

# SRRT Newsletter

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



June 1995

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## FROM THE COORDINATOR

Chicago is coming up soon!! It should be a great conference; not only are there the tried and true annual events like the Coretta Scott King Book Awards Breakfast, but the GLBTF is celebrating its silver anniversary in style! The Feminist Author's Breakfast is also rapidly gaining prestige as one of *the* places to be at Annual. And this year, AIP is presenting the first Jackie Eubanks Memorial Award. I would urge you all to attend SRRT events—tickets are still available.

Action Council discussed at Midwinter the question of SRRT liaisons to other ALA groups. We all felt that such contacts were a good idea. They can help counter the bad press that SRRT receives. They can help build coalitions to further SRRT goals. They can make real "library issues" more visible in the ALA community. The problem with these liaison slots is that they often fall on people already overcommitted in the Round Table's activities or they remain vacant because we can not find someone willing or able to attend one more meeting. Would such a position interest you? It is a good way to become involved not only in SRRT, but in ALA as a whole. Groups to which SRRT already has liaisons are: Library Education Assembly, Literacy Assembly, Membership Promotion Task Force, Planning and Budget Assembly, Recruitment Assembly, Freedom to Read Foundation, and ALCTS Cataloging and Classification Section. SORT sends a liaison to us, but we do not currently reciprocate. Other possibilities

for liaison relationships include: EMIERT, NMRT, IFRT, IFC, IRC, ACRL-WSS, GODORT, YALSA's IFC, and ALSC's Social Issues.

Action Council also approved job descriptions for SRRT officers. They discussed and approved procedures for submitting resolutions to Action Council. The question of what happens to resolutions once passed was also noted. Action Council further approved a number of changes to the SRRT Constitution/Bylaws. (See below.) Final approval of these changes will take place at the SRRT General Membership Meeting. See you there.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS

- A. Add to Paragraph III ... of personal members, regular, student, and other, and of affiliate members.
- B. Add at end of Paragraph III(B) ... Affiliated organizations shall remit a nominal fee for this affiliation.
- C. Delete from Paragraph IV(B) ... a conference arrangements chairperson.
- D. Delete from Paragraph IV(D) ... Any board member not already on Action Council shall be considered one on an ex-officio basis.

**E.** Delete Paragraph IV(F)2 ... The outgoing immediate past-coordinator of Action Council shall be an ex-officio member of Action Council for one year if that person's term would otherwise expire.

**F.** Renumber Paragraph IV(F)3 as IV(F)2. Necessary only if above (E) is accepted.

**G.** Rewrite Paragraph IV(G) as follows: Sentence 1 - okay. Sentence 2 - okay. Sentence 3 - change "the approval of" to "notifying." Delete Sentence 4. Delete Sentence 5. Insert: "Any Action Council member may be removed from office for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance by vote of the Action Council. The proceedings are to be held in executive session. The vote must have a two-thirds majority and be a recorded roll call." Last sentence - okay.

**H.** Delete from Paragraph IV(I) ... Conflicting task force meetings will be negotiated by the conference arrangements chairperson.

**I.** Delete from Paragraph IV(J) ... Task force representatives may not vote on matters regarding task force budgets. Affiliate representatives may not vote on financial issues. Ex-officio members do not vote unless permitted to do so on a particular issue by decision of the Action Council coordinator. Replace with ... All members of the Action Council may vote on all issues except financial ones. Only at-large members, elected by the entire Round Table, may vote on these matters.

**J.** Delete from Paragraph V(C)1 ... The dues shall be designated by the vote of the membership. Replace with ... The dues shall be set by Action Council.

**K.** Delete Paragraph V(C)2 as redundant of Paragraph V(A).

**L.** Renumber Paragraph V(C)3 as V(C)2 and Paragraph V(C)4 as V(C)3. Necessary if above (J and K) is approved.

**M.** Change Paragraph VI(B) from: "a list of persons requesting the organization" to: "names and addresses of ten members of the Round Table interested in forming such a task force."

**N.** Add as Paragraph VI(C) ... All Task Forces are encouraged but not required to have some form of written bylaws. All such bylaws, and any changes in them, must be approved by Action Council to ensure that there is no conflict between Task Force and Round Table policies. All Task Forces must submit a written annual report to the second meeting of Action Council during Annual Conference. These reports may be used by the Newsletter Editor as information on the Task Force for general dissemination.

**O.** Renumber Paragraph VI(C) as VI(D); VI(D) as VI(E); and VI(E) as VI(F). Necessary if above (N) is approved.

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Theresa Tobin.

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## TASK FORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

### ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT



"Pushing the Boundaries: Zines and Libraries," a program sponsored by SRRT's Task Force on Alternatives in Print, will be held Sunday, June 25, 9:30-11:00 am, at the Chicago Marriott, Northwestern/Ohio Room. Cosponsors include ACRL Popular Culture and Libraries Discussion Group, ALCTS Publisher-Vendor Library Relations Committee, ALCTS Serials Section, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table.

