas of cooperation; Kacem Saad, Head of the Service of National and International Information Resources, National Documentation Center, in Rabat, Morocco, who will talk about the Moroccan experience; and Mary Ivy Saa Boye, Lecturer in the Department of Library and Archival Studies, University of Ghana, in Legon Ghana, who will talk about the problems of library and information services and opportunities for cooperation.

INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Ismail Abdullahi, from Clark Atlanta University's School

PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

"Choices for the 21st Century" Library Project is the topic of the task force's Miami program, featuring Marta Daniels, Executive Director of Options. She will describe a library-based public policy discussion program on foreign policy and domestic priorities and include a short video on how libraries can participate. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. The program will be held on Sunday, June 26, 9:30-11:00 AM. There will be only one business meeting, on Saturday, June 25, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Please check the final program for room assignments and any last minute changes.

The SIRS Peace Award will not be presented this year as the Awards Committee believed that a wider pool of nominees was needed to make the best possible choice. If anyone needs award guidelines, contact the task force coordinator, Beth Sibley, Government Information Service, 350 Main Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley CA 94720; (510) 643-9346; esibley@library.berkeley.edu .

RESOLUTION ON THE ALSC/BOY SCOUTS RELATIONSHIP

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America has a stated policy of discrimination against gays and lesbians and through this policy fosters and promotes homophobia in our society; and

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America portrays itself as a secular organization open to all boys of certain ages, but in fact requires new members to sign a God oath, in effect discriminating against humanists, atheists and other non-believers; and

Whereas corporations, charitable foundations, and others are recognizing that these policies of the Boy Scouts of America are inconsistent with the notions of equality and justice for all and have accordingly severed relationships with the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas the American Library Association has traditionally been in the for on the promotion of equality for gays and lesbians, most notably with their policy 54.3 and others, and has also opposed discrimination based on religion and belief;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Social Responsibilities Round Table urge that the Association for Library Service to Children sever its relationship with the Boy Scouts of America until such time as these policies are ended.

(This resolution was mistakenly omitted from an earlier issue which carried the resolutions passed by SRRT Action Council at the Annual Conference in New Orleans.)

The Peace Studies Association Annual Conference was held in April in San Francisco. The task force coordinator has a packet of handouts from the exhibit area. Mostly these include publishers flyers, sample newsletters, periodicals, brochures on academic peace studies program in the United States, etc. Contact the coordinator at the above address if you would like to borrow the packet.

In a recent survey of task force members, the majority who responded favored keeping the present name for the task force.

PROGRESSIVE LIBRARIANS GUILD

On Saturday, June 25 at 8:00 pm, the Progressive Librarians Guild will sponsor a program at the ALA Annual Conference in Miami, *The National Information Infrastructure: Universal Access or Information Apartheid?* Program speakers will be Itibari M. Zulu, librarian at the UCLA Center for Afro-American Studies and founder of the African American Library and Information Science Association; Howard Besser, faculty member at the School of Library and Information Science at UC/Berkeley; and Laura Powers of Libraries for the Future.

PLG member Peter McDonald of Cornell University has set up a listserv for PLG communications. To subscribe address e-mail to "listserv@Cornell.edu" with the message "subscribe PLGnet-1 <Your Name>". If you have any problems getting connected, e-mail Peter at "pm13@Cornell.edu."

PLG's California chapter, Bay Area Progressive Library Workers, can be contacted c/o DataCenter, 464 19th Street, Oakland CA 94612 or via e-mail to Beth Sibley at esibley@library.berkeley.edu.

For information on PLG write c/o Empire State College, School of Labor Studies

Library, 330 W. 42nd St., NY NY 10036, or phone (212) 279-7380, or e-mail Elaine Harger at eharger@sescvva.ecs.edu.

ILLINOIS LIBRARY ASSOCIATION DEFEATS CHALLENGE TO SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SRRT Action Council member Al Kagan reports that at a recent Illinois Library Association (ILA) annual meeting, a resolution was introduced attacking the support of social responsibility by library organizations. (The full text of the resolution appears in a box on this page.) The measure was proposed by ALA's Illinois Chapter Councillor Carol Brey and endorsed by the ILA president and executive board. The resolution is similar in nature to one reportedly adopted by the Nevada Library Association, and while it mentions only one issue in the whereas clauses, it is clearly a broad attack on many of SRRT's principal activities. This was made even more clear during the floor debate. Some speakers emphasized the financial losses in changing conference locations after (con't p. 8)

