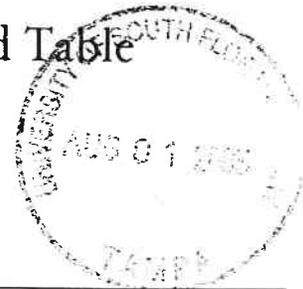


SRRT Newsletter

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



September 1995

Number 117

ISSN 0749-1670

FROM THE COORDINATOR

Well, they talked me into doing this for another year. As I finish my term on Action Council at the end of the New York Conference, this will definitely be it. Chicago was dominated by the ALA Self-Study Committee and its penultimate report. The proposed reorganization was trashed in every forum that everyone I know attended. Still, ALA Council let the farce continue. The Self-Study Committee will continue until Midwinter. There is a new Structure Revisioning Task Force. The Round Tables will have some input; exactly how is not clear at this writing.

For those of you who did not get the word--ALA will be reorganized into four workplace-oriented societies; these will own and operate centers whose focus will be activity- and interest-based. Round Tables may be turned into Special Interest Groups. There will be little ALA support for SIGs and no administrative structure allowed. Hundreds of opportunities for committee and program work on all levels will disappear. See the petition on page 10. It is imperative that every SRRT member respond to the Petition Drive. Please try to get as many signatures from colleagues as possible. Let's overwhelm them with negative responses to these proposals.

The SRRT Membership Meeting put to rest the **David Williams** issue by ratifying Action Council's impeachment. That meeting also endorsed several constitution/bylaw changes and proposed several others. If you would like a copy of the current SRRT Constitution, please contact me.

Action Council passed several resolutions, which are highlighted elsewhere in this issue. The Peace Information Exchange Task Force and the SRRT/SIRS Peace Award were discontinued at the request of the Task Force membership. Those interested in the international aspects of that Task Force's work should contact the International Responsibilities Task Force. The Task Force on the Homeless, Refugees, and Migrants was discontinued because of lack of interest. A Task Force on broader poverty issues was provisionally established. Anyone interested should contact **Sandy Berman**.

More in December--

Stephen J. Stillwell, jr.

TASK FORCE AND AFFILIATE NEWS

ALTERNATIVES IN PRINT



"Pushing the Boundaries: Zines and Libraries"

The program organized by **Chris Dodge**, co-sponsored by four other ALA units, and presented by Chris with four strikingly different panelists, was very well done and much appreciated by the audience of about 80, who contributed to a lively discussion. The meeting helped call librarians' attention to the importance of zines as source material and commentary on the culture of our times, and provided useful information on how to acquire and treat them.

Jackie Eubanks Award

Steven Harris, chair of the jury, presented the first Jackie Eubanks Award of \$500 and a plaque to **Noel Peattie**, editor of *Sipapu* since 1970 and long-time SRRT/AIP activist. In accepting the award, Noel, who had known Jackie well, described her leadership on the Task Force. Afterwards, at the CRISES Press booth, he signed copies of his new novel *Amy Rose* ("the only novel by a librarian about a librarian for librarians").

Send nominations for the 1996 award by December 1, 1995, to Steven Harris, Middleton Library, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Business Meeting

The meeting was attended by Byron Anderson, Sandy Berman, Jim Danky, Chris Dodge, Steve Harris, Dan Tsang, and Charles Willett.

Alternative Publishers of Books in North America: **Byron Anderson** will bring out a third edition of

this directory in 1997. The second (1995) edition is available from CRISES Press for \$10 plus \$2 shipping.

1996 Program on the literature of the right-wing press: For the 1996 New York City conference, **Jim Danky** will develop a program on the right-wing press, with a panel of nationally known experts discussing its development, scope, and significance.

1996 Program on repression of alternative materials: **Charles Willett** and **Dan Tsang** will develop a second program on government and corporate repression of controversial information. Both programs will seek co-sponsors from other ALA units.

AIP Internet home page: Using his Internet access at LSU, **Steve Harris** will set up an AIP home page describing AIP's purposes and activities, and giving telephone and email contacts.

Counterpoise update: **Charles Willett** was chosen to be the editor of *Counterpoise*. He has reported little

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 by subscription for \$15.00 per year. Subscription is open to both members and non-members of ALA. Correspondence and manuscripts may be sent directly to the editor, Carol Reid, 42 Myrtle Avenue, Albany NY 12202, or by Internet to creid@unix2.nysed.gov. 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: Carol Reid
Assistant Editor: Ian Duckor
Book Review Editor: Steven Harris
Editorial Board: Carolynne Myall, Mark Rosenzweig, Theresa Tobin.

DEADLINE FOR DEC. 1995 ISSUE: 16 OCT. 1995

success, however, in gaining ALA administrative support for the new alternative review journal, which SRRT Action Council unanimously approved in February. ALA staff members have given lip service to the concept, but no money has yet been promised. At Chicago, Charles, accompanied by **Chuck D'Adamo** of the Alternative Press Center, presented the plan to the ALA Publishing Committee.