The AIP program will open with the presentation of the inaugural Jackie Eubanks Award to **Noel Peattie**, who was selected as the first recipient of this award for his achievement in advocating the use of alternative materials in libraries. Peattie, a former librarian at Los Angeles State University and UC Davis, has used his own journal, *Sipapu*, to promote small publishers and the alternative press since 1970. In recognition of his work, Peattie will be presented with an award and plaque at the AIP Program on Sunday.

What are zines and how are they significant? Why have the *New York Times*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Time*, and *Seventeen* all covered self-published magazines recently? And what about comic zine editor Mike Diana, prosecuted last year for publishing *Boiled Angel*? Increasingly available on newsstands, zines have been raising free speech issues for years, not to mention concerns about collection development and other issues. A panel of experts will discuss their place in librarianship.

The panel includes: **Billie Aul**, Senior Librarian, Manuscripts and Special Collections, New York State Library; **Nancy Bonnell-Kangas**, Editor, *Nancy's Magazine*, and former Assistant Manager,

Humanities, Fine Arts & Recreation Division, Columbus Metropolitan Library; **Jim Romenesko**, Publisher, *Obscure Publications*, and Senior Editor, *Milwaukee Magazine*; and **Chip Rowe**, Assistant Editor, *Playboy Magazine*, and Chief Honcho, *Chip's Closet Cleaner*.

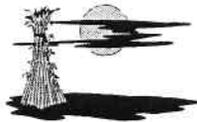
This program is being coordinated by *MSRRT Newsletter* editor **Chris Dodge**. Chris can also be found at a booksigning, hosted by McFarland & Company, on Saturday, June 24, 1-3 pm, in the exhibits area, for two new books: *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sandy Berman But Were Afraid to Ask* (**Berman** and coeditors Dodge and **Jan DeSirey** will be there to enlighten you) and *Zoia! Memoirs of Zoia Horn, Battler for People's Right to Know* (come exercise your right to know **Zoia!**) Berman, Dodge, DeSirey, and Horn are all longtime members of SRRT.

**Note:** Your ever-excitabile editor has never met Zoia Horn and looks forward to doing so. I *have* had the pleasure of meeting Chris and Jan on their recent trip to Albany from Minneapolis to research the New York State Library's unique collection of zines, donated by the writer/reviewer who gave them significant *raison d'être*, local wonderboy **Mike Gunderloy**, founder of the zine of all zines, *Fact-sheet Five*. And I once met and have long admired Sanford Berman, although, as the title implies, there is much more to his story than I can possibly tell you here. Whether or not you know or know of Berman, this must be a must-see and I am personally anticipating both man and manuscript feverishly. The perfect antidote, I expect, for anyone who still suspects infolk of being stuffed shirts. [See also Noel Peattie's liberated librarian, *Amy Rose*, reviewed in this issue. Noel will be autographing copies of *his* book, rumored to be "the only novel by a librarian, about librarians, and for librarians," on Sunday, after the AIP program, from 12-2 pm, in

the Exhibit Hall, booth 1954.] Buttoned-up or blowsy, Sanfordized or not, let's all come out of the closet with our hearts on our sleeves, for social responsibilities--hot off the press!

The AIP Task Force will hold its business meeting on Sunday, June 25, 8-9 am, in Conference Room 15 of the Chicago Marriott. On the agenda will be a proposal by **James Danky** for the 1996 AIP program: debunking the bunkum of the right-wing press.

## ENVIRONMENT



**Fred Stoss's** impressions of the 25th anniversary of Earth Day--

Earth Fair '95 in Washington, DC, was fantastic! It was thrilling to be there. The festive mood of the celebration was dramatically dampened, however, by news of the bombing of Oklahoma City's federal office building. It completely obliterated Earth Day off the front page of nearly every national newspaper. Still, there was so much information available. My lasting impression, though, was how information-starved are the general population of students, concerned citizens, business, and industry managers. Even in a virtual ocean of information, an individual's access to environmental information is limited by a range of information barriers. The need for librarians and other information and data specialists is growing in importance from the end-user's perspective. Our greatest challenge over the next several years will be to convince our library managers and administrators that this need is real!

The Environmental Task Force conference program, "Global Change Data and the Information System: the Role of Libraries," will be held on Sunday, June 25, 2-4 pm, at the Chicago Marriott, Ohio St.

Room. The members of the Task Force will meet twice during Conference. The first business meeting for the Task Force will be held Saturday, June 24, 8-9 am, at the Hyatt Regency, Wright Room. The second business meeting will be held after the program on Sunday, June 25, 4-5 pm, at the Chicago Marriott, Ohio St. Room. If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact **Maria Jankowska** at the email address: majanko@uidaho.edu; or call her at (208) 885-6631.

## FEMINIST



### WOMEN & HUMOR

The 4th annual Feminist Author's Breakfast will be held on Sunday, June 25, 8-11 am, at the Weston Hotel, in the Windsor/Buckingham Room. Humorists and cartoonists will read from their work and offer insight into the writing process, identifying the feminist aspects of humor. Presenters will include:

**Nicole Ferentz:** cartoonist

**Jorjet Harper:** writer, editor, teacher. She has published in more than thirty journals and magazines. Her new book, *Lesbomania*, is a compilation of her columns which have appeared in the gay and lesbian press throughout the country. *Lesbomania*, subtitled "Humor, Commentary, and New Evidence That We Are Everywhere," was published by New Victoria Publishers in 1994, and takes a humorous look at life within the lesbian community, its subcultures, issues that divide, sex and romance, and coming out. Many of the columns were first published in Chicago publications *Outlines* and *Nightlines*. Harper has appeared at Outwrite conferences, at Women and Children First Bookstore, at the National Women's Music Festival, and at the Fifth

International Feminist Book Fair in Amsterdam. *Lesbomania* has been performed as a theatrical piece and an audiotape is available of this work.