Illinois Library Association Proposed Resolution

Whereas, The American Library Association occasionally focuses its attention on local political and social issues not directly related to librarianship or the provision of library service, and allows such issues to affect the selection of conference sites, and

Whereas, This attention to local political and social issues not directly related to librarianship or the provision of library service further diminishes the limited resources of time, energy and funds available to the Association for more relevant activities; and

Whereas, The ALA appears to have lost touch with member concerns regarding its primary role of addressing those issues which directly impact librarianship and the provision of library services in our nation, and

Whereas, The number of potential ALA conference sites considered appropriate based on local political and social concerns has now declined considerably,

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Illinois Chapter of the American Library Association strongly encourages the governing bodies of the Association to redirect their energies and attention to the primary obligations and roles of the Association, and to address only those issues which have a direct and lasting impact on librarianship and the provision of library services.

Schedule of SRRT Meetings in Miami

Action Council:	Sat. 6/25, 9:30-11:00 AM Tues. 6/28, 9:30-11:00 AM
Membership Meeting:	Sun. 6/26, 8:00-10:00 PM
Task Forces:	
Alternatives in Print:	
Food for Thought: Free Speech Buffet	Fri. 6/24, 6:00-10:00 PM
Business	Sun. 6/26, 8:00-9:00 AM
Program	Sun. 6/26, 9:30-11:00 AM
Coretta Scott King	
25th Anniversary Reception	Mon. 6/27, 5:30-8:00 PM
Awards Breakfast	Tues. 6/28, 7:30-9:00 AM
Business	Tues. 6/28, 9:30-11:00 AM
Environment	
Business	Sat. 6/25, 8:00-12:30 PM
Program	Sun. 6/26, 8:30-12:30 PM
Business	Sun. 6/26, 2:00-4:00 PM
Feminist	
Introduction to Women's Groups	Sat. 6/25, 11:30-12:30 PM
Feminist Author Breakfast	Sat. 6/25, 2:00-4:00 PM Sun. 6/26, 8:00-11:00 AM Mon. 6/27, 8:00-9:00 AM Tues. 6/28, 9:30-11:00 AM
Gay and Lesbian	
Steering Committee	Fri. 6/24, 8:00-10:00 PM
Program Planning Committee	Sat. 6/25, 9:30-11:00 AM
Book Awards Committee	Sun. 6/26, 2:00-4:00 PM
Read-A-Loud	Sun. 6/26, 4:30-5:30 PM
Bisexuality Discussion Group	Mon. 6/27, 8:00-9:00 AM
Membership	Mon. 6/27, 9:30-11:00 AM
Steering Committee	Tues. 6/28, 9:30-11:00 AM
Program Planning Committee	Tues. 6/28, 2:00-4:00 PM
Israeli Censorship & Palestinian Libraries	
Business	Sun. 6/26, 8:30-12:30 PM
Program	Sun. 6/26, 8:00-10:00 PM
Peace Information Exchange	
Business	Sat. 6/25, 11:30-12:30 PM
Program	Sun. 6/26, 9:30-11:00 AM

(This schedule of meetings was taken from a preliminary schedule dated February 1994; please see final conference program or task force reports in this issue for more recent information; final program will have complete list of meetings with locations.)

contracts were signed as a result of anti-gay and lesbian referenda, however one speaker clearly stated that she supported the measure because of her opposition to the "homosexual lifestyle." Kagan and one other speaker opposed the resolution, but they made their points and the resolution was tabled. Similar proposals are likely to be initiated at other state meetings, and SRRT members and others who believe that librarians and library organizations must exist in a socially responsible context should be prepared to work against these measures.

NEW TASK FORCE BEING PROPOSED

Initial steps to form a new task force will be undertaken at the Annual Conference in Miami. The proposed Task Force on Universal Access to Information and the National Information Infrastructure will seek preliminary or full approval (task force approval requires submission of a petition, a proposed budget, a statement of purpose, and a majority vote of Action Council at two consecutive meetings). A current version of the proposed mission statement of the fledgling task force appears in a box on this page.

Plans for the proposed task force include promoting debate on the many social, political, economic and technical issues that must be resolved before the guarantee of universal access to the national information infrastructure (NII) can be realized. These issues include the cost of access; user-appropriate access for citizens of all ages and technical skill level; privacy and security; freedom of speech; and ownership of intellectual property in the electronic environment.