During July and August, Charles is touring cities across the country talking with individuals, groups, and organizations about *Counterpoise* and raising start-up funds. Plans for the review journal call for an Advisory Board, an Editorial Board, and a small paid staff, working at 10% FTE. Publication of the first issue is scheduled for January 1997. Subscriptions are \$35. All SRRT members are urged to subscribe. We are also seeking "angels" who can give larger amounts. Send tax-deductible checks, payable to "Counterpoise," to Charles Willett, 1716 SW Williston Road, Gainesville, FL 32608. We also need volunteers for fundraising, marketing and advertising, to identify materials for review, and to write reviews. If interested, please contact Charles Willett.

ENVIRONMENT



1995 Program

An article entitled "ALA Task Force on Environment Discussed Global Change Issues and Resources" was submitted to *American Libraries* and another library trade publication at ALA. It could serve as a sort of press release and be posted to various listservs, etc., along with information about SRRT and how one can join TFOE and take an active part in our mission.

We had a most enthusiastic audience in Chicago and were quite pleased with the attendance at the program and the TFOE business meeting that took place immediately after the program. The TFOE program took on more somber meaning and relevance when several weeks later more than 500 people lost their lives in Chicago as a result of the prolonged heat wave.

Pertinent information on this topic may be found at the following URLs:

GCDIS	http://www.gcdid.usgcrp.gov
GC-ASK	http://ask.gcdis.usgcrp.gov:8080/
USGCRP	http://www.usgcrp.gov
EOS	http://eos.nasa.gov
CDIAC	http://cdiac.esd.ornl.gov/cdiac

Email addresses for the program speakers are:

Fred Stoss	fs6@ornl.gov
Roberta Rand	rrand@nalusda.gov
Betty Coyle	Betty_CoyleAcq.com
Jerry Curry	u8r@ornl.gov
Patty Owen	pattyo@pasco.lib.fl.us

For further information about this program and the ALA Task Force on Environment, contact **Fred Stoss** at the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center, Environmental Sciences Division, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box 2008 (MS-6335), Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6335.

A synopsis of what is being planned for New York City conference in 1996 ...

A program on "Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investing" will address the issue of how such investing is monitored. New York is home to many corporate research organizations that measure the environmental and social performance of major corporations. The Investor Responsibility Research Center, the Council of Economic Priorities, and the

Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility are all headquartered in New York City. The proposed program will focus on the "CERES Principles" (formerly called the "Valdez Principles") and how they serve as a driving force to guide corporations toward responsible stewardship of the environment. (Terry Link is working on this program and has made some good progress.)

An Open House is being planned at the U.S. EPA Region 2 Library with presentations from various EPA librarians about specific EPA resources and information programs. This event will provide an excellent opportunity for TFOE members to meet various members of the EPA Library staff and to establish important networking and communication links to this vital environmental information resource. (The EPA Region 2 Library is located in the JFK Building and is about a half-hour walk or a 10-60 minute cab ride, depending on traffic.)

SRRT would like to do a program on ergonomics and safety/health issues in libraries. TFOE's contribution, in addition to co-sponsoring the program, would be to assist in the development of a special safety and health information guide on the issues relevant to our libraries. If anyone would like to assist in this effort, please contact Fred Stoss.

TFOE is going to pursue the granting of an award for an outstanding environmental children's book. Patty Owen (Pasco County, Florida, Public Library) is leading the way on this. Patty would like to see national recognition directed to children's books related to the environment and natural resources. Patty can be reached at (813) 861-3040 or patty@pasco.lib.fl.us

TFOE would also like to issue a call for achievements, as a means of showing how its members go the extra mile--brief statements on new publications, presentations, promotions, awards, or other notable activities and recognition.

Speaking of going the extra mile--if there is any interest, Fred Stoss would be most happy and willing to take some time (after the Annual Meeting) to lead an expedition to the famed waters of the Beaverkill and Willowemoc Creeks in Roscoe, NY, and fly fish the Beacomoc waters, starting at the fishing hole most frequently encountered in fly fishing literature.

Something about the new TFOE Chair ...

Fred Stoss has a background in the life sciences with degrees in biology (BA) and zoology (MS). He worked as an environmental toxicologist for seven years before pursuing his MLS at Syracuse University. He served as Director of Library and Information Services at the Center for Environmental Information in Rochester, NY, was responsible for the development of the Acid Rain Information Clearinghouse at CEI. Fred now serves as a Research Associate in the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he is assigned duties as Coordinator for Communications and Networking at the Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center. He has published articles in *Cancer Letters*, *Chemosphere*, *Environment*, *RST*, and *Science & Technology Libraries*. He served as a column editor for the Special Libraries Association's Environment and Resource Management Division (and its predecessor body, the Environmental Information Division) and initiated the ever-popular column, "Environment and Resources Online," in the *ERMD Newsletter*. Fred is now editor of *ES&H News*, the newsletter of the Environmental, Safety, and Health Communicators Professional Interest Committee of the Society for Technical Communications. An avid fly fisher, Fred has been known to travel with rods and reels to many library and information meetings.