**Lisa Grayson:** editor of *Primavera*, known as the "grande dame of women's literary magazines." *Primavera* has been published for 19 years and is a feminist literary journal featuring fiction, poetry, and art reflecting the experiences of women. The most recent issue, volume 16/17, 1993, is dedicated to family issues and contains fine literature in translation, a first-time event for *Primavera*. Translated works are difficult enough to find, outside of a few writers well known in their own lands, and women, of course, are even harder to find in translation. The current *Primavera* features poetry in translation from Poland, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

**Achy Obejas:** poet, fiction writer, and journalist. Her poetry has been published in *Conditions*, *Revista Chicano-Riquena*, and *Beloit Poetry Journal*, among others. She writes a weekly column for the *Chicago Tribune*, and is a regular contributor to *High Performance*, *Chicago Reader*, and *Windy City Times*. Obejas received an NEA fellowship in poetry in 1986 and a Peter Lisagor Award for political reporting for her coverage of the Chicago mayoral elections. In her book, *We Came All the Way from Cuba So You Could Dress Like This?*, Obejas writes stories about uprooted people. Some, like herself, are Latino immigrants and lesbians; others are men (gay and straight), people with AIDS, addicts, people living marginally, just surviving. This book, her first, was published by Cleis Press in 1994.

Tickets are available by mail in advance, or you may purchase them from the ALA Meal Ticket Desk. \$15 in advance, \$18 at conference, \$9 for library school students. Mail order from: **Dorothy Granger**, Pacific Oaks College Library, 5 Westmoreland Place, Pasadena, CA 91103.

## FEMINIST TASK FORCE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This event takes place on Monday, June 26, 8-11 pm, at the Swisshotel, Grand Ballroom I. Celebrate 25 active years of feminism inside ALA with slides, Task Force stories, and cheers for the founders. At 9 pm, we will adjourn for the traditional women's night out. We will travel to Women and Children First Bookstore and the Woman Wild Art/Gift Gallery for an evening of conversation, refreshments, and browsing. Both the bookstore and gallery will be open until 11 pm and several Chicago area authors will be on hand to autograph books.

## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO WOULD MAKE A GREAT LIBRARIAN?

The Feminist Task Force is sponsoring a mentorship program for women of color interested in choosing librarianship as a profession. Talented students, library employees, or library patrons will be invited to attend the 1995 ALA annual conference in Chicago and encouraged to apply for admission to an ALA-accredited MLS program. Selected nominees will receive paid registration to the conference and be paired with a mentor who will introduce them to the profession, answer questions, and provide assistance in navigating the conference. Mentors and candidates will each receive complimentary tickets to the Feminist Author's Breakfast on Sunday morning. Interested nominees should send a letter of application, as well as a letter of support from a librarian to the address below by June 10, 1995. Applicants should have completed at least the junior year of college by the time of the conference. Professional librarians are also needed as mentors. Mentees may accompany mentors on their regular conference schedule or an individualized schedule can be collaboratively designed. The mentor should also be free after conference to answer questions about graduate library programs, scholarships, specialty areas, etc.

Send applications to: **Debra Gilchrist**, Director, Library/Media Services, Pierce College, 9401 Farwest Drive SW, Tacoma, WA 98498-1999; (206) 964-6553; [dgilchri@ctc.ctc.edu](mailto:dgilchri@ctc.ctc.edu)

### WIMMINFO

Check out the information available on "Women's Issues in ALA: Hot Topics and Overview" on Saturday, 11:30 am-12:30 pm. The Feminist Task Force, along with several other women's groups within ALA, will make a table of materials available regarding their activities, programs, and publications.

### GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL ▽

#### GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL TASK FORCE'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY

The volunteers of the GLBTF invite you to join them for all the exciting activities planned for the celebration of a milestone event: the 25th anniversary of the *first* gay, lesbian, and bisexual professional organization in the United States, founded in 1970. A lot of planning has resulted in a terrific lineup, from an all-day preconference on Friday, followed by a special author reception, to the anniversary dinner with Mr. Quentin Crisp, our annual Book Awards, a Library Round Table program on gay and lesbian history, and more. Join in the celebration! For more information, contact co-chairs:  
**Wendy Thomas**, [wendy@harvarda.harvard.edu](mailto:wendy@harvarda.harvard.edu)  
**Leon Bey**, [ads\\_leon@dayton.lib.oh.us](mailto:ads_leon@dayton.lib.oh.us)  
**Roland Hansen**, (312) 899-5097 (work) or (312) 275-1635 (home, leave a message).