The false premise that the NII will permit each person to have access to the world of information via a personal computer, without the need for libraries, and without the benefit of librarian expertise, must be corrected. Librarians are needed to assure

that information needs are met and to assure that information access systems are built with individual and public good in mind.

The proposed task force is a response to the explosive increase in information - and misinformation - appearing about the NII and the rapidly changing situation regarding options for its topography, funding and ownership. Action by individual librarians, library institutions and ALA is needed to secure guaranteed universal access for everyone in the United States to the NII.

Comments on the draft mission statement and the proposed task force should be forwarded to:

PROPOSED TASK FORCE ON UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO I N F O R M A T I O N A N D T H E N A T I O N A L I N F O R M A T I O N I N F R A S T R U C T U R E

Mission Statement (draft - 4/21/94)

In keeping with the mission of the Social Responsibilities Round Table, the Task Force on Universal Access to Information and the National Information Infrastructure is committed to providing a forum for discussion, and the exchange of information on the obligation to assure access to the resources of the National Information Infrastructure (NII) for all Americans.

The task force will serve as a stimulus to the Association and its various units in raising awareness in libraries and information centers, and among the public, of the importance for American society and culture of the universal access imperative.

The task force is founded on the following principles:

1. Fee-free access to the information and knowledge resources available through the NII should be regarded as an extension of the established mission of public, school and academic libraries. The federal government must mandate fee-free access to the knowledge record and to the mass communication potential of the NII in public-supported libraries;
2. Discussion of universal access is needed to make librarians and the general public more aware of this issue, and to overcome obstacles to universal access;
3. Communities, families and individuals must be guaranteed access to the NII as a public good for communication, information, education, to conquer ignorance, prejudice and inequality, and to secure the future for all through access opportunity.

Melissa Riley, 1721 Cedar St., Berkeley CA 94703;
voice: (510) 524-2155; fax: (510) 524-5938;
honeybee@well.sf.ca.us or Philip Tramdack, Trenton
State College Library, Trenton NJ 08650-4700;
voice: (609) 771-2343; fax: (609) 771-3299;
tramdack@tscvm.trenton.edu

FROM THE EDITOR'S INBOX

* The March 1994 issue of the *ALSC Newsletter* reports that McDonald's restaurants are once again "generously" providing every public library in America with one hundred free reading kits. The article describes this year's theme as a "magic school bus [that]...drives right into your library..." It indicates that there is a response form and encourages ALSC members to let McDonald's know their feelings. "McDonald's has demonstrated to ALA that it cares as much about family reading as we do."

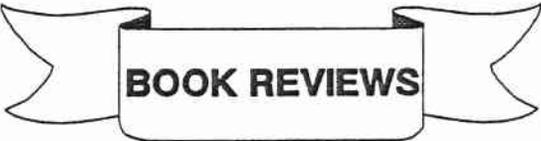
* *The Peasant, the newsletter of the MPP Education and Development Fund*, began with Vol. 1, no. 1 in January 1994. MPP is the Mouvmán Peyizán Papay, which has provided over one thousand women with loans to start small businesses. Contact the MPP-EDF at 25 West Street, 2nd Floor, Boston MA 02111; voice: (617) 542-1140; fax: (617) 542-1017.

* The National Women's History Project will offer "A Woman's Place is...in the Curriculum" as its twelfth consecutive summer workshop. The four day workshop, July 25-28 in Rohnert Park CA, will feature a multicultural approach to incorporating women's history into the K-12 curriculum. The registration fee for the workshop is \$350. For information contact them at 7738 Bell Road, Dept. P, Windsor CA 95492; voice: (707) 838-6000 (9:00AM 5:00PM Pacific Time).

* The *Library on Wheels* is a project of the Palestinian Center for the Study of Nonviolence, founded in 1986, and it distributes children's books to Palestinian children living in the Est Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza Strip. The project produces a small newsletter (*Library on Wheels Newsletter*). For more information, contact the Center at P.O. Box 20999, Jerusalem 91202, Israel; voice: 972-2-273274; fax: 972-2-273275.

* Issue no 39 (Winter 1994) of *Anarchy*, in addition to its regular feature Alternative Media Review, contains an article entitled "Electronic access to radical media" (p. 22-23).

* *GEM Publications Catalog* for 1993/94 features four new books under the heading "Ideas in Conflict:" *Born Hooked: Poisoned in the Womb; Crimes of Gender: Violence Against Women; Doctor Assisted Suicide and the Euthanasia Movement; and Homosexuality & Gay Rights*. GEM Publications new address: 411 Mallalieu Drive, Hudson WI 54016; voice: (715) 386-7113; fax: (715) 386-7113.