FEMINIST ♀

Linda Kimsey is replacing **Deb Gilchrist** as Coordinator of the Feminist Task Force. Linda received her M.I.L.S. from the University of Michigan in 1987. From there she went on to what is now West Texas A & M University as Assistant Cataloger and was promoted to Head of Cataloging in 1990. When **Madeleine Tainton** joined the library staff in 1993, she got Linda involved in the Feminist Task Force. Linda moved to Marietta, Ohio, in 1994 and became the FTF Coordinator after ALA Annual 1995. You may contact her at: Linda J. Kimsey, Automated Systems and Services Librarian, Dawes Memorial Library, Marietta College, Marietta, OH 45750; phone: (614) 376-4537; email: kimsey@mcnet.marietta.edu

GAY, LESBIAN, AND BISEXUAL ▽

GLBTF Annual Report for 1994/1995

1995 marks the 25th anniversary of the GLBTF, the first gay/lesbian/bisexual professional organization in the United States, and most of our activities this year involved celebrating and recognizing our first twenty-five years. Highlights of the year include:

25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

Organized by Program Planning Co-chair **Roland Hansen**, **Bill Bergfalk**, and a dedicated local arrangements committee, the Gala Dinner at the Hotel Intercontinental was a smash. Over 265 people attended, enjoying a cocktail hour, a fine meal, and a keynote address by **Quentin Crisp**. During the Gala Dinner, we presented the GLBTF Special Recognition Citation to **Barbara Gittings** (Task Force Co-chair, 1971-1981). **Marie Kuda** accepted

the citation on Barbara's behalf. A special treat was hearing a rousing speech by Task Force founder, **Israel David Fishman**, who reminded us of our history and energized us for the future.

Preconference

"Reaching Inside, Reaching OUT: Supporting Growth in Libraries and Society," the first all-day preconference for the GLBTF, was held on Friday, June 23. Organized by Program Planning Co-Chair **Michael Miller**, the preconference featured journalist **Donna Minkowitz** as keynote speaker. *American Libraries* columnist **Will Manley** as lunchtime speaker, and lively breakout sessions on the following themes: g/l/b Internet resources, community outreach and collection development, networking with other g/l/b professional organizations, and human resources issues.

Book Awards

Immediately following the Gala Dinner, we opened the ballroom for our Book Awards. This year we had a tie for nonfiction: Dorothy Allison's *Skin: Talking About Sex, Class & Literature* (Firebrand Books) and Phillip Sherman and Samuel Bernstein's *Uncommon Heroes: A Celebration of Heroes and Role Models for Gay and Lesbian Americans* (Fletcher Press). The literature winner was Marion Dane Bauer, editor of *Am I Blue?: Coming Out from the Silence* (HarperCollins). Next year, 1996, will be the 25th anniversary of the GLBTF Book Award, and special celebrations are planned.

Read Aloud

As usual, many GLBTFers and friends gathered for this regular conference event, coordinated by **Uta Fletcher**, to read selections of their favorite books, articles, journals, and letters.

Fundraising

Thanks to **Joseph Eagan** and **Leon Bey**, initial efforts to start fundraising for the Book Awards began with sales of t-shirts, mugs, and autographed photos of Quentin Crisp.

Newsletter

The *GLBTF Newsletter* is back on its regular production schedule. Many thanks to outgoing book review editor, **David Streeter**, who is resigning after several years of service. Incoming book review editor is **Barbara Stevens**.

Clearinghouse

The Clearinghouse filled several hundred orders for g/l/b bibliographies, reading lists, and documents. Co-coordinators **Gail Defendorf** and **Dan Hodge** handled the requests, found volunteers to update documents, and created notebooks with samples for publicity at Annual. Thanks are due Dan Hodge, who is resigning as the Co-coordinator. **John Sandstrom** will be taking his place.

Other things ...

We set up GLBTF-L, a listserv for GLBTF steering committee members; designed and obtained thousands of GLBTF Book Awards stickers; wrote a publicity flyer, "What is the GLBTF?"; and, thanks to **Gail Defendorf** and **Deb Shelby**, got the GLBTF on the World Wide Web! Check us out at: <http://www.gomedia.com/outline/ala/ala.hp.html>

What's next?

Now, on to the next 25 years. The GLBTF is beginning a strategic planning cycle to bring the Task Force's bylaws up to date, accommodate changes in ALA structure, clarify GLBTF committees' duties and responsibilities, and create a path for the future.

Join us!

As always, we want your help, energy, ideas! Our meetings at Annual and Midwinter conferences are open to all (except for the Book Awards Committee's deliberation meetings). Or, you can contact one of the Co-chairs for more info:

Wendy Thomas

Schlesinger Library
Radcliffe College
Cambridge, MA 02138
Phone: 617/495-8647
Fax: 617/496-8340
Email: wendy@harvarda.harvard.edu

Mark Martin

Temple Archives
300 Park
Diboll, TX 75941
Phone: 409/829-3543
Fax: 409/829-3523
Email: memartin@usa.net

GLBTF TARGETS THE SUPREME COURT

The Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Task Force of ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table has sent copies of Phillip Sherman and Samuel Bernstein's *Uncommon Heroes: A Celebration of Heroes and Role Models for Gay and Lesbian Americans* (New York: Fletcher Press, 1994) to all current members of the United States Supreme Court. *Uncommon Heroes*, one of the winners of the GLBTF 1994 Book Award, is an inspiring collection of personal stories and photographs.