### Friday, June 23

\* Preconference: "Reaching Inside--Reaching Out: Supporting Growth in Libraries and Society," **Donna Minkowitz**, keynote speaker, 9 am-5 pm, Palmer House. Breakout sessions will include such topics as library human resources, diversity issues in the library, lesbian/gay Internet resources, lesbian/gay professional groups, collection development, censorship, and outreach. Registration fees are as follows: ALA/SRRT members, \$90; ALA non-SRRT members, \$95; non-ALA members/general public, \$100. This event is cosponsored by the Women's Studies Section of ACRL, and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table of the American Library Association. Contact ALA's Office of Library Outreach Services at 1-800-545-2433 for registration information. Payment for pre-conference events must be received by June 1.

\* Author Reception, sponsored by the Gerber-Hart Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives, 5-7 pm, at the Gerber-Hart Library, 3352 N. Paulina. **Quentin Crisp** will be the guest of honor, and there will be many surprise guests as well. Refreshments will be served. This is a free event.

\* GLBTF Steering Committee, 8-10 pm, Palmer House, PDR 16. Open to all.

### Saturday, June 24

\* Program Planning Committee, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Hilton, Conference 5C. Open to all.

\* Book Awards Committee, 2-4 pm, Palmer House, PDR 17. Closed meeting.

\* "THE IMPORTANCE OF GAY AND LESBIAN LIBRARY HISTORY," presented by the Library History Round Table, and cosponsored by GLBTF, in honor of the 25th anniversary of the

Task Force. Keynote speaker: Dr. **Rose Gladney**, Department of American Studies, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa. Editor of *How Am I to be Heard? The Letters of Lillian Smith*. She will speak on the difficulties of interpreting the lesbian past. Other presenters include **Brenda Marston**, Curator at the Center for Human Sexuality, Cornell University, who will speak on the difficulties of establishing the archival record; Dr. **James Carmichael**, Professor, Department of Library and Information Studies, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, whose talk is entitled "The silence surrounding lesbian library history: implications for library biography"; and **Marie Kuda**, who will present a multimedia "docu-his/herstory."

\* **25TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND ANNUAL BOOK AWARDS**, at the Hotel Intercontinental, Ballroom of the Americas, 7-11 pm. Advance reservation only. Tickets are \$55 per person, if ordered before May 30; \$65 if ordered between June 1 and June 19. RESERVATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY THE 16TH OR 17TH AND RECEIVED BY THE 19TH. NO EXCEPTIONS. Make checks payable to ALA/SRRT/GLBTF and mail to: Roland Hansen, SAIC Flaxman Library, 37 S. Wabash, Chicago, IL, 60603. (Indicate if vegetarian.) Black tie optional. Cocktails at 7 pm (cash bar); Dinner at Eight with guest speaker Quentin Crisp; Annual Book Awards presentation (free and open to ALA members and friends) following dinner in the Hotel Intercontinental, at 9:30 pm.

#### THANKS

GLBTF is grateful to *The Advocate* for their generous donation in honor of the 25th anniversary of the first professional lesbian group in the country.

#### Sunday, June 25

\* **CHICAGO'S ANNUAL PRIDE DAY PARADE**. Join the ALA/GLBTF marchers, along with Gerber-Hart Library volunteers, members, and friends. Look for the blue and white banner, and librarians with conference badges clearly visible. Details will be available at all GLBTF activities on Friday and Saturday. All are welcome.

#### Monday, June 26

\* Membership meeting, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Swiss Grand Hotel, BR II. Open to all.

\* Book Awards Committee, 2-4 pm, Hyatt, Columbus A. Closed meeting.

\* **GLBTF ANNUAL READ-ALOUD**, 4:30-5:30 pm, Palmer House, Monroe BR. Participants may read from their own work or another's. Advance sign-up, on-site, required.

\* Program planning meeting, 8-10 pm, Palmer House, PDR 1. Open to all.

#### Tuesday, June 27

\* **GLBTF Steering Committee**, 8-11 am, Palmer House, PDR 3. Open to all.

**NOTE:** Sasha Alyson, founder of Alyson Wonderland and publisher of *Daddy's Roommate* and *Heather Has Two Mommies*, will speak at the Intellectual Freedom Committee program "Storm Center: Living in the Eye of the Censorship Hurricane," on Monday, June 26, 2-4 pm.

## EXTRA! EXTRA! GLBTF 25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS

To receive a mail-order form for items such as teshirts, coffee mugs, commemorative 25th anniversary conference badge ribbons, and autographed photos of Quentin Crisp, get in touch with Leon Bey by email at: ads\_leon@dayton.lib.oh.us; fax: (513) 227-9528; voice mail: (513) 227-9500, ext. 324; mail: Dayton and Montgomery County Public Library, 215 E. Third Street, Dayton, OH, 45402-2103. Don't miss out on the 25th Anniversary commemorative items.