BOOK REVIEWS

Steven R. Harris
Book Review Editor

THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS FREE SPEECH: AND IT'S A GOOD THING, TOO, by Stanley Fish. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. 332p. (ISBN 0-19-508018-1) \$25.00 hbk.

For the past couple of decades Stanley Fish has been antagonizing both sides of the political aisle with his

analyses of issues legal and literary. This collection of essays promises to be no different. Fish's ongoing thesis has been that there is no logical ground on which to base any argument/critique that is not motivated in some way by history or ideology (essentially the same thing in Fish's vocabulary), but, conversely, there is also no way that one can function within the current boundaries of any discipline while at the same time being self-conscious of its ideological structure. In short, it doesn't matter whether you are aware of the underlying motivations of the discipline in order to function successfully within that profession. This paradigm can be used in ways that are both radical and reactionary, therefore the animosity directed at Fish from those ends of the spectrum.

Several of the essays here were developed for a series of public debates Fish held with conservative wonderboy Dinesh D'Souza. One of the more amusing aspects of these arguments (for this admittedly motivated reviewer) is the skill with which Fish deflates the whole notion of Political Correctness and similar arguments from D'Souza and other members of the far right.

The very idea of PC, Fish shows, is a clever rhetorical ploy by conservatives to place themselves on unbiased ground and portray anything left of themselves as "political." This is the same scheme that David Duke uses when he insists that he supports "equality" and opposes "discrimination." What Duke is denying, Fish points out, is a history of discrimination that has not yet ended. Therefore, to insist at this time on the "unbiased" treatment of all citizens is not to support equality at all, but rather the ongoing state of inequality.

The same "self-centering" arguments have frequently been used in the so-called Culture Wars by Allan Bloom and like-minded, conservative doom-mongers (it's gratifying to reverse the object of that phraseology). Bloom et al. would like to place themselves at a point of neutrality and accuse radical academics of somehow being "more" political than themselves, rather than "differently" political. With that maneuver made, it is easy to forecast the destruction of all rational forms of discourse within the academy at the hands of the evil left. But, Fish observes, since cultural critique has "always and already" been politically motivated, to insist now on some kind of neutrality is not only impossible but absurd and deceitful

also.

But, lest there be those who think they occupy some liberal higher ground in this argument, Fish has a few nice things to say about the doctrine of humanism and intellectual freedom. Humanists have often trumpeted their own position of openness and tolerance, relishing their intellectual antecedents in Mill, Milton and other great thinkers from the "Age of Reason." However, as Fish points out, if the status of reason itself becomes ideologically questionable, then so too does its products. Even the staunchest advocate of tolerance will encounter contradictions that necessitate the establishment of limits to free speech. The much vaunted Milton, for example, refused to recognize blasphemy as a form of protected speech. Today's intellectual freedom advocates are necessarily no less conflicted.

First Amendment purity is therefore an illusion. From its very beginning our Constitution has been subjected to continuous "interpretation." This is Fish's major point: that all forms of logic and reason are systemic, contextual, rhetorical. Always have been, always will be. Therefore, it makes no sense to back oneself into an absolutist corner, where one might be trapped by enemies (i.e. the PC argument). Better to admit one's position, accept its history and ideology, then defend its ramifications.

This, it could be said, is just the situation in which librarianship finds itself (although Fish doesn't speak to this precisely). The reason our profession has such difficulty in applying an absolute form of intellectual freedom is that there is no such thing. A condition of non-bias has never been what libraries are about; libraries have always been agents of cultural production, and, for that matter, agents in the service of whatever ideology is ascendent within the profession at any given time.

One could, of course, apply the other side of Fish's thesis to this situation, and insist that knowing about the political motivations of librarianship has no bearing on the current practice of the profession--this seems to be a very popular stance of late--but this view makes the notion of change itself problematic. How is it, as we have seen happen throughout history, that one ideology will come in time to replace another? This reviewer feels it happens through

a process of professional self-consciousness. For purposes of that kind of examination, this book is an excellent read.

—Steven R. Harris, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

THE BISEXUAL OPTION, 2ND Edition, by Fritz Klein. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1993. 215p. (ISBN 1-56023-033-9) pbk., (ISBN 1-65024-380-5) hbk.