The Task Force hopes that by reading *Uncommon Heroes* members of the Supreme Court will learn about the diversity of the lesbian, gay, and bisexual communities and that this will inform their discus-

sion as they review and rule on cases relating to gay rights.

This mailing, which was suggested and generously funded by GLBTF member **John Cunningham**, is the first in a series of new outreach endeavors to be undertaken by the Task Force. The GLBTF always welcomes suggestions and donations (of materials, time, and/or money) for future projects. For more information, please contact the GLBTF Co-chairs, **Wendy Thomas** and **Mark Martin**.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Cuba meets ALA ...

A lively SRRT meeting on "Cuba: the Cultural Cost of the Blockade" was attended by about 70 people on June 26th in Chicago. The panel featured **Marta Terry**, Director of the Biblioteca Nacional Jose Marti in Havana, **Jose Manuel Perez** of Ediciones Melcher in Puerto Rico, and **Ann Sparanese**, a reference librarian at the Englewood (NJ) Public Library. All of the speakers participated in the 1994 IFLA meeting in Havana.

Terry received her visa only hours before her flight to Miami. She told participants about the general conditions in Cuba and the hardships of Cuban libraries caused in part by the aggressive U.S. policy towards her country. Perez spoke about the historical relationship between Puerto Rico and Cuba and how the blockade impacts upon publishing and communication. Sparanese gave a summary of the tumultuous history of travel of U.S. citizens to Cuba since the 1959 revolution, including Supreme Court cases, U.S. government intimidation, and violence.

Interested attendees decided to initiate a project on Cuba within the SRRT International Responsibilities

Task Force. Anyone wishing to be involved in this effort should contact Sparanese at the Englewood Library, 31 Engle St., Englewood, NJ 07631; telephone: (201) 568-2215; or email: acs20@aol.com

Your letter can save a life!

The SRRT International Responsibilities Task Force and Amnesty International have a joint program to help our colleagues who are victims of human rights violations. Every day, governments around the world threaten, arrest, torture, and even kill educators, writers, journalists, librarians, and students in these fields. Those people may merely have written a book or article, attended a meeting, or done something else that the government saw as a threat. Two programs are available that allow you to help such people who are being persecuted for their nonviolent actions.

The First Appeal Pledge Program (FAPP) is an automatic, prepaid program that focuses on educators. Amnesty will send a fax, telegram, or cable on your behalf to a high-ranking government official in a country where someone needs help.

The second program is the Urgent Action Network. You can be put on a mailing list to receive urgent actions about once a month, which contain background information on particular cases and addresses so you can write to government officials yourself. The cost of being involved in this program is only the price of overseas postage to send your letters. In June, we wrote on behalf of Diego Alberto Ortiz Prieto, a schoolteacher and trade unionist in Colombia, and Sara Nugdallah, a university lecturer and women's activist in Sudan.

Both of these options are truly effective. In 1991 these types of activities helped gain the release of over 1,600 people who were unjustly imprisoned.

If you would like to receive a brochure on FAPP or be on the mailing list to receive urgent actions, please send your name and address to:

Cheryl Martin
3237 1/2 Rosedale Ave.
Dallas, TX 75205

PEACE INFORMATION EXCHANGE

PIE meets in Chicago ...

The Task Force Chicago program, "Peacemaking in the Schools," was attended by 25-30 people, with Mabel McKinney-Browning, from the American Bar Association, providing the historical and social context of violence in America and describing school-based responses, as well as making the case for mediation and law-related education. Ray Parrish, from the Midwest Committee for Military Counseling, is a vet who counsels young people considering military careers. He described the difficulty of countering 15,000 military recruiters who have a budget of nearly \$2 billion and are sent each year into the schools. JROTC programs are now in 1,500 junior and senior high schools with approximately 130,000 students participating. Although schools are initially given funds for these programs, eventually they end up subsidizing them. Peace resource catalogs and publications from over a dozen organizations were distributed at the program. A packet of these materials is available for loan from the Program Coordinator, **Beth Sibley**, at GSSI, 223 Doe Library, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720.

The 1995 SIRS Peace Award, including a plaque and \$500, was presented by Paula Jackson, SIRS representative, to **Heidi Makela**, who received it on behalf of the Global Issues Resource Center located at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. This is the last year of the award.

As no Coordinator had been found to take over the Task Force, it was recommended by the present Coordinator, at the SRRT Action Council meeting on June 27, that the Task Force be dissolved and merged with the International Responsibilities Task Force. This action was approved.

TASK FORCE ON HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS, AND POVERTY

New SRRT task force takes aim at poverty

The U.S. Conference of Mayors recently warned that emergency food shelves and homeless shelters in many cities may have to turn people away because of insufficient resources. In 1993, U.S. poverty rose to 15.1%, which means 39.3 million Americans living below the poverty line of \$14,763 for a four-person family.