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force and the Progressive Librarians Guild are cosponsoring a panel entitled "Cuba: Cultural Costs of the Blockade." The meeting will examine the myriad cultural and educational costs of the U.S. embargo against Cuba for both the peoples of Cuba and the U.S. Three panelists, including the director of Cuba's national library, a U.S. librarian long involved in Latin American issues, and a concerned representative of the publishing community, will discuss the impacts of the embargo on the hemispheric cultural environment and on the two countries locked in a Cold War conflict that has outlasted the end of the Cold War itself. Speakers are: **Marta Terry**, director, Biblioteca Nacional Jose Marti, Havana; **Ann Sparanese**, librarian, Englewood (NJ) Library; and **Jose Manuel Perez**, Melcher Ediciones, San Juan, Puerto Rico. **Al Kagan** of SRRT Action Council and the International Responsibilities Task Force will chair the meeting. The session is scheduled for June 25 at the unusual time of Sunday at 8 pm, at the Hyatt-Watertower, but please make every effort to attend this especially important discussion and make it an example of the value we

SRRTers place on freedom of cultural exchange and international solidarity of peoples across all the barriers placed in the way of Cuban/U.S. relations. For more information, contact **Mark Rosenzweig**, coordinator of the SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force, romlg@cunyv.cuny.edu

## PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

**Ray Parrish**, Director of the Midwest Committee for Military Counseling, and **Mabel McKinney-Browning**, Director of the Division for Public Education of the American Bar Association, are the featured speakers at the Task Force program in Chicago on "Peacemaking in the Schools." They will provide information on alternatives to military recruitment and violence in the schools, and discuss programs that promote peace and conflict resolution. Handouts of peace resources will be available. The program will be held Monday, June 26, 2-4 pm, Palmer House, PDR 8. The Task Force business meeting will be on Saturday, June 24, 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

The Global Issues Resource Center at Cuyahoga Community College, Cleveland, Ohio, has been named the winner of the 1995 SIRS Peace Award. Formerly called the Nuclear Age Resource Center, GIRC has become a national resource, acclaimed for providing current, balanced, understandable information on issues of national and international security. Through its special public access library and programming for educators, students, and the general public, the Center has reached thousands of people from diverse populations. Its multimedia collection contains books, curricula, periodicals, audiovisuals, and hundreds of briefing papers, newsletters, and brochures. Materials are available for loan and can be located online through the Cleveland Public

Library's automated catalog, CLEVNET. For further information about the Center, contact: **Heidi Makela**, Global Issues Resource Center, East I Building, Eastern Campus, Cuyahoga Community College, 4250 Richmond Road, Cleveland, OH 44122; (216) 987-2224. The SIRS Peace Award will be presented to a GIRC staff member at the Task Force program on Monday.

The Task Force is desperately seeking a new Coordinator to take over after the Chicago Conference. If you are interested in furthering peace education and the exchange of information related to peace issues, please contact the present Coordinator: **Beth Sibley**, GSSI, 223 Doe Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720; (510) 643-0880; email: [esibley@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:esibley@library.berkeley.edu)

## WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION MERIT AWARD

For many years **Jonathan Betz-Zall**, the Children's Services Librarian at Edmonds Public Library, has served the library community through his involvement with the WLA Social Responsibilities Round Table. He has been their coordinator, program chair, and newsletter editor. An innovative communications plan Jonathan calls the "network of participants" allows SRRT members to bring issues to the attention of other members between annual conferences and newsletter issues. He is currently the WLA Interest Group representative.

Jonathan has worked hard to make SRRT a broad-based group with active participants who can bring issues of importance to the attention of WLA. He has succeeded in effecting SRRT-sponsored conference programs with a wide appeal and resolutions brought before the membership.

For his efforts to raise awareness about the relevance of social issues in library practice, the Washington Library Association has awarded Jonathan Betz-Zall the WLA Merit Award for Outstanding Performance in a Special Area.

**Albert Milo**, director of the Fullerton Public Library in California, writes:

REFORMANET is the official listserv of REFORMA, the National Association to Promote Library Services to the Spanish-Speaking in the U.S. A review of the REFORMA database of members finds about 150 members having email addresses, but only 100 subscribing to REFORMANET. Although sponsored by REFORMA, this listserv is open to anyone interested in promoting library services to Spanish-speaking people in the U.S. Library science students are particularly welcomed.

During the last two months, postings on REFORMANET have included: info about REFORMA meetings at ALA Midwinter, a discussion of Proposition 187 and the boycott of California as a conference site, collection development questions, job postings, author lectures, library workshops dealing with cultural diversity, and much more. In the months to come, REFORMANET will play a key role in announcing REFORMA activities at the ALA Conference in Chicago and in the planning of the 1996 REFORMA National Conference.

To subscribe to REFORMANET, address an email message to: [listproc@lmrnet.gse.ucsb.edu](mailto:listproc@lmrnet.gse.ucsb.edu); leave the subject line blank; in the text area type: `subscribe reformanet <your name>`; send message. If done successfully, you will receive a confirmation reply.

## COUNTERPOISE CONSIDERATIONS

Recent letters and conversations with many librarians, editors, and publishers have helped shape planning for *Counterpoise*, the alternative review journal that SRRT Action Council approved at Midwinter in Philadelphia (see the March 1995 *Newsletter*).

1. Operating environment. As socio-economic conditions in the United States deteriorate for yet another decade, corporate and state institutions continue to retrench and scale back service (the military, police, security services, covert agencies, prisons, and other instruments of control, and the vast financial, commercial, and intellectual industries they spawn, are the obvious exceptions.) The safety net frays; more and more people join the underclass and the working poor; violence and repression escalate; fear is pandemic; schools, universities, libraries, government, and mainstream media dispense half-truths and practice censorship under various guises.