This well-written book offers a basic understanding of bisexuality, and also helps to clarify some myths about bisexuality. The intended audience is clearly post-adolescents, but it is not scholarly enough for most academic researchers. All of the interviews in the book were obtained by the author, who is a psychiatrist in private practice, specializing in sexual orientation and relationship problems. The bulk of this book was based either on the author's clients or respondents to a 1976-77 survey distributed to people who attended meetings of a bisexuals' group in New York City. Compared to the first edition, this second edition received few significant revisions (primarily an update on AIDS, and various stylistic adjustments), but it does not show any significant signs of aging during the past 15 years. If you are looking for a general purpose discussion of bisexuality, then this book will fit the bill.

—Gary M. Klein, University of Toledo, Carlson Library, Toledo, OH.

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDIES, edited by Henry L. Minton. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1992. 202p. (ISBN 1-56023-021-5) pbk., (ISBN 1-65024-307-4) hbk. Simultaneously issued as v. 24 no. 1/2 of the JOURNAL OF HOMOSEXUALITY.

If your library did not subscribe to the *JOURNAL OF HOMOSEXUALITY* in 1992, then this would be an

excellent purchase to gain an overview of gay and lesbian studies at colleges and universities. This collection of ten articles focuses on some of the struggles that were overcome in bringing gay and lesbian studies into college campuses in Canada, Netherlands and the United States. It is neither a "how to" manual, nor is it comprehensive in scope, but its authors are all hands-on practitioners who discuss the theoretical underpinnings of the field, and the difficulties faced during the emergence of this discipline. Several of the authors touch upon the debate of integrating or separating the genders when studying sexual beings and their interactions, but they did not attempt to reach a consensus on this matter.

—Gary M. Klein, University of Toledo, Carlson Library, Toledo, OH.

THIS PARTICULAR EARTHLY SCENE, by Margaret Lloyd. Cambridge, MA: Alice James Books, 1993. 58p. (ISBN 0-914086-99-5) \$9.95 pbk.

This collection of poetry begs for the reader's attention. It demands that the reader read slowly and reread. Often only after reading a poem aloud will the reader grasp the poet's intent. At first blush, Ms. Lloyd's style is casual and comfortable. With the second reading, the reader searches under the surface in an attempt to find the poet's contemplation, which is often far less casual. Ms. Lloyd selected her words carefully. The reader will not find verbiage in this collection.

Ms. Lloyd examines life through her poetry. Her poems do not concern life's beginnings or new experiences. Instead, she is occupied with examining and understanding the realities of life that are often both hard and pleasant. This poet does not force her perceptions on the reader. She simply and directly describes her perceptions while leaving interpretation to the reader.

This book is divided into two sections. The first section, "The Unquiet Heart," focuses on the internal travels and wanderings of the mind and the soul. Ms. Lloyd accurately discerns between the directed travels and the shiftless wanderings that occur internally. She describes

how common surroundings evoke emotion. She often paints a picture of a person's exterior that is in complete contrast with his interior. The reader will find himself in the characters of the poems. The thoughts and emotions that the poetry draws forth from the reader's mind come from kindred experiences.

The second section, "Pictures No One Will Take," is a composite of life happenings. The poet describes each event with wonderful austerity. Yet, this does not limit each poem's ability to vividly describe what is occurring. The reader will constantly discover parallels between his own life happenings and those in the poetry. Ms. Lloyd writes about her experiences with her family, love, friends, death and herself. This is common ground upon which readers from all backgrounds may tread.

This poetry is close to home. It is comforting and provides points of reflection. In a time of complex and speedy lives, this poetry is refreshing.

--Melinda Elder, University of Houston Law Library,
Houston, TX.

SRRT Newsletter (ISSN 0749-1670) is published quarterly by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association. It is sent to members of SRRT as part of their membership and is available to others on subscription for \$10.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA. Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent directly to the editor, Tom Wilding, UTA Libraries, P.O.Box 19497, Arlington TX 76019-0497, or by FAX to (817) 794-5797, or by Internet to wilding@library.uta.edu. Materials related to book reviews may be sent directly to the book review editor, Steven Harris, Middleton Reference Services, LSU Libraries, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge LA 70803-3300, or by e-mail to notsrh@lsuvm.bitnet or notsrh@lsuvm.sncc.lsu.edu. Views expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of ALA/SRRT. The editor reserves the right to edit submitted material as necessary.

Editor: Tom Wilding
Book Review Editor: Steven Harris
Editorial Board: Carol Reid, Mark Rosenzweig, Theresa Tobin.

DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER 1994 ISSUE: 25 JULY 1994