Recognizing the growing numbers of hungry, homeless, and poor people, the American Library Association, at its 1990 Annual Conference, approved a "Poor People's Services Policy," which declares that "poor people are affected by a combination of limitations, including illiteracy, illness, social isolation, homelessness, hunger, and discrimination, which create barriers that reduce the effectiveness of typical library service." In the ensuing five years, however, ALA has done nothing to implement its own policy and the library press has utterly failed to make the clearcut connection between poverty and unequal library service, or to advocate professional support for legislative measures--like single-payer national health insurance and a \$6.50 minimum wage--that the ALA policy endorses as ways to combat poverty itself.

To counter this silence and inaction, a Task Force on Hunger, Homelessness, and Poverty has been formed within ALA's Social Responsibilities Round Table. Its mission is two-fold: to foster--through programs

and publications--a greater awareness of the dimensions, causes, and means of ending hunger, homelessness, and poverty, as well as a better recognition of the library/poverty nexus, and to monitor and promote implementation of ALA's Policy on Library Services to Poor People.

To join the Task Force or suggest projects and conference programs (e.g., for next year's New York City conclave), contact **Sanford Berman**, Convenor, 4400 Morningside Road, Edina, MN 55416; (612) 541-8570 or 925-5738; sberman@hennepin.lib.us.

Available on request: a homeless periodicals directory and material on fines and fees, corporate welfare, famine, and public library services.

CENSORED: "The Last Act"

A traveling exhibit describing the censorship of the controversial Smithsonian "Enola Gay" exhibit at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) is available from the Progressive Librarians Guild. This four-panel exhibit describes the controversy that led to the cancellation of the Air and Space Museum exhibit that was to commemorate the end of World War II. The exhibit juxtaposes sections from the first and the final NASM exhibit scripts and includes comments from critics. Also included, in three-ring binders, are the complete texts of the first and fifth (final) NASM scripts and documents from critics. This exhibit was co-sponsored by SRRT and the Intellectual Freedom Round Table, and was on display at ALA in Chicago on the last two days of the convention. The fee for borrowing this very interesting and professionally produced exhibit is \$35 for a two-week loan, plus shipping costs. For more information, call **Elaine Harger** at (212) 647-7833, or email her at eharger@sescva.esc.edu

RESOLUTION ON AMERITECH

WHEREAS the Fund for American Libraries took it upon itself to arrange a sponsorship deal for ALA conferences with the Ameritech Corporation involving an unusual and unseemly degree of corporate promotion for an undisclosed consideration; and

WHEREAS the deal involves giving Ameritech the right to use the official ALA logo in promotional material; and

WHEREAS the "selling" of the sponsorship of major conference events to Ameritech and the special privileges given that corporation made this powerful organization seem to dominate the conference as a whole; therefore be it

RESOLVED that SRRT rejects the inappropriate sponsorship arrangements made with Ameritech by the Fund for American Libraries, and the process by which these arrangements were made, and calls for the renegotiation of these arrangements for the upcoming Midwinter conference; and

RESOLVED further that in the future such arrangements be conducted through proper and established ALA channels and that the use of the ALA logo be a matter for open discussion in the Association.

Please circulate the following petition among your colleagues. Feel free to make additional copies for distribution. Please post to any lists where ALA members discuss issues of concern. Petitions, letters, and cards (be sure to include ALA membership number) should be returned to **Stephen Stillwell**, 2021 Rumson Dr., Arlington, TX, 76006, by 1 January 1996. Or, to use email, send responses (with ALA membership number) to: iy20@jove.acs.unt.edu

PETITION ON ALA'S SELF-STUDY

We, the undersigned members, while acknowledging the need for positive change and growth and acknowledging flaws in the current ALA structure, request that ALA's Executive Board and Council cease current plans to drastically overhaul our Association by immediately disbanding the Self-Study Committee and the Structure Revisioning Task Force.

We further strongly believe that the \$30,000 annual cost of the Self-Study and projected similar costs for the Task Force, as well as the effort and time spent on this initiative, are misdirected at this time when ALA, libraries, and librarians face great challenges from a changing federal structure, the emerging information infrastructure, and other challenges of a new millenium.

	Print name	Signature	ALA membership #
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____
7.	_____	_____	_____
8.	_____	_____	_____
9.	_____	_____	_____
10.	_____	_____	_____
11.	_____	_____	_____
12.	_____	_____	_____
13.	_____	_____	_____
14.	_____	_____	_____
15.	_____	_____	_____
16.	_____	_____	_____
17.	_____	_____	_____
18.	_____	_____	_____

This letter appears in the July/August 1995 issue of *American Libraries*:

At the ALA Meeting in Chicago, the Social Responsibilities Round Table Action Council voted strong opposition to the totality of the ALA Organizational Self-Study Reports. Our resolution stated that the OSSC Reports have an anti-democratic thrust and that they have already decreased membership participation. The latest report recommendations have the most clear-cut consequences for the entire ALA membership. All current divisions, round tables, and ALA-wide committees would be abolished. Most of these bodies would presumably be restructured and appear in another form, but viability under the new structure would not be assured. Funding would be centralized and out of the control of the members of each body. Round tables are particularly at risk, especially if they were to become "Special Interest Groups" (SIGs). These SIGs would get only minimal ALA support and be allocated only two meeting slots per conference.