2. Purpose. By definition, *Counterpoise* is antithetical to corporate and state values. Its constituencies are the powerless, the silenced, and the oppressed. Its purpose is to identify, evaluate, and disseminate unsanctioned publications.

3. Structure. *Counterpoise* must survive and flourish under difficult conditions. Its small staff will work parttime, holding other employment to make ends meet. A budget proposal will be presented to SRRT Action Council in Chicago this June for approval.

4. Content. *Counterpoise* must consistently bring out high-quality work, beginning with the very first issue.

5. Access. Some have suggested that we approach *Booklist* and *Choice* with a proposal to appear as a quarterly insert, acquiring immediate access to 35,000 public and academic libraries. This idea will be pursued, but *Counterpoise* must retain its administrative, financial, and editorial integrity, and must be accessible in print and electronic formats to subscribers as a separate publication.

6. Audience. *Counterpoise* will serve librarians, teachers, journalists, students, activists, and ordinary people as a route map toward real intellectual freedom.

**Charles Willett**  
Coordinator, AIP Task Force

## COUNTERPOISE PROMOTION TOUR

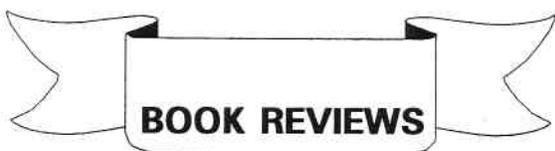
**Charles Willett**, Coordinator of the Alternatives in Print Task Force, is planning a cross-country tour this summer to promote the forthcoming review journal *Counterpoise*. He will be accompanied by his wife, **Nancy Willett**.

Their tentative schedule is as follows:

Saturday-Monday, July 8-10, San Francisco area  
Tuesday-Friday, July 11-14, Central California, Los Angeles  
Saturday-Monday, July 15-17, Denver/Boulder area  
Tuesday-Wednesday, July 18-19, Minneapolis/St. Paul area  
Thursday, July 20, Madison area  
Friday-Monday, July 21-24, Buffalo/Toronto area  
Tuesday, July 25, Ithaca area  
Wednesday-Sunday, July 26-August 7, New England/NYC area  
Late June, just before and after the ALA conference, Chicago area

He would very much like help from librarians and libraries in arranging speaking engagements, press interviews, radio talk shows, and social events to discuss why most libraries and bookstores don't stock alternative ideas and what can be done about it, with particular focus on the planned SRRT review journal *Counterpoise*.

Charles Willett, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608  
Phone: (904) 335-2200  
Email: willett@freenet.ufl.edu



**Steven R. Harris**  
**Book Review Editor**

***LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME: EVERYTHING YOUR AMERICAN HISTORY TEXT-BOOK GOT WRONG***, by James W. Loewen. New York: New Press, 1995. 372p. (ISBN 1-56584-100-X) \$24.95 hbk.

History is taught in this nation's high schools in such a way that "stupidity is the result." Such is the observation of James Loewen in his book *Lies My Teacher Told Me*. After a study of the twelve most used history textbooks in high school classes, Loewen writes that these books obscure the multicultural reality of American history and weave a "boring" narrative of "first settlers," "thanksgiving," "popular

sovereignty," the "progressive era," etc. The result is that history is taught in such a way that it reinforces white, male, upper-class hegemony and demeans all other groups. Loewen argues, for example, that rather than treating Thanksgiving as one more landmark on a march of "triumph" and "progress," it should be studied so as to understand it as an ideological formation claiming divine sanction for the less than admirable actions of the European settlers.

Loewen points out that these textbooks suppress multicultural history by replacing many of the essential texts of that history with the stuff of cartoons. The Lincoln-Douglas debates are reduced to arguments about "popular sovereignty," while the actual texts of those debates demonstrate that they were, first and foremost, about slavery. Five of the twelve books studied do not even mention the Gettysburg Address; three give it only passing reference. Yet the speech is only three paragraphs and marks a landmark in attitudes about race. Loewen states that "the Civil War was about something, after all" and demands that "textbooks should tell us what."

Loewen introduces the excellent historical understanding of many African tribes who distinguish between the "sasha" and the "zamani"--the living dead and the non-living dead. The sasha are living dead in the sense that, while dead, their lives have overlapped with those of the living. Loewen points out that events that fall within the sasha receive no meaningful discussion in these textbooks, so it is not surprising that forty percent of high school students believe the Vietnam War was fought between North and South Korea. Loewen's point is well taken, but his argument here becomes diffuse. To demonstrate the need for textbooks sensitive to current issues, he reels off all the calamities threatening the planet. By doing so, the book loses some of its focus. He rightly points out the ecological ramifications of petroleum use and overpopulation, but then proceeds

to afflict us with studies indicating that the petroleum supply will be depleted in less than a century and that male sperm counts have dropped by fifty percent in the last century. The effect is unintentionally humorous and detracts from his main argument.

More pertinent to the study are the New Deal and the Great Society. Yet they do not appear in the index and receive very little attention in the text--a surprising oversight since they have been under sustained ideological attack for the last fifteen years. Having criticized these textbooks for ignoring ideas and truncating texts, it is surprising to see the author reduce FDR to the soundbite "nothing to fear but fear itself." Loewen is rightly much more interested in social movements than in political leaders, but these movements require a unifying historical narrative, and the struggle to provide this country with rudimentary social democratic institutions is as good as any.

Toward the end of his book, Loewen admonishes teachers to "stop lying." To the extent that Loewen's book convinces teachers that they have been lying, so much the better, but if a similar study ten years ago of Frances Fitzgerald's is any guide, most teachers and school boards will rationalize the use of such textbooks on the grounds that the textbooks are non-controversial, instill pride in the country, and make history classes easy to teach for overburdened teachers. Loewen depicts a situation in which to change such attitudes is to change the "vertical industry" of "lying" that includes "textbook boards, publishers, authors, teachers, students, and the public." Loewen's tone is optimistic, but he admits the prospects for change are "bleak." One can only add that if students cannot escape from American history, they might still catch a few winks in class. We wish them sweet dreams.

--**Christopher J. White**, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

**WOMEN AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO THE LEGAL PROTECTIONS OF TITLE VII AND THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT CLAIM**, by Anja Angelica Chan. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 1994. 110p. (ISBN 1-56023-040-1) \$14.95 pbk.

Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 stipulates that it is unlawful for an employer to discriminate against an employee based on that person's sex. Upon implementation of Title VII, courts immediately recognized quid pro quo claims--those involving harassment that makes employee benefits a condition based on sexual favors. However, it was not until the 1980s that harassment that creates an offensive work environment, while not affecting economic benefits, was also regarded as an infringement of Title VII. This latter example, the "hostile environment" claim, is the focus of Angelica Chan's guide. Chan, who holds a JD from UC at Berkeley School of Law, explores the hostile environment claim from the perspective of the harassed female employee. Although she allows that men may be victims of sexual harassment themselves, she chooses to look at the normal workplace structure wherein men typically supervise women and possess the power and position with which to harass.

Well documented and logically organized, this book provides a comprehensive strategy for researching the hostile environment claim. The first section details the history and definition of the claim and explicitly states what criteria must be met, in addition to how the courts have historically interpreted Title VII. Chan supports her arguments with specific cases, federal codes and rulings, and law review journal articles. Another section covers useful research tools for investigating the hostile environment claim specifically, and sexual harassment in general. Online databases (Lexis/Nexis and Westlaw), digests, looseleaf services, and periodical indexes are summarized, as well as a smattering of

governmental and women's organizations to contact for information. Other sections are comprised of primary and secondary sources. The first encompasses annotated listings of relevant cases with full citation information and federal statutes and regulations. Legal annotations, bibliographies, books, briefs, and journal articles are contained in the latter. The guide concludes with a comprehensive index.

This text was designed to enable researchers interested in the hostile environment claim to access relevant and up-to-date information. These researchers include legal professionals and students, persons interested in women's issues, and employers developing policies to comply with Title VII. Conclusions of surveys to determine the extent of sexual harassment in the workplace vary greatly. However, of the four this reviewer perused, the survey with the least amount still reported that forty percent of respondents had experienced sexual harassment at work in the past two years. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in the workplace today and continues to exact a huge physical and psychological toll. As a result, every woman and man who is employed should have access to this information.

--Penny M. Beile, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA.

**AMY ROSE: A NOVEL IN FOUR PARTS**, by Noel Peattie. Oakland, CA: Regent Press, 1995. 215p. (ISBN 0-916147-61-4) \$19.95.

The image of a librarian shows up now and again in the popular media. In these incarnations the (stereo)typical specimen is an elderly woman who wears floral-print dresses, sensible shoes, and her hair in a bun--a kind of fluttering, grandmothering know-it-all. She's probably a prude too, despite her avowed support for intellectual freedom. Is this the kind of character Noel Peattie paints as the heroine of *Amy Rose*? Not at all! Well,

she's a bit of a know-it-all, but the similarity ends there.

We meet Amy Rose first as a school librarian and young widow who has spent the last few years of her life initiating a series of young friends (they're of legal age, mind you) into the joys of sexuality before they go off to college or careers. Let's call this CI: carnal instruction. She's a good teacher, and the students appreciate her wisdom. But, let's face it, the prospects, both sexual and professional, are not that good for a small-town school librarian. Amy is made of greater things. Thus, the story follows her through a series of career advancements, personal encounters, and even some international intrigues. Throughout it all, she maintains the same quirky tastes and stalwart commitment to SRRT. No, really!

Of course, the fun thing about a novel with a librarian as the main character is the familiarity we have with the details of her world. Maybe that's the worst thing about it too. But Peattie brings a sense of joy and wonder to the particulars, so we don't feel as though we're revisiting the tedium of our own lives.