As a result of earlier OSSC recommendations, members have already mostly lost the ability to gather and make official recommendations to the ALA Council. The new high quorum has resulted in no official ALA Membership Meetings last year and only one meeting this year instead of two. ALA is fast becoming a more elite and anti-democratic organization. Members are being reorganized from above, and the OSSC Committee and ALA Council are so far not paying any attention to the many voices of dissent raised in Chicago. The OSSC has proposed and ALA Council has agreed to continue the OSSC for another six months in order to write another report for Midwinter. Further, a new OSSC Task Force has been created to explore implementation. ALA Members who would like to maintain an open and democratic structure should express their opinions now to our new Executive Director. It just might make a difference if she could present stacks of letters to the ALA Council and Executive Board.

Al Kagan

Africana, 328 Library
University of Illinois
Urbana, IL 61801
tel. 217-333-6519
fax. 217-333-2214
akagan@uiuc.edu

MINORITY RECRUITMENT VIDEO

As you may remember, SRRT financed about 70% of the production of a video designed to help recruit people to the profession, targeting particularly people of color and other minorities. The video is entitled "Talented People Wanted: The Future is Information." Copies of the tape are available through the ALA Office for Library Personnel Resources. They can be purchased for \$7 or borrowed for free. OLPR reports that a number of copies have been sold. It has also been shown at ALA, the Chapter Relations Committee annual meeting, the California Library Association, and at several library schools. State chapters should be receiving their own copies in the future. This tape would be a good tool for career days and the like. If you are interested in owning it or using it for your group, contact ALA's OLPR.

FREEDOM TO READ FOUNDATION REPORT

Cyberspace censorship, pornography, and patron confidentiality were the hot items for the Freedom to Read Foundation this year. At the recent ALA conference in Chicago, Foundation trustees discussed federal legislation to criminalize sexual depictions on the Internet. Libraries were cautioned against rushing out to buy commercial software that would filter out "offensive" information, not only because of the specter of censorship, but also because libraries, by promising to provide "filtered" access to the Internet, might make themselves even more liable to

lawsuits from patrons who objected to what was offered even with the filter, citing the *Stratton Oakmont v. Prodigy* case. In that case, Prodigy was found legally liable for users' posts, after promising it had pre-screened the information on its electronic services. At the forthcoming ALA Midwinter board meeting in San Antonio, a discussion on cyber-censorship is scheduled with a guest "expert."

A day after the Chicago board meeting, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected an ALA petition for certiorari in *ALA v. Reno*, thus effectively ending the years-long lawsuit over what the Foundation saw as "overly burdensome" record-keeping requirements under the Child Protection Restoration and Penalties Enhancement Act of 1990, which actually penalizes producers and distributors (including libraries) of constitutionally protected images of nude adults, "under the guise of protecting children from exploitation," according to Gordan M. Conable, FTRF president. The implications for libraries, says Conable in a report to ALA Council, are "potentially far-reaching." The Foundation is seeking legal advice on how the statute requirements will affect libraries.

The Foundation has also helped plaintiffs in a Kansas case involving the removal of a lesbian title, *Annie on My Mind*, from the Olathe, Kansas, High School. The case is unresolved.

The Foundation won an important victory in *National Treasury Employees Union v. United States*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court agreed with the amicus arguments of the Foundation that a Treasury Dept. regulation against honoraria for speeches or articles violated the First Amendment.

The Foundation has also joined eleven other First Amendment-related organizations in a federal lawsuit in Cincinnati against the Prosecuting Attorney for Hamilton County, Ohio. Joseph T. Deters had asked a Cincinnati Barnes and Noble bookstore to

RESOLUTION ON MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States guarantees every citizen a fair and impartial trial; and

WHEREAS there exist serious questions concerning the fairness of the trial that put Mumia Abu-Jamal on death row; and

WHEREAS Mumia Abu-Jamal, a prominent radio broadcaster, journalist, author, and former President of the Philadelphia chapter of the Association of Black Journalists, has been subjected to gross violations of his First Amendment rights both during his trial and, following conviction, throughout his imprisonment; and

WHEREAS the ultimate injustice is for the state to kill a person for a crime that person might not have committed; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association call upon Governor Thomas J. Ridge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to reverse the death sentence signed on June 2, 1995, and to allow Abu-Jamal's lawyers to appeal his conviction.

Passed unanimously in Chicago, Illinois, on June 27, 1995, by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the American Library Association.

Note: Gov. Ridge issued a stay of execution the first week of August. Abu-Jamal was to have been executed on August 17. At press time, the matter of an appeal was not decided.

remove *Playboy* and three zines from the store.

The Foundation also entered a case that involved the confidentiality of library patrons. Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co. had sued the University of California Regents to get back documents it claimed were stolen. The documents indicated that the tobacco industry knew that cigarettes were addictive. B & W also asked for the names of patrons who had used the material at the Special Collections Dept. of the University of California, San Francisco. The Foundation filed a brief that tied confidentiality to a First Amendment right to receive information in libraries. The California Supreme Court ruled that the documents could be published. UC San Francisco has announced that the documents, deposited by UCSF professor Stanton Glantz, will be made available on the Internet at the Web site:
<http://www.library.ucsf.edu/tobacco>

In a case closely monitored by the Foundation, *Tsang v. CIA*, I reported to the Board that more documents had been received that indicate the CIA had been keeping records on my First Amendment-protected activities, including the indexing of *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, and my editing of another alternative publication, *Gay Insurgent*. The CIA revealed that it kept background information on my higher education and had turned my name over to the INS.

Foundation attorneys advised a school library that had been subpoenaed by a defense attorney in a criminal case. The subpoena sought all books and other publications that depicted children under eighteen "partially undressed or completely nude, posing nude, either in partial undress or partial dress." Similar subpoenas have been served on the local public library, two additional high school libraries, and a junior college library. According to Foundation lawyer Bruce Ennis, the library was advised to either object to the subpoena outright, or agree to submit to an affidavit that certain books or

magazines are available in the library, but not to search for and produce all such titles since that would be burdensome.

Foundation lawyers also advised a public library that had inquired as to whether it could legally gather information about the ethnicity of patrons in a Summer Reading Program. The lawyers provided guidelines to ensure that the statistical data requested was legitimate.

In 1995 the Foundation also participated in the Independent Charities of America campaign, bringing in much-needed income. The ICA is an alternative to the United Way workplace campaign. Contact the Foundation if you are interested in getting ICA to your workplace.

--Daniel C. Tsang, University of California, Irvine, SRRT representative to FTRF Board of Trustees.



Steven R. Harris
Book Review Editor



ALTERNATIVE PUBLISHERS OF BOOKS IN NORTH AMERICA, 2nd edition, compiled by Byron Anderson. Gainesville, FL: CRISIS Press, 1995. 80p. (ISBN 0-9640-1191-3) \$2.00.

The SRRT Alternatives in Print Task Force has brought out a second edition of this useful directory. The appearance of the new edition gives occasion to think a bit about what SRRT embodies. The *ALA Handbook* says that the purpose of SRRT is "to act as a stimulus to the Association and its various units in making libraries more responsive to current social needs." Part of that charge should be to make librarians see that there is a world of information beyond the (main?)stream of the corporate information industry. If librarians are truly devoted to building diverse collections, then they must make every effort to offer patrons resources from outside that commercial feeding trough.

This directory does that nicely. 109 publishers are profiled here, up from 75 in the first edition. This is a small subset of the number of presses listed in *The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses*, for example, but the focus of the directory is more toward explicitly progressive publishers. Compiler Anderson describes these publishers as "a dissident voice of our time." Each entry gives complete contact and vendor information, press output, and a description of the subject matter covered. The ephemeral nature of small presses is often used as an excuse to avoid collecting alternative materials, but all of the presses listed here have existed for at least five years and thus are well established.

The directory also includes a handy subject index and a bibliography of useful articles and reference sources for studying and collecting alternative press materials. Highly recommended for all kinds of libraries, both for public use and as a collection development aid.

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

SAILORS AND SEXUAL IDENTITY: CROSSING THE LINE BETWEEN "STRAIGHT" AND "GAY" IN THE U.S. NAVY, by Steven Zeeland. Binghamton, NY: Harrington Park Press, 1995. 296p. (ISBN 1-56023-850-X) \$14.95 pbk. Published simultaneously by Haworth Press in hardbound.

Zeeland picks up where he left off in 1993 with *Barrack Buddies and Soldier Lovers* (*SRRT Newsletter*, March 1994), this time carrying his study of gay men in the military to the U.S. Navy. More specifically, to southern California, focusing his attentions on the naval community in San Diego. As with *Barrack Buddies*, his methodology is to befriend sailors and marines, sometimes in a physically intimate way, in order to develop a level of trust that these men would need to freely discuss their lives as gay sailors (or, in the case of one man, his life as a self-identified straight sailor with many gay friends).

More than just exposing the sex lives of these men, however, Zeeland's greater aim is to discredit the "falsehoods and lies used to justify oppression" of gays and lesbians and anyone who participates in consensual sex with a member of the same sex (although again he does not interview lesbians). These falsehoods and lies stem from the homoerotic culture of the military. It is a culture that seems especially prevalent in the navy, where long trips at sea deny men their usual outlets for sexual gratification. Even navy ritual is strong on homoerotic symbolism. The "crossing the line" in the book's subtitle refers to a ritualistic initiation ceremony for sailors crossing the equator for the first time that includes cross-dressing, sadomasochism, and simulated sexual acts between men. The denial of these facts by military leaders and others are the falsehoods Zeeland seeks to discredit. He does a good job of it.

These interviews are undeniably titillating. Beyond that, however, the men exhibit a greater level of sophistication than their army colleagues did in *Barrack Buddies*. Their lengths of military service vary, giving each a different perspective. For the most part, however, these men are in their early to mid 20s. It would have been more interesting if Zeeland had interviewed some older career sailors, gay or straight, or even any that are gay and conveniently, and currently, married. While Zeeland says he did ask several "straight-men-who-have-sex-with-men" for interviews, they politely (one assumes) declined.

It also would have been more interesting, and perhaps would have made for tidier scholarship, if Zeeland had spent some time in Norfolk, Virginia, or Charleston, South Carolina, to get an Atlantic fleet perspective on sexual identity and gay men in the navy. The impression from this book is that the Pacific fleet emanating from San Diego sets the tone.

These criticisms aside, Zeeland's writing has improved, and the interviews more often read as exciting stories rather than some of the banal conversation recorded in *Barrack Buddies*. Recommended for gay and military studies collections.

--Christopher Lee Cochran, Academy for Educational Development/USAID, Washington, DC.

EXHIBITIONISM FOR THE SHY: SHOW OFF, DRESS UP AND TALK HOT, by Carol Queen. San Francisco, CA: Down There Press, 1995. 241p. (ISBN 0-940208-16-4) \$16.25.

Well, my dear! I won't say I'm speechless (that's the opposite intent of this intensely outspoken book, which should set tongues wagging), but I certainly am impressed. Carol Queen has written an amazingly instructive, inspiring, and comprehensive sex manual; it manages to be both hot, dirty, and nasty

(words she uses repeatedly, with disarming equanimity)--and politically correct, at the same time. Formulations like "her or his," "s/he" and so forth abound. Her writing is informed by an unerring feminism and humanism; her world view includes every conceivable preference, fetish, and fantasy. Queen is a self-identified "formerly shy" bisexual sex worker and educator. Her empathy with all 'stages' (both physical and psychological) for and of emerging exhibitionism is remarkable. Her appetite for research seems unbounded, either by prejudice or satiation. Like the ideal lover, her tone is both gentle yet insistent, urgent but non-judgmental. By speaking to female and male, gay and straight, monogamous and non-monogamous, the outrageously outgoing (aficionados of public and even illegal activities) versus those who never venture outside their own imaginations, from the conventionally well-endowed to people with disabilities (a nice touch is her "before" descriptions of strippers and performers such as Annie Sprinkle)--as well as the majority of us who constrain our own desires by shyness, shame, ignorance, and a sedentary self-image--she has written a book that any reader can identify with and learn from.

Queen places her subject in a historical, therapeutic, political, and, perhaps most importantly, a highly personal context. Her recommendations often come in the form of diverse and sundry friends' experiences, and she quotes them lovingly and at length. She gives detailed directions for a multitude of roads to Rome--including all types of literature, porn videos, thrift shops, phone and cybersex, parlor games, peep shows, roleplaying, mirrors, makeup, masturbation, and more. She offers advice on how to talk to oneself, one's lover or partner, and various types of professionals. The examples she comes up with here would seem to cover every possible scenario; her attention to detail and inclusivity in this regard reveals someone who is not merely a "show-off" (as she likes to call it), but one who is genuinely zealous about sharing her erotic power. She

empowers the occasionally overwhelmed reader to connect with and respect his or her individual "hot spots"--emphasizing the fact that the real purpose of exhibitionism is "your *own* enhanced sexual arousal." She even goes so far as to assure the reader who relates more to the last than the first word of the title that "some people find they can exploit their shyness to heighten sexual tension and erotic pleasure." And yet she continually exhorts one and all to believe that we are more than the sum of our parts, our past, and our pants. Open your minds, your mouths, and your closets, is her credo, and revel in the process of growth all of this implies.

She concludes with a bibliography and three appendices--"Dirty Words" and Phrases, Feeling and Emotion Words, and Some Erotic Roles and Counterparts. (In this last one, among the standard fantasies, she includes a few more intriguing ones: boy/centaur, girl/her dog, drag queen/unsuspecting straight man, hayseed/city slicker, swimmer/dolphin, delivery boy/whoever's home.) Like all good sex,

Eroticism for the Shy is a delightful combination of solid communication and pure fun. I beg you (or maybe I should order you!) to buy this book--and even to openly display it on your shelves. It boasts a lovely and shyly beckoning cover photo of the author; on her page of acknowledgments, she ends with a thank you to one who "took some incredible pictures. I wish you could see all of them." I think I can, I think I can.

"Down There Press/Yes Press is part of a worker-owned cooperative called Open Enterprises, Inc. We also have a retail store in San Francisco and two mail order catalogs. Our company is committed to providing access to accurate sex information and sexual products." Among other titles published by them are *Herotica: A Collection of Women's Erotic Fiction*, *Femalia* by Joani Blank, *Anal Pleasure and Health* by Jack Morin, and *Sex Information, May I Help You?* by Isadora Alman.

--Carol Reid, N.Y. State Library, Albany, NY.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
50 EAST HURON STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Permit No. 3226

RECEIVED WITHOUT ADDRESS
NIXIE SEC
Postage Due