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

***OUTING: SHATTERING THE CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE*, by Warren Johansson and William A. Percy. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press, 1994. 341p. (ISBN 1-56023-041-X) \$19.95 pbk.**

Authors Johansson, Senior Research Fellow, Gay Academic Union, and Percy, former Chair of the Lesbian and Gay Caucus of the American Historical Association and Professor of History, University of Massachusetts, Boston, have written the first historical account and analysis of the issue of outing. The practice of outing is traced from early Judaeo-Christian traditions, state regulations, and the press, to modern-day gay activism. Johansson and Percy's reasoning

contains a sharp perspective on shifting religious attitudes toward homosexuality. They reveal how a belief in the right to privacy has transcended the theological assumption that all homosexual activity is visible to God, invoking his wrath. Both vehemently challenge the right of privacy as an overriding principle in the opposition to outing.

By equating silence with death the authors declare outing to be a legitimate tool and tactic for solidifying the identity and cohesion of the "Queer Nation" in its struggle for vindication and survival. They conclude that outing has a mission to empower and emancipate the gay community. The authors reveal how this issue has divided radical gay groups and progressive incrementalists working within the power structure. Both authors believe outing as a political weapon will strike a blow against intolerance. It will move the "Queer Nation" toward a level of social acceptance, beyond mere legal tolerance. As a result, stereotypes will die off from the psyche of society, and gays and lesbians will truly become the "folks next door." Only then will same-sex lovers be fully appreciated and able to contribute more freely to society. Throughout the book's eight chapters, Johansson and Percy meticulously trace the historical tenets of outing, its meaning and evolution both politically and socially, and the roles of various players, within the gay community and outside of it. A tactical and legal guide for outing is included at the end of the text. Listed in this guide are considerations to be given to the "outee's" career, income, place of residence, sexual proclivities, family circumstance, and reputation, along with various motivations for outing someone. Also included are libel and slander concerns.

Historians and gay studies researchers will undoubtedly find this an excellent analysis of outing. A controversial book, but one that should be available in public and academic libraries.

—Michael A. Lutes, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN.

## TELL ME A STORY

Hennepin County Public Library subject headings are widely used by catalogers who want to apply up-to-date, inclusive, and politically correct and/or commonly known access points to their bibliographic records, absent such descriptors by LC. This bold endeavor has continued unflaggingly for many years and is finally garnering some respect and adoption by the initially wary and probably resentful Library of Congress. Sanford Berman, the Head Cataloger at Hennepin, has also been pushing the novel concept of providing subject headings for fiction and these efforts have paid off in many small unremarkable ways, to be sure. But now they are being utilized in what seems like a wonderful attempt to bring together cataloging and reader services through technology, a new online database called **NoveList**.

The CARL Corporation introduced NoveList software in September 1994; it is now available in Windows, with a graphical user interface, as well as in DOS, and will be available via the Internet. CARL contact Dodie Ownes ([downes@carl.org](mailto:downes@carl.org); (303) 758-3030) writes in a recent press release: "Two new features have been added; context-sensitive help is now available in every component of NoveList, and a new editing feature has been made available that allows library staff to add, change or delete bibliographic records through every major function.

There are four major functions of the GUI software. "Match a novel" uses a reader's favorite author or title to retrieve a list of titles with similar content. *Matching is done from a database of over 10,000 subject headings offered through a cooperative agreement with the Hennepin County Public Library System.*

"Describe a plot" uses keywords provided by the user to go into a subject browse, or uses those keywords to find titles that may be of interest.

"Explore fiction types" uses genre headings in an icon-based environment, to retrieve titles of interest for the user. The titles featured in each genre are based on lists contained in *Genreflecting* by Diana Herald.

"Best Fiction" is totally customizable, and can feature awards, such as the Pulitzer and Nebula prizes, bestsellers, or local favorites. The editing feature allows for timely updates for these locally created databases.

Over 34,000 adult fiction titles with more than 10,000 subject headings and 2,500 ALA Booklist reviews are included in the NoveList package. A library of icons and "Best Fiction" titles are provided as well."

A service like this would be especially useful to people searching for more unusual or controversial topics in fiction, such as homosexuality, which could be embarrassing to ask for directly or which, by the nature of its marketing (over-discreet dustcovers, euphemistic plot summaries—especially for those titles from an earlier, pre-Stonewall era), might have escaped the attention of both patron and librarian. In an article in *The Progressive* last year, Berman said: "The only complaints I've received have come when I supported gay rights. I'm particularly concerned about fair and accurate cataloging of gay and lesbian materials."

I recently interviewed a friend of mine about his co-founding of a local magazine, now nationally renowned, *Art & Understanding*. It features both fiction and nonfiction about AIDS, and I bring it up in this context because of remarks he made about the revolutionary and transformative power of art. Fiction is more than a pleasant diversion; it can be a tool for understanding, compassion, empathy, and action. As librarians, we should support full subject access for fiction, as we would for any other type of material. And as progressives, we should recognize the potential of such literature to teach, move, connect, and effect the evolution of political ideas.

## SRRT ALERT!

Please consider taking time to complete the survey at the back of the March issue of *American Libraries* (p. 280). They want to know what ALA members desire in their magazine--let's tell them more SRRT and social issues coverage in general. And, while you're at it, you might point out that this could start with the survey itself. Although they specifically list nearly every other area or concern covered by the various round tables, sections, etc. in ALA--social responsibilities are conspicuously absent. This is the perfect opportunity to raise our issue in a polite, timely, and rather unimpeachable way.

